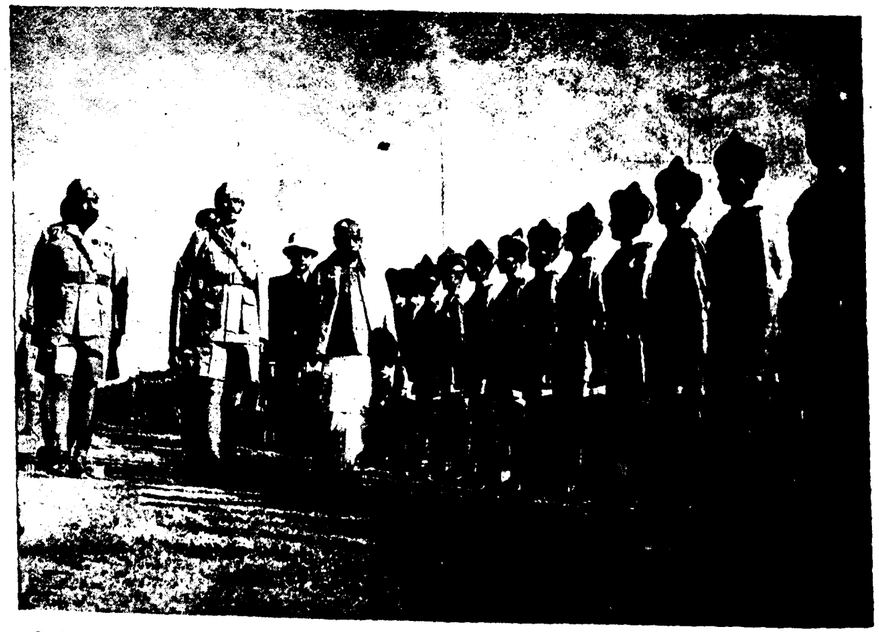


Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, inspecting the Guard of Honour presented by Delhi Police on December 17 at New Delhi

Vol. 24 No. 244, INDIAN INFORMATION, Jan. 1, 1949.

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

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

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Cover Picture : The Banaras Ghats.



Mr. Ghulam Mohammad, Head of the Pakistan Delegation (left) and Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyanger, Head of the Indian Delegation (right) signing the agreement at the conclusion of the Inter-Dominion Conference at New Delhi on December 14

INTER-DOMINION CONFERENCE : DELHI AGREEMENT

THE Inter-Dominion Conference which met on December 6, 1948 concluded on December 14, 1948, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on December 14, 1948. During the period it covered a wide field of outstanding differences between the two Dominions which fall broadly into three categories :—

(a) Political issues relating principally to the implementation of the political clauses of the Calcutta Agreement and the boundary disputes that have occurred as between the East Bengal-West Bengal, East Bengal—Assam and East Bengal-Tripura borders and the border incidents on those borders as well as on the East-West Punjab borders ;

(b) Economic issues arising principally out of the implementation of the economic clauses of the Calcutta Agreement and of the Karachi Agreement, matters relating to the agreement regarding evacuees property, reached at Lahore on July 22, implementation of the existing agreements regarding the division and supply of Railways, P. & T., Defence and other stores, progress in the settlement of financial and other matters arising from the partition of the Punjab and Bengal and the difficulties experienced by holders of life insurance Policies in either Dominion and the necessity of safeguarding their interests; and

(c) Miscellaneous matters such as those relating to the division of Museum exhibits in accordance with the decision of the Partition Council.

In all these matters a very substantial measure of agreement has been reached and the present agreement has throughout been inspired by a determination on both sides to resolve the differences and the difficulties that had arisen in the implementation of the previous agreements and to ensure that the decisions now reached are in factfully implemented, in future.

Consultative Committee

On the political side, the present agreement is based very largely on the Calcutta Agreement. The principal new features of the agreement relate to the provision of machinery for ensuring prompt and satisfactory implementation of the various undertakings by the two Governments. Thus provision has been made for the setting up of an Inter-Dominion Information Consultative Committee consisting of one Minister from each Dominion, not more than two Government officers and two representatives of the Press of each Dominion.

It will be the responsibility of this Committee to keep under review not only the activities of the Press but also books and other publications, broadcasting and films. Similarly it has been agreed that each Dominion will set up an organisation to watch and ensure the prompt and satisfactory implementation of the political and economic clauses of the agreement, both at the Dominion and at the Provincial level. As a part of this organisation, there are to be monthly meetings, between the Dominion Ministers as also frequent meetings between the Premiers and the Chief Secretaries of the Provinces of East and West Bengal.

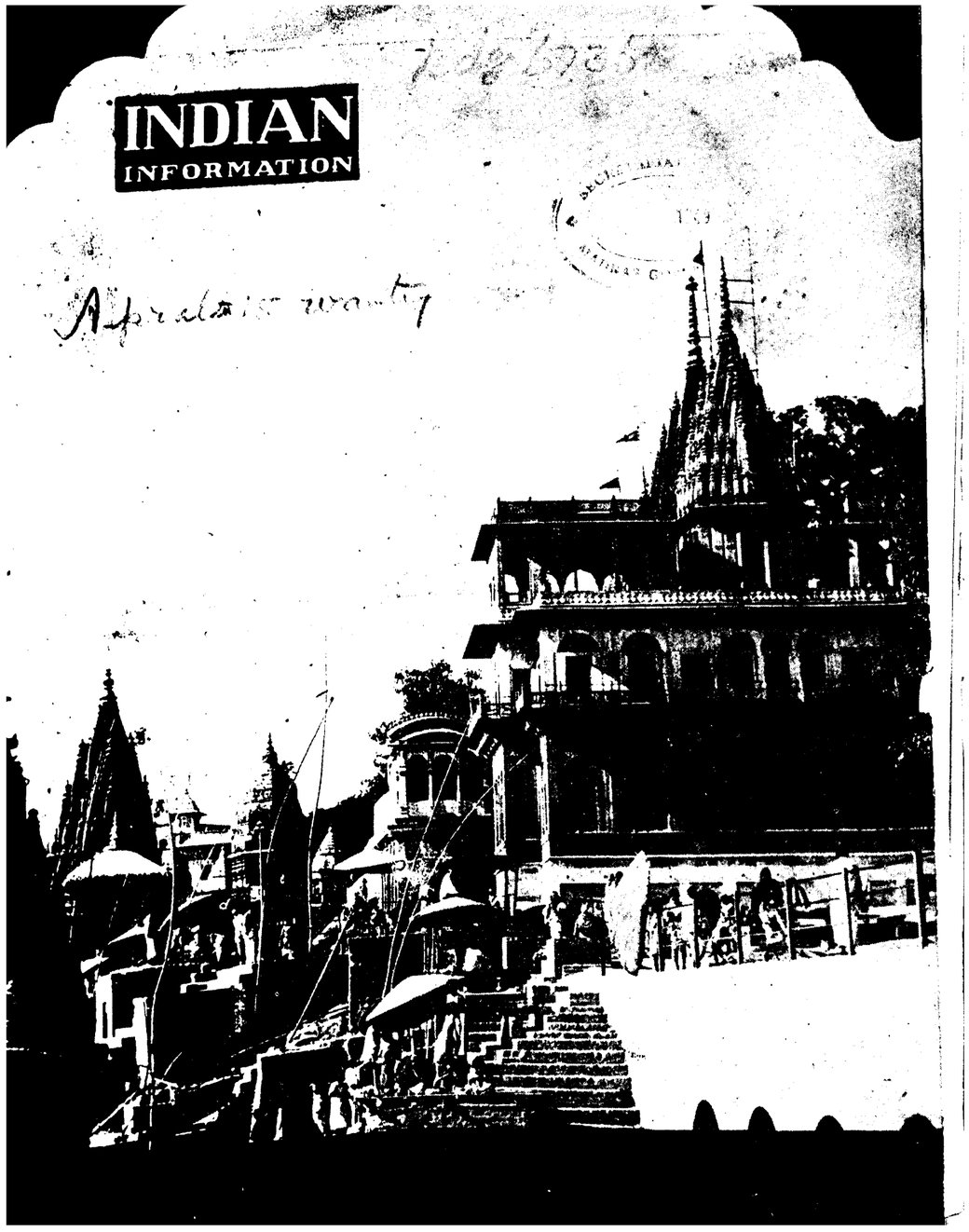
Minority Boards

Mention may also be made of the agreement to set up the Provincial and District Minorities Boards and the Evacuee Property Management Boards, in East and West Bengal, by February 15, 1949.

As regards incidents both on the East-West Punjab and East-West Bengal borders, the District Magistrates and other officers of the Provinces-States concerned have been authorised directly to contact their opposite numbers in the other Dominion to examine and settle such incidents and to take steps necessary to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in future.

To resolve boundary disputes between East-West Bengal and East Bengal-Assam, a high powered judicial tribunal is to be set up at a date not later than January 31, 1949. Pending an award by this tribunal, and the demarcation of the boundary in accordance with it, special provision has been made to prevent the recurrence of border incidents in these areas, and the following

INDIAN INFORMATION





Indian representatives to the Indo-Pakistan Inter-Dominion Conference held in New Delhi



Pakistan representatives to the Indo-Pakistan Inter-Dominion Conference. Mr. Ghulam Mohammad, Leader of the Pakistan Delegation, is fourth from right

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interim arrangements have been agreed upon:—

(i) In the case of areas under dispute the Murshidabad-Rajshahi and Murshidabad-Kushtia borders, the *status-quo* shall be maintained, subject to the proviso that the anti-smuggling staff of East Bengal may be stationed in the Ghghumari ghat (Rainapur) area and may freely patrol the river bank along that area.

(2) On the East Bengal-Assam border, regarding the Patharia hill Reserve Forest, the agreement is that—

(i) There shall be no armed forces of either Government of any description within five miles of the periphery of the Reserve Forest.

(ii) The East Bengal Government shall be in possession of the Reserve Forest west of the Radcliffe line and the Assam Government in possession of the Reserve Forest east of the Radcliffe Line.

(iii) Each side undertakes not to make any new construction of any description within the area of the Reserve Forest, of which it will be placed in charge for the interim administration, provided, however, that there shall be no objection to any special operations necessary in connection with oil boring by the B. O. C. on either side of the Radcliffe Line within the Reserve Forest.

Inter-Dominion Trade

The implementation of the economic clauses of the Calcutta Agreement and Karachi Agreement were reviewed at the Conference. Agreement was reached on practically all the outstanding points of difference while fresh decisions were taken for the adoption of the steps necessary to remove the difficulties which have been encountered in the working of these agreements. The rules and practice relating to searches, transit facilities, transport of goods and the like, were examined and rules were agreed upon calculated to reduce to a minimum the discomfort to persons travelling between the two Dominions as also to promote inter-Dominion trade.

In regard to the supply of essential commodities by one Dominion to the other as provided for in the Karachi Agreement both Dominions have agreed to increase the pace of the supply and to remove all difficulties in the way of the swift movement of the goods. One very satisfactory result of these discussions is that persons who had purchased stores from the disposals organisations will now be enabled either to take delivery of their purchases or to ask for a refund of the purchase money.

Revenue Records

Another agreement which should materially help industrial production relates to the facility which will be available to firms with their headquarters in India or Pakistan to send stores which would be necessary to their factories in the other Dominion. This Evacuee Property Committee considered a number of outstanding questions about the property of evacuees in both Dominions. A number of new matters also came before the Conference and important agreements were reached on subjects of vital concern to refugees.

In the case of subjects which had been under discussion between the two Governments and about which no settlement had been reached so far, agreement was reached on the following:

(*a*) In regard to agricultural property it was decided to appoint a Committee of the two Deputy High Commissioners at Jullundur and Lahore for expediting the work of the transfer of copies of revenue records;

(*b*) to enable evacuees of both Dominions to obtain more readily information about their property, and to make representations for the consideration of the Custodian. It was agreed that Liaison Officers would be appointed belonging to the Dominion of the evacuees to be in close touch with the Custodians of Evacuee Property of the Dominion in which their property lay;

(*c*) for urban immovable property, it was agreed that steps would be taken for the early collection of rents and the submission of accounts;

(*d*) in the case of movable property, the two Deputy High Commissioners at Jullundur and Lahore should meet together and work in effect as the joint agency for the purpose of facilitating the movement of such property; and

(*e*) in regard to the assessment of income-tax on refugee assessees a procedure was agreed to which will assist in settling all outstanding cases. An important concession was allowed to an assessee whose property if attached for the balance of the tax due would not be sold in auction, except with his consent within one year after he has been permitted to sell or exchange his property.

Of the new subjects discussed by the Committee, agreement was reached in a large number of cases such as:—

(*a*) the sale and transfer of shares;

(*b*) money due to evacuees from Government and quasi-Government bodies. Provision was also made for the payment of arrears of salary and provident fund money due to teachers other than those in Government or semi-Government service;

(*c*) Allowances of wards and dependents whose estates were under the Court of Wards, or had been released after partition;

(*d*) the holding in abeyance of penal conditions in the case of those owners of Improvement Trust plots who had failed to pay instalments due from them.

In the case of a number of important outstanding points on which agreement was not reached it was decided that these should be left over for consideration at an Inter-Dominion Conference to be held at Karachi on January 10, 1949.

Railway Stores

As regards outstanding matters arising out of the partition of the Punjab and Bengal, steps are being taken to ensure that the final settlement is expedited. It is hoped to complete the scrutiny of claims of contractors for pre-partition supplies in Bengal within the next four months and in the Punjab by the end of June 1949. The provincial Governments concerned will take steps to implement the decisions of the Arbitral Tribunals as early as possible so that the final settlement arising out of the partition could be completed as early as possible.

A high level committee has been set up for finalising the division of Railway stores and for setting up suitable machinery to arrange for quick transfer of stores between the two Dominions. This Committee will meet at Karachi on the December 20, and it is hoped that the exchange of Railway stores, will be completed at an early date. It has also been agreed that the division of pre-partition Posts and Telegraphs stores will be completed by February 28, 1949.

As regards defence stores, Pakistan Government have agreed to pay for their share of the stores and installations acquired from the U. K. Government. It has also been agreed that certain points regarding the allocation of stores will be considered and settled at the next conference of Defence Secretaries.

Finally, reference should be made to the arrangements agreed upon over a wide range of matters relating to life insurance companies calculated to safeguard the interests of the policy holders as also of the companies. The two Dominion Governments are confident that the insurance companies will co-operate in every way.

Conference Proceedings

The Inter-Dominion Conference, represented by Mr. Ghulam Mohd, Khawaja Shahabuddin, Mr. Nurul Amin and Mr. Dasti from Pakistan and Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Dr. John Matthai, Mr. K.C. Neogy, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Mr. Mohanal Saksena from India, held its first meeting on December 6, 1948, and agreed upon procedure for dealing with the large number of issues before it. The Conference decided that joint Committees at Secretariat level should examine these issues in the first instance, arrive at preliminary understanding wherever possible, and submit their reports to the main Conference, which could then endeavour to reach final conclusions. Accordingly, 7 Committees were set up with the following terms of references:-

Economic Committee: To Examine how far the Calcutta, Karachi and other agreements arrived at between the two Dominions have been implemented and to suggest measures to ensure implementation of such agreements in future.

Stores Committee: To review the progress made in respect of the existing agreements in regard to the division and supply of Railways, P. and T. Defence and other stores and suggest measures to ensure their full and early implementation. This would include assessment of financial arrangement.

Evacuees Property Committee: To review the progress on the agreement regarding Evacuees' property reached on July 22, 1948, at Lahore and to make recommendations as to the further action to be taken.

Border Disputes Committee: To discuss the border disputes and incidents on the East-West Bengal, East Bengal-Assam & East Bengal-Tripura borders and the boundary incidents on the East-West Punjab Border and suggest the machinery necessary for—

(a) settlement of disputes;

(b) prevention of such incidents.

Agreement and the exodus of minority communities should be referred to a Political Committee which will include, among others, the leaders of the two delegations. The Committee had the folowing terms of reference :—

(1) To review the progress so far made in implementing the political clauses of the Calcutta Agreement and in particular to examine the complaints made by each Dominion in respect of
(a) the press in the other Dominion:
(b) treatment of minorities and the exodus of minorities from one Dominion to the other, and

(2) to suggest measures to ensure the implementation of the Calcutta Agreement and to recommend such other steps as may be necessary to ensure that such complaints do not arise in future; and

(3) to examine all causes (including economic causes, though these need be considered only in a general way in the Committee) which have the effect of worsening Inter-Dominion relations, or of causing the exodus of minorities on a considerable scale, and to make recommendations calculated to stem the exodus of minority communities, to encourage their return and generally to improve inter-Dominion relations.

The first meeting of the Political Committee was held on December 8, when the terms of the Calcutta Agreements were reviewed and tentative agreements reached for the modification of some of the clauses of the Agreement. It concluded its deliberations on December 11 and submitted its recommendations to the main Conference.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met on December 11 and 12 to prepare the reports of the various Committees for submission to the main Conference. It also considered the reports of the Stores, Economic and Partition Committees.

The Steering Committee met the Boundary Disputes and Border Incidents Committee on December 12 and drew up their report for submission to the main conference. The Steering Committee also further considered the report of the Economic and Evacuee Property Committees and finalised their recommendations to the main conference.

The Steering Committee met again on December 13, to consider outstanding matters arising from the various reports submitted by the Committees appointed by the main Conference.

The Governor-General is pleased to make the following appointments in the Calcutta High Court :—

(1) Mr. Surajit Lahiri, Advocate, to be an Additional Judge.

(2) Mr. Prasanta Behari Mukerjee, Advocate to be an acting Judge.

SETTLEMENT OF PRE-PARTITION CLAIMS ON RAILWAYS

THE Government of India have laid down the procedure designed to facilitate the settlement of claims for compensation for goods lost or damaged in respect of railway consignments booked prior to August 15, 1947, the date of the partition of India, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on December 11, 1948. It added: To this end detailed instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Railways to the various railway administrations. The procedure is briefly as follows :—

(i) Claims in respect of consignments booked from a station in India to a station in Pakistan and vice versa are to be dealt with according to the conditions and circumstances of carriage, by the despatching or receiving Indian Railway, and will be the liability of such railway except where a consignment, though booked prior to 15.8.1947,
(a) was made over to the Pakistan Railway concerned after 15.8.1947 under a clear receipt, or (b) was taken over from the Pakistan Railway concerned after 15.8.1947 in a damaged or deficient condition, when the liability will be that of the Pakistan Railway concerned.

(ii) Claims in respect of consignments booked *via* a Pakistan Railway from a station in India to a station in India will also be the liability of the Indian Railways except where the consignment was either made over under a clear receipt to or received in a damaged or deficient condition from a Pakistan Railway after 15.8.1947, in which case the liability will be that of the Pakistan Railway, though the case will be dealt with and disposed of by the receiving Indian Railway.

(iii) Claims in respect of consignments booked along a route wholly within Pakistan will be the liability of the Pakistan Railway concerned and are to be dealt with as such.

(iv) Claims in respect of consignments booked from a station in Pakistan to a station in Pakistan *via* an Indian Railway will not be the liability of any Indian Railway except in those cases in which the damage or deficiency is proved to have occurred on an Indian Railway either prior to or on or after 15.8.1947.

Claims for refund of freight or fares will also be dealt with and disposed of by the Indian Railway concerned (as indicated in (i) and (ii) above in respect of all transactions prior to 15.8.1947, except in those cases in which both the despatching and the receiving stations are situated in Pakistan. This exception will apply also to cases of rebates of freight due on the basis of any agreement entered into with the old N.W. Railway, in respect of traffic carried along routes wholly contained within that Railway, as now constituted.

It is hoped that the procedure outlined above will eliminate the delays so far caused by the abnormal conditions consequent on Partition.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

IN connection with the repatriation of non-Muslim prisoners from Pakistan it was decided by the Government of India, in consultation with the Government of East Punjab, that the latter would deal with prisoners received from West Punjab and that prisoners from Sind, Bahawalpur State, North West Frontier Province, Baluchistan and Khairpur State would be dealt with by the Government of India. It was the intention that while certain prisoners detained in connection with relatively minor offences were to be released after their reception at Ferozepore, others were to be detained pending individual scrutiny of judicial and other records which were to be handed over by the Pakistan Government along with the prisoners. These "excluded" prisoners were those who were convicted or kept under trial for offences under sections 302 (murder), 366 (abduction), 376 (rape), and 395, 396, 397 (aggravated forms of dacoity), Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act, and persons who were habitual offenders or were involved in offences of bribery, corruption, cheating, etc., as or in relation to employees of the Central Government.

In accordance with the above principles 95 convicts and 53 undertrials out of a total 346 convicts and 173 undertrials were released at Ferozepore. All detenus held under Public Safety Acts were also released. This left a balance of 251 convicts and 120 undertrials whose cases were to be individually scrutinised. No judicial records have, however, been received from Pakistan in connection with the majority of the convicts and undertrials. In the absence of judicial records the Government of India did not find it justifiable to detain the undertrials as there were no means for deciding whether any of these cases should be proceeded with; even if such a decision was taken there would be insuperable difficulties in prosecuting these undertrials since neither facts nor witnesses are available. The Government of India, therefore, issued orders for the release of the undertrials. The convicts are being brought from Ferozepore to Delhi, and most of them have already arrived. The Government of India will now proceed to decide on the basis of such information as is available whether or not remission is to be granted in any particular case.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS PASSED DURING THE WEEK ENDING 22ND JANUARY 1949.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

ACT.
† Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920—Section 250—Amendment—Proposal—Dropped. January 18, No. 94 (Ms.).

ADMINISTRATION REPORT.
Municipal Council—1947-48—*Reviewed.*
† Adoni. January 19, No. 98 (P.).
† Nagapattinam. January 18, No. 92 (P.).
† Ootacamund. January 21, No. 120 (P.).

ADVANCE.
Conveyance.
§ For the purchase of a motor car—Sri C. Amritaganesa Mudaliar, ex-Special Officer, Chittoor District Board, now Deputy Inspector, Central Range—*Declined* and repayment of outstanding loan to the District Board permitted. January 18, No. 88 (Ms.).

ALLOWANCE.
Charge.
† Chittoor District Board—Sri M. N. Chenna Reddi, Deputy Panchayat Officer, Renigunta—Additional charge of the post of District Panchayat Officer, Chittoor—Payment—Sanctioned. January 17, No. 85 (Ms.).

BOARD.
§ Panchayat—Arepalli Agraharam (Guntur district)—Fixation of strength and reservation of seats—Instructions—Issued. January 21, No. 113 (Ms.).

BUDGET ESTIMATE.
Municipal Council—1949-50—*Orders passed.*
† Devakottai. January 20, No. 108 (Ms.).
† Kancheepuram. January 20, No. 110 (Ms.).
† Srivilliputhur. January 20, No. 109 (Ms.).

DISTRICT PANCHAYAT OFFICERS.
§ Bellary—Sri D. Subba Reddi—Appointed to Act. January 17, No. 87 (Ms.).
† Tanjore—Posting ordered. January 17, No. 84 (Ms.).

ENGINEERS.
Electrical.
§ Kodaikanal—Sri K. S. Doraiswamy—Earned leave for 75 days—Sanctioned—Consequential arrangements—Ordered. January 21, No. 124 (Ms.).

Municipal.
§ Erode—Sri T. K. Natarajan transferred and consequential arrangement—Ordered. January 21, No. 123 (Ms.).

ESTABLISHMENT.
§ Corporation of Madras—Revenue Officer—Sri G. Munuswami Chetti—Appointment on probation—Approved. January 21, No. 125 (Ms.).

Local Boards—Ministerial.
§ Vizagapatam district board—Sri A. Suryanarayana—Temporary lower division clerk—Exemption from age limit—Granted. January 21, No. 112 (Ms.).

Municipal councils—Engineering.
† Vizagapatnam—Sri R. R. Thimmaji Rao—Municipal Engineer—Additional charge of the post of Public Works Supervisor—Payment of charge allowance—Sanctioned. January 21, No. 111 (Ms.).

Municipal councils—Ministerial.
† Kurnool—Sri S. M. Sarma, Revenue Inspector—Petition against withholding of promotion for two years—Rejected. January 21, No. 118 (Ms.).
§ Ramakrishna Rao, Sri A.—Petition against reduction to post of lower division clerk—Orders passed. January 20, No. 102 (Ms.).

Municipal council—
§ Tuticorin—Appointment to posts of Special Officer and Deputy Surveyor sanctioned for quinquennial revision of property tax registers—Re-employment of retired persons—Orders issued. January 21, No. 122 (Ms.).

FUNDS.
† Corporation of Madras—Temporary diversion of Rs. 13 lakhs, from loan and deposit funds—Sanctioned. January 20, No. 103 (Ms.).

GRANTS.
§ Malabar District Board—1948-49—Improvement to communications in Chirakkal taluk—Special repairs to road No. 208, Pazhassi to Kakkanad—Rs. 18,200—Sanctioned. January 20, No. 101 (Ms.).

INSPECTOR OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.
§ Deputy Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards—Sri C. R. Karunakara Menon—Emergency appointment prior to 21st August 1947—Regularization—Declined. January 20, No. 107 (Ms.).
† Deputy Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards—Remittance of Provident Fund subscriptions—Procedure—Revised. January 17, No. 81 (Ms.).

† Seen by the Secretary.
§ Seen by the Hon'ble Minister or Ministers.

Government of India.

Pandit Nehru thanked Mr A.N. Khosla, President of the Central Board of Irrigation for having invited him on this occasion and continued: It is rather a complicated affair for the individual and for the nation to say which of the problems before it is more important and has most connection in the attitude of nations towards one another and among groups and ultimately perhaps in the spirit of man himself.

No man can work effectively without faith in himself that the forces of construction are there. Look at the map of Asia and of India. It stares at me

Indians looked forward. One was Government service, more especially administrative Government service. The other was the profession of law. During the thirties and forties people longed for administrative service because it brought a certain amount of power and emoluments and prestige.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, talking to Mr. Ghulam Mohammed at a dinner given at Government House, New Delhi, in honour of the Pakistan Delegates on December 9

Life Insurance Committee : To discuss difficulties of holders of life insurance policies in the other dominion and to evolve measures to remove these difficulties and to safeguard the interest of the policy holders.

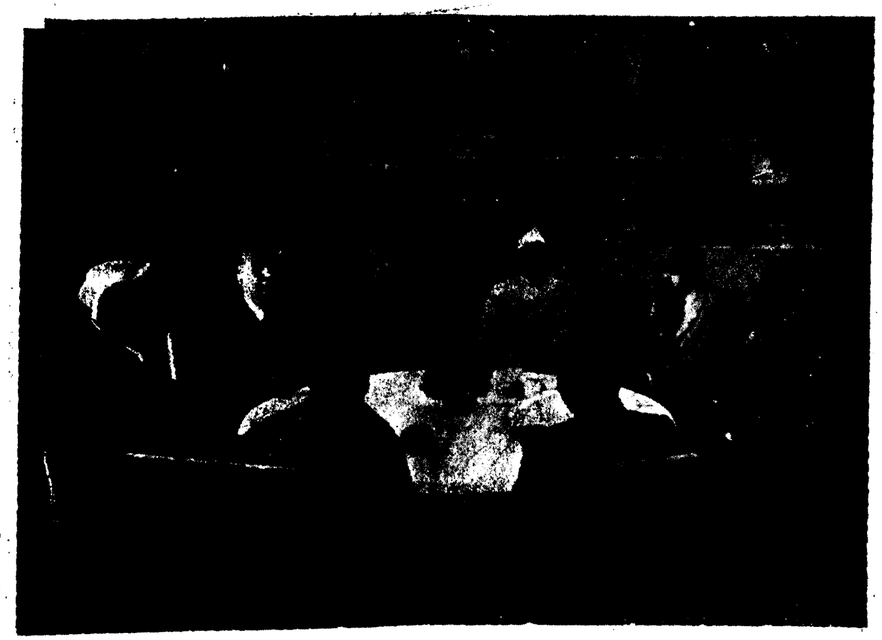
Division of Museum Articles (Central) : To make recommendations as to the process of division to be made of Museum articles in accordance with the decision of the Partition Council and to ensure early implementation of the decisions.



Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar talking to Mr. Ghulam Mohammed at the dinner

Bengal and Punjab Partition Matters: To report on the progress in the settlement of financial and other matters arising from the partition of Punjab and Bengal; to settle such points of differences as may be found to exist, to devise suitable procedure for the expeditious settlement of the outstanding matters and report to the Conference thereon.

The Conference also agreed that an 8th committee should be appointed to review the progress so far made in implementing the political clauses of the Calcutta Agreement and, in particular to examine the complaints made by each Dominion in respect of (1) the press in the other Dominion, (2) the treatment of minorities and (3) the exodus of minorities from one Dominion to the other ; to suggest measures which will ensure the implementation of the Calcutta Agreement, and to recommend such other steps as may be necessary to ensure that such complaints do not arise in future. It was felt, however, that this committee should



Mr. Ghulam Mohammad (with Jinnah cap) sitting next to Mr. Sri Prakasa, India's High Commissioner to Pakistan, at a tea party given in honour of the Pakistan delegates by Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, on December 10

by set up after the two Delegations had had further preliminary discussion of a general nature.

It was agreed further that Mr. H.M. Patel, Defence Secretary, Government of India, and Mr. G. Faruque, Industries Secretary, Government of Pakistan, should co-ordinate the work of the various committees and submit their reports to the Conference as early as possible.

All the Committees, with the exception of the Committees on Insurance and Museums, held their first meetings on December 6.

The leaders of the Delegation, Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar and Mr. Ghulam Mohd., appealed to the Press and the Public alike to refrain, during the session of this Conference, from propaganda and from speculation relating to the progress of these discussions. They were confident that both the Press and the public would respond whole-heartedly to this appeal.

Political Committee

At the second session of the Conference the following day the spokesmen of both the Dominions analysed the causes which in their view were responsible for the exodus of members of minority communities from one Dominion to the other. The Conference decided that issues concerning the implementation of the political clauses of the Calcutta



Shri C. Rajagopalachari with Mr. Ghulam Mohammad and the Maharaja of Kapurthala in the Moghul Gardens at Government House, New Delhi

LAND.

† Coimbatore District Board and Udamalpet Municipal Council—S. Nos. 143 C and 143 B of Udamalpet town —Exchange—Sanctioned.
January 20, No. 100 (Ms.).

† East Godavari District Board—A. Kothapalli village—Tuni taluk—Purchased in court sale—Proposal for sale in public auction—Sanctioned.
January 17, No. 83 (Ms.).

§ Vizianagaram Municipality—T.S. Nos. 10, 11 (part) and 15 of Lankapatnam measuring about 15.25 acres—Free grant of house-sites to Harijans—Proposals—Approved. January 18, No. 97 (Ms.).

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND LOCAL BOARDS.

§ Memorials to Mahatma Gandhi—Naming of roads, parks, etc.—Deprecated. January 19, No. 99 (P.).

MUNICIPALITY.

§ Bhimavaram—Division into wards, reservation to seats and increase in strength—Notified.
January 18, No. 95 (Ms.).

§ Madura (Mathurai)—Alteration of the name into "Mathurai"—Notification confirmed.
January 21, No. 119 (P.).

† Rajahmundry observance of holiday on 3rd January 1949 for the demise of ex-chairman—Approved.
January 20, No. 106 (Ms.).

§ Rasipuram—Division into wards and reservation of seats —Notified. January 18, No. 93 (Ms.).

§ Tiruvallur—Division into wards and reservation of seats —Notified. January 20, No. 105 (Ms.).

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER.

§ Md. Mehdi Hasan Sahib, lately Commissioner, Coonoor municipality—Extension of leave for 30 days—Granted.
January 18, No. 89 (Ms.).

† Nandyal—Sri I. Subba Raju—Earned leave for five days —Granted—Municipal Health Officer, Nandyal—Deemed to have held additional charge.
January 21, No. 114 (Ms.).

† Raja Rao Naidu, Sri I., lately Commissioner, Bimilipatam and now Special Officer, Guntakal, municipality —Increment of pay sanctioned.
January 21, No. 115 (Ms.).

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER—*cont.*

§ Suryanarayana Rao, Sri B., lately Commissioner, Vizagapatam municipality—Extension of leave—Granted.
January 17, No. 82 (Ms.).

§ Venkatadri Chowdhari, Sri K., on relief from the post of Deputy Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards—Leave on average pay till 1st April 1949—Granted. January 21, No. 121 (Ms.).

PROSECUTION.

§ Sabapathi Padayachi, Sri K., President—Kammapuram Panchayat Board (South Arcot district)—Alleged misappropriation of panchayat funds—Sanctioned.
January 21, No. 117 (Ms.).

§ Sabapathi Padayachi Sri K., President—Kammapuram Panchayat Board (South Arcot district) Alleged misappropriation of panchayat funds Sanctioned.
January 21, No. 116 (Ms.).

PROVIDENT FUND.

† Municipal Councils and District Boards Special pay granted to Accountants, store clerks and Personal Assistants to Special Officers—Counting for provident fund—Orders issued. January 20, No. 104 (Ps.).

† Municipal Councils—Cost of remittance of subscriptions of officers and servants deputed on foreign service—Debit to Municipal funds—Not accepted.
January 17, No. 86 (Ms.).

ROADS.

§ Madras City—Public and private roads Improvement by the Corporation—Recommendation of the Madras Provincial Housing Committee No. 16—Orders passed
January 18, No. 90 (Ms.)

STATIONERY.

Local bodies—1949-50—Annual paper requirements—Papers recorded. January 18, No. 96 (Ms.)

TAX.

Property.

§ Corporation of Madras—Exemption of new houses for period of five years—Recommendation of the Madras Provincial Housing Committee—Declined.
January 18, No. 91 (Ms.

† Seen by the Secretary.

§ Seen by the Hon'ble Minister or Ministers.

Submitted for the perusal of H.M. (R.D.)

H.M. (Edn.)

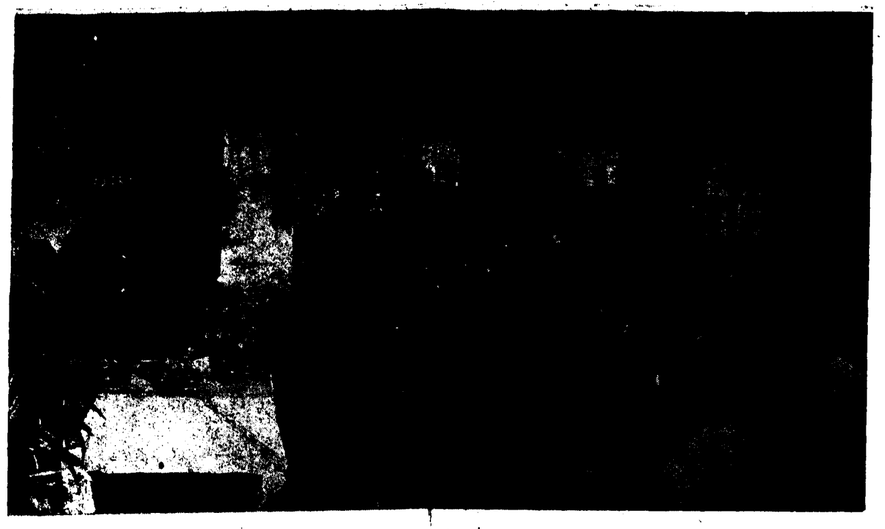
make the following appointments in the Calcutta High Court :—

(1) Mr. Surajit Lahiri, Advocate, to be an Additional Judge.

(2) Mr. Prasanta Behari Mukerjee, Advocate to be an acting Judge.

366 (abduction), 376 (rape), and 395, 396, 397 (aggravated forms of dacoity), Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act, and persons who were habitual offenders or were involved in offences of bribery, corruption, cheating, etc., as or in relation to employees of the Central Government.

being brought from Singapore to Delhi, and most of them have already arrived. The Government of India will now proceed to decide on the basis of such information as is available whether or not remission is to be granted in any particular case.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurating the 19th annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation, which commenced at New Delhi on December 6

Pandit Nehru Defines Role of Engineers in India

"PEOPLE who built the magnificent ancient temples and mosques in India and the cathedrals in Europe were not only fine engineers but they were men of faith. No man can build such beautiful things unless he is full of faith. Today, we do not spend our time in making mosques and temples but other types of public works. Those public works must also embody faith in the future of humanity. I would like you to work with that faith and you will find that if you work in that spirit the results will be great," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, opening the proceedings of the 19th Annual Meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, on December 6, 1948.

India's Resources

The large gathering present included the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, some members of the diplomatic corps, chief engineers from various Provinces and major States of India and engineers representing some of the Ministries of the Government of India.

Pandit Nehru thanked Mr A.N. Khosla, President of the Central Board of Irrigation for having invited him on this occasion and continued: It is rather a complicated affair for the individual and for the nation to say which of the problems before it is more important and needs to be done first. Nevertheless, it is true, I think, to say, as you have stated in the course of your address, that the development of river valley projects in India is of a basic and the most fundamental importance. So, during the past year, I have been greatly interested in this matter, not as an engineer—I am no engineer—but in its wider public aspects. It is an extraordinary fact and unfortunate fact that the enormous resources available in India have not been utilized for raising the standard of the nation. It is clear that with the proper utilization of present resources of India we can raise the standard very greatly.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that not only we do not utilize them to the best advantage but we actually waste the existing resources in destructive activities. That is a tragedy of the present generation. Even more so it has been of the past generation. Somehow, we always find in history in the past age and in the present age that there are conflicting forces, forces of construction and forces of destruction. We find this conflict in the attitude of nations towards one another and among groups and ultimately perhaps in the spirit of man himself.

No man can work effectively without faith in himself that the forces of construction are there. Look at the map of Asia and of India. It stares at me in my room in the office. Whenever I look at it many pictures come up before my mind's eye, pictures of the long past history, of the actual development of man from the earlier stages, of the beginning of culture and civilization and of agriculture of the early days. Then my attention is concentrated on that huge block of mountains—the Himalayas. Look at them! Can you think of any other part of the world with such a magnificent stretch of mountains, with such a vast reservoir of power and potential strength locked up in them? I know of none. How can we utilize it? There are many ways but essentially it is the job of the engineers to tap this vast power. River valley schemes, more or less, scratch the surface and it may be that many generations may pass before we have gone very far off in exploiting this tremendous power we have got. In all these, engineers can play a very effective part.

You can judge the growth of a nation by finding out as to which class in that nation at a particular period of history is in the fore-front. At one time you will find the land-holder is held in great respect. From that you can judge the nature of the society of that time.

Change in Society

In India during the last generation or two, there were two avenues to which Indians looked forward. One was Government service, more especially administrative Government service. The other was the profession of law. During the thirties and forties people longed for administrative service because it brought a certain amount of power and emoluments and prestige.

with the Fourth International Congress on Large Dams which will be held in India early in 1951 took place on December 6, at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee set up for the purpose by the Central Board of Irrigation which functions as the National Committee for India for the International Commission on Large Dams.

Delegates from 23 countries who are members of the Commission are expected to attend the Congress. Invitations are also being extended to a number of other countries who are not at present members of the Commission.

Along with the International Commission on Large Dams, the International Associatiin of Hydraulic Structures. Research will also hold its meeting in India about the same time. It is also expected that the Sectional Meeting of the World Power Conference will also be held in India at this time.

Altogether about 500 delegates and observers form various countries are expected to attend meetings of the three international bodies. Rough plans have been drawn up for a three-week stay of the delegates in India, in the course of which they will be taken on sight-seeing and study tours to some of the more important hydro-electric and irrigation works and projects in the country.

CAPE COMORIN-BOMBAY ROAD LINK

The Standing Committee for Roads of the Ministry of Transport met on December 5, at the Central Secretariat New Delhi, with the Hon'ble Sri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways, presiding, says a Press Note.

An important item of the Agenda related to the inclusion of the Cape Comorin-Bombay road in the National Highway system. The Committee recommended that negotiations be conducted with the Provincial Governments and States concerned in regard to the development of this road.

The Committee also discussed the development of roads in Coorg and Assam and agreed that a grant be made towards the construction of two bridges in Coorg. The road development programme of Assam was also agreed to.

Among other items, the Committee approved the sanction of grants to the Soil Stabilisation Research Laboratory at Karnal, East Punjab.

The Governor-General has been pleased to make the following appointments in the Allahabad High Court, namely :—

Mr. Justice M. H. Kidwai, at present an Additional Judge, to be a permanent Judge in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Justice Mathur.

Mr. Justice S. B. Chandiramani, at present an acting Judge, to be a permanent Judge in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Justice Madeley.

Mr. Justice Mushtaq Ahmed, at present an acting Judge, to be an Additional Judge.

Mr. M. C. [illegible] I. C. S., District Judge, to be an Additional Judge.

SEARCH FOR SCIENTIFIC TALENT

Need for More Tide-Gauge Observatories

THE study of mean sea level (M. S. L.) has recently received considerable attention and the International Oceanographic Association has been asking the Geological Survey of India for monthly and annual values of M. S. L. at Indian ports. The only observatories operating at present are situated at Karachi, Bombay and Kidderpore, and they are being utilized only to test the accuracy of tidal predictions. A mass of valuable data relevant to the multifarious problems associated with M. S. L. have accumulated, and these need systematic analysis and study.

Dr. B. L. Gulatee, Director, Geodetic Branch, Survey of India, Debra Dun, in an article appearing in the December 1948 issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*, has stressed the need for a large number of permanent tide-gauge observatories in India to provide material for continual and progressive research in some of the problems of geological and geodetic importance discussed in the article.

That the vast coast line of India, Pakistan, Burma and Siam covering a length of 6,500 miles from Karachi to Koh Hlak, encompassing as it does unstable regions of considerable interest to geologists and geodetists, should have only three tide-gauge stations, is in the opinion of the author, a woeful state of affairs. In comparison, it is mentioned, that U.S.A. maintains 100 stations of which 46 are primary stations. Even a small country like Denmark with a coast line of 500 miles, maintains 10 observatories and Holland maintains 74.

The setting up of tide-gauge observatories at some of the following important Indian ports has been suggested: Navlakhi (Morvi) or Kandla, Navnar or Mandvi, Porbandar or Veraval, Karwar, Ratnagiri, Beypore, Cochin, Tuticorin, Negapatam, Vizagapatam, Dhamrapoint or Short Island, Port Blair and Minicoy.

The results of a detailed investigation on the sulphonation of Indian vegetable oils, *e.g.*, Castor, Groundnut, Safflower, Mowrah and Cotton seed oils, and of the mixed fatty acids obtained from them, using different sulphonating agents, are described in a second article in the December issue of the Journal.

Vegetable Oils

Vegetable oils, apart from their use for edible purposes, find extensive application in the manufacture of soap and other Textile assistance such as Turkey red oil. The sulphonating agents tried were concentrated sulphuric acid, oleum and chlorosulphonic acid. The experimental conditions for obtaining satisfactory sulphonated products have been described.

The assay of wetting powers of sulphonated oils obtained from the oils showed that products prepared with oleum possess better wetting properties than those obtained with other reagents. Optimum conditions for obtaining a sulphonate product, which excels some of the imported materials in its wetting properties, have been determined and described in the article.

A method for determining the correct orientation of crystal axes, so important in the use of diamonds as cutting tools in industry, has been described in another article appearing in the Journal. The details have been worked out in the Physics Laboratory of the Delhi University.

Scientific Research

The usual method employing an intense beam of 'X' rays, demands the use of expensive and elaborate equipment. The method now described, is more convenient because of its simplicity and the easy availability of all the equipment required.

The leading article deals with the important question of selecting and training scientific talent in the country, and reviews, at some length, the measures adopted in other countries, especially America, for training young men and women for scientific research and development. The article makes a plea for an earnest and real effort to spot out talent in India, even at the pre-university level, and to encourage and educate promising youth for scientific career.

BUDGET SESSION OF ASSEMBLY

It has been decided that the next Budget Session of the Central Legislature will commence on February 1, 1949. Meetings of the Assembly have, for the time being, been fixed up to April 7, 1949.

Two days, namely, February 3, and February 16, have been allotted for the discussion of Private Members' Resolutions. Two days, namely, February 11, and April 4, have been allotted for the discussion of Private Members' Bills.

Railway Budget : The Railway Budget will be presented on February 15, at 5 p.m. The General discussion will take place on February 18 and the Demands for Grants will be discussed and voted on February 21, 22 and 23, 1949.

General Budget : The General Budget will, as usual, be presented on February 28, 1949 at 5 p. m. The General Discussion on the Budget will take place on March 3 and 4, 1949 and the Demands for Grants will be discussed and voted on March 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16,17 and 18 1949.



Dr. John Matthai, Finance Minister, Government of India, addressing the Associated Chambers of Commerce on December 13, during his visit to Calcutta

INCREASED PRODUCTION AND STABILISATION OF PRICES

Finance Minister's Address to Associated Chambers of Commerce

"WE are faced with a somewhat extraordinary situation. On the one hand, there is marked inflationery trend ; on the other, a low level of investment and business activity," said the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Finance Minister, Government of India, in the course of a speech delivered on December 13, 1948, to the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce at Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister also made the following points :

(1) The Government of India have already given concessions to encourage the starting of new industries while they are also themselves engaged in promoting large scale schemes of agricultural development.

(2) As for prices of commodities, the immediate objective is to stabilise rather than curtail prices.

(3) One contributory cause for the low level of investment is reduction of savings due partly to the level of direct taxation.

(4) Under the Government's declared industrial policy there will be good scope left to private enterprise, to which Government attach great importance as might be witnessed by the concessions given by them recently to aid new industries and their policy of protection of existing industries.

(5) E.P.T. deposits will be refunded within three years only for the purpose of renovating and increasing industrial equipment.

(6) There would be no objection in the furture to the participation of British Capital and enterprise in Indian industry and trade to the mutual advantage of both the countries.

The address referred to the problem of industrial relations, which the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai emphasised, called for a fresh orientation. He explained the need for a Central authority, shortly to be set up, which would review the adjudication awards of the various Industrial Tribunals and he added that it was not true that, as a rule, the Industrial Tribunals fixed the rate of wages at unreasonable levels. "I have seen a great deal in my time of the rank and file of Indian Labour" he declared, "and I am convinced that they are sound at heart and provided they are handled with judgment and tact and treated with dignity and consideration, they will acquit themselves with loyalty and a due sense of responsibility." He also expressed regret at the decision of the All India Railwaymen's Federation to take a strike ballot. "The issue is hardly one" he said, "which justifies a strike."

The following is the full text of the Hon'ble Dr. Matthai's address :

I must at the outset thank you, Mr. President, for inviting me to the Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and giving me this opportunity of meeting the representatives of so important a section of the trade and industry of India. As you have rightly pointed out, the most difficult problems facing the Government to-day are those which relate to the economic condition of the country. It is, therefore, fitting that members of the Government and particularly those, who, like me, are concerned with economic problems should avail themselves of such occasions as this for meeting responsible spokesmen of business opinion.

Unprecedented Difficulties

I am grateful for the appreciative remarks you have been good enough to make regarding the work done by the Government since they assumed office. As every one knows, we have had unprecedented difficulties to face, and I am glad that you here, who are in a

The profession of law provided the greatest opportunities of achieving distinction, of making money and the like. So, we find in the past two or three generations in India the desire to rise in administrative service or in the profession of law. That, of course, happens in other countries too. Both the professions are useful, I suppose, in their own way. The lawyers always talk of precedents. The administrators carry on with the aid of convention and practice. But as groups they represent a static, unchanging view of society. You will find lawyers playing a very important part in national movements or any other varieties of national endeavour. He is still important in his own sphere. That importance, looking from the wider point of view is, unfortunately, passing.

The administrator in India is still important as an administrator always is but his importance is much less than it used to be. Many people today think in terms of becoming economists because economists play a big part in the modern world. They think of becoming engineers because engineers play a great part. The static nature of our society is changing and becoming more dynamic. This is being reflected in the individual's aptitude as regards the profession he should take up. That is right, of course, and inevitable

Accumulation of Problems

The British period in India, Pandit Nehru went on, represented a comparatively static period. So India, during this period, was static and unchanging. During this period, problems had accumulated. There was the problem of the States. Then there was the agrarian problem and many other problems. We today face not one problem but a multitude of problems and it is very difficult to say which one should be solved first. All these various problems tend to overwhelm us. The problem of refugees, of the millions who have come across the border, for instance, is not a fundamental problem. It is a temporary problem, but it is of exceedingly great importance.

These and various other accumulated problems have to be faced more or less simultaneously. Their progress should be co-ordinated, that is where planning comes in. I confess to a feeling of disappointment that all our talk has not achieved better results than I expected. You know what has happened in the past and what difficulties there have been in the matter.

Work Ahead

Our task requires the co-operation of a large number of persons. From the top to bottom, if that co-operation is lacking and the spirit of working together is lacking, that job cannot be done properly and is delayed.

We have a very big job to do in this country in every sphere. It is no good complaining of uncomfortable things happening around us. Since we are born in this period, we have to face them and conquer our difficulties. There is going to be little rest or real peace for us. There are going to be no dividends. The prospect before us is work, hard work. You must divert this hard work into constructive channels.

I do wish the engineers present here to realise that the responsibility of the constructive effort is tremendous and a great deal depends on how they discharge that responsibility and in what spirit they discharge it. I want you to infuse in your work the higher spirit of doing a fine job in fulfilment of certain objectives and ideas. You see ancient structures, mosques, temples. No one knows who built them but anyone can see with his eyes that people who built them were not only fine engineers but men of faith in their work. No one can build such things unless he has faith. We are living in a different age. We do not spend our time in making mosques and temples, but we build many types of public works. I would like you to work with that faith and you will find that if you work in that spirit the results will be great.

MR. KHOSLA'S SPEECH

"Four of the large river valley development projects in India, namely the Tungabhadra in Madras, the Bhakra Dam in East Punjab, the Damodar Valley in Bihar and West Bengal, and the Hirakud Dam in Orissa are now under actual construction; some other projects are ready for sanction and execution; others still are in various stages of investigation and preparation. There are several areas of potential development, particularly in the States, to which it has not been possible so far to give even preliminary consideration," stated Mr. A. N. Khosla, President, Central Board of Irrigation, in his presidential address at the 19th annual meeting of the Board held at New Delhi on December 6.

After welcoming the members of the Board and other guests, Mr. Khosla paid a tribute to the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for having led the country through many crises. "The dawn of freedom," he said, "has brought with it a new outlook, a new sense of values and a new purpose in life—an all-round urge for creative effort and an over-mastering desire to get things done."

Medal for Research

Mr. Khosla announced that the Executive Committee of the Central Board of Irrigation had decided to institute a Medal to be called the Central Board of Irrigation Medal which will be awarded every year to the author of the best published research or other original contribution to the development of the water resources of the country.

"The necessity for the conservation and utilisation of the water resources of the country for purposes of flood control, irrigation, Power generation, navigation and allied facilities, on a regional basis," said Mr. Khosla in the course of his address, " has now been definitely accepted. The completion of any one of our major river valley schemes will provide enough additional food to almost wipe out the country's entire deficit and enough power to start several heavy industries of economic and strategic importance."

Some of the mammoth schemes like the Bhakra, the Kosi and the Ramapadasagara are likely to cost over one hundred crore rupees each. In view of the colossal expenditure involved, the immensity of the field to be covered by these schemes and their intimate bearing on the agriculture and industrial development of the country and on the every-day life of the people it is possible that in the not distant future there may be need for a separate portfolio in the Government of India to deal exclusively with river valley development.

"In the past, progress in river valley development was held up, in some cases for as long as 40 to 50 years, because of interminable water disputes between the Provinces and States concerned with a river. While the powers that be continued to disagree, no constructive work could be done, the region concerned remained undeveloped and the common man continued to groan in poverty and semistarvation. The proposal in the New Constitution of India to bring the subject of 'development of inter-State rivers and waterways for flood control, irrigation, power, navigation and other purposes' in list I of Schedule VII will be the biggest step forward in the integrated development of river valleys, which will also be considerably facilitated by the integration and merger of Indian States which has been readily and thoroughly brought about by the Hon'ble Sardar Patel."

Inflation and Other Difficulties

Mr. Khosla referred to certain serious difficulties in the way of rapid realisation of plans, such as inflation, shortage of steel, cement and other essential materials of construction, bottlenecks of transport and inadequacy of technical manpower of the requisite qualifications. "Added to these, there is a fair amount of red-tape and in certain quarters a lack of sense of responsibility and an absence of pioneer zeal," he said.

The antidote to inflation does not lie in a stoppage of productive effort, nor in stagnation of human material through lack of opportunity and incentive. It lies in the freezing of surplus purchasing power and cannalising it into means of production. If first things are taken up first and priorities adjusted in that spirit the question of inflation will not enter into the picture.

"The first place, in order of priority, would naturally go to the conservation and utilisation of water resources, through river valley development, thus providing the basic tools for national advance and self-sufficiency; that is, flood control to release more lands for productive cultivation, irrigation facilities to grow more food, large scale generation of hydro-electric power to turn the wheels of industry and navigation facilities for the transport of the products of agriculture and industry.

The next in order of priority, should come the manufacture of hydro-electric machinery, setting up of iron and steel factories, cement mills, and the manufacture of synthetic petrol, fuel oils, fertilizers and other essential commodities. At par with the above will be the land transport facilities, particularly the extension of railways to sources of raw materials and manufacturing centres.

"Priorities and phasing must be taken up together so that the overall demand in men, money and materials in a region



Shri C. Rajagopalachari talking to Mr. Nurul Amin, Premier of East Bengal, at an At Home given to the engineers who attended the meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation at Government House, New Delhi, on December 6

or the country as a whole, does not materially exceed the available or potentially available resources of the area concerned. Further, development must be integrated so that all related phases may advance in step. For instance it will not do to generate a million K.W. of power without at the same time setting up the necessary industries and other rural and urban undertakings to utilise that power.

"In order to make the best use of our human and material resources, the ideal arrangement will be to have the various projects staggered in point of execution so that while peak construction activity is proceeding on one or two projects, there will be only preparatory work and lesser construction activity on the others. Similarly as the peak activity starts tailing off on the former, the work on the latter should get into stride. But this process must be continuous so that the over increasing knowledge and experience gained on successive jobs may be passed on from project to project thus ensuring that each succeeding job shall be done better and cheaper, than the one done before.

"For this purpose, it is necessary that while one project is under construction there should be at least three or four projects under surveys and investigation. The staff, money and material requirements for surveys and investigations will be relatively small. Formally two to three years will be required for such investigations in the case of large projects and it will be fatal to proceed to construction without carrying out full investigations and preparatory project studies.

"In this way, as soon as the construction activities on any project or set of projects get on to the concluding stages, it will be possible, as a result of detailed investigations carried out in the meanwhile on several other projects, to decide as to which project or projects should be taken up next in order of priority and which kept back or altogether rejected from consideration of engineering and economic feasibility, direct and indirect benefits and special needs of the region or the nation."

"Planning should be regional and total so as to cover all related purposes in any particular region. Planning should not be confined merely to one or two five-year periods. It must extend much farther ahead. The works of development of river valleys in India will be a continuous process. It will not end in 20, 30 or even 40 years. Ours is a vast country and there are numerous virgin regions to be served.

"Our first aim should be to provide each region as quickly as possible with one completed project or part of a project adequate to its immediate needs and then build up in course of time to total development.

Board's Activities

"Total planning does not preclude partial or stage development. It will be desirable to undertake construction of a part of the total plan to achieve quick results and at small expense of available resources but with the clear understanding that such partial development will be an integral part of the total development and in no way and at no stage in conflict with it. In this way it will be possible to serve several areas simultaneously, expeditiously and without straining, beyond limit, our available resources in men money and materials."

Earlier, Mr. Khosla referred to the activities of the Central Board of Irrigation, and said: " The Board is the National Committee for India for the International Commission on large Dams and the proposed International Commission on Irrigation and Canals.

"It has organised a National Committee in India for the International Society on Soil Mechanics and foundation Engineering. It provides liaison with the International Association of Hydraulic Structures Research and other International Scientific Organisations. The Board is represented on several technical committees such as the Indian Standards Institution, the Indian Roads Congress, the Council of Technical Education, the Crops and Soils Wing of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Geophysics Planning Committee. It has set up a number of *ad hoc* and permanent Committees to deal with specific technical subjects.

"The Board publishes a quarterly journal dealing generally with irrigation and hydro electric problems and has put out some popular leaflets. These have been well received in India and abroad. The Board is endeavouring to bring out a dictionary of technical terms in Hindi and to translate the popular pamphlets in Indian languages. It has built up a unique and efficient information service for the engineering profession, particularly, the Irrigation and Hydro-electric branches."

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON LARGE DAMS

A preliminary discussion on the arrangements necessary in connection

calls for a fresh orientation. The traditional methods of dealing with labour, which have done duty in the past, will no longer work and must be replaced by a relationship based on mutual understanding and appreciation. What is required under present conditions is a wider recognition of the fact that the individual workman is a self-respecting human being with a personality of his own, and that he should not be dealt with or disposed of as if he were an inanimate unit of industrial equipment.

I remember long ago, when I was a student in England, attending a Conference of the Workers' Educational Association, at which one of the most intelligent and sensible workers present complained bitterly of the fact that when he attended Chapel on Sundays, the parson invariably accosted him "Brother Smith," but on week days in the factory he was simply "Card No. 351." That remark sums up the essence of the problem, the truth of which has been brought home to me in later years by direct contact with Labour both as a business man and as a member of Government. I have seen a great deal in my time of the rank and file of Indian labour, and I am convinced that they are sound at heart, and provided they are handled with judgment and tact and treated with dignity and consideration, they will acquit themselves with loyalty and a due sense of responsibility.

Railway Transport

The problem of Railway transport has received anxious consideration at the hands of the Government. In spite of the handicaps under which Railways are labouring at present, partly due to the difficulty in replacing worn-out plant and machinery, and partly the disorganisation caused by the Partition, I am glad to say that there has been in recent months a progressive improvement in the number of wagons loaded, in punctual arrivals and departures of passenger trains, and generally in the efficiency of operating conditions. Although transport capacity still falls short of demand, I am confident that in a relatively short period the Railways will cease to be the proverbial bottle-neck in the country's industrial recovery.

As I am addressing to-day a gathering of business men, I wish to make an appeal to the commercial community to do all in their power to co-operate with the Railways in their very difficult task. There have been numerous cases recently in which merchants have failed to take delivery in time of the goods consigned to them, thereby further reducing the limited capacity of the Railways for essential transport. Any one who visits the goods sheds and platforms at some of the principal Railway Stations in the country will be struck by the congestion caused by the refusal of merchants to accept delivery, and the growing practice among them of regarding Railway wagons and premises as storage space. What the Railways would welcome is a planned movement by mercantile firms to ensure avoidance of waste and economic utilisation of transport capacity.

Speaking of railway transport, I must express my regret at the decision to take a strike ballot recently announced by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation. I regret it because the leaders of the Railway Labour in my opinion could not have chosen a more inopportune time for such a decision. I regret it further because the main issue is hardly one which justifies a strike. The scales of wages and salaries on the Railways represent a haphazard development through the years under a system of separate Company managements, and the introduction into them of a scientific and uniform pay structure, such as is envisaged in the Pay Commission's Report, is a task of much greater complexity and magnitude than the Federation appears to realise. I still hope that wiser counsels will prevail.

On the subject of export and import trade, you speak of the encouragement offered to "new-comers" and small firms at the expense of large established firms. I am aware that on the import side, the term "new-comers" covered until recently a somewhat wide category of persons. During the period July-December 1948, however, the definition of "new-comers" has been considerably narrowed down and the percentage of the monetary ceiling reserved for them has been correspondingly reduced.

On the export side, I understand that the quotas now reserved are small. No quota, for example, is reserved for export of raw jute, and only 10 per cent of the quotas are reserved for "new-comers" in respect of jute goods and oils and oil-seeds, while the system of reservation of a percentage of the quota for them in respect of crushed bones has been abandoned.

I do not think that our present policy can be described as unduly restrictive so far as established business firms are concerned, nor as encouraging unreasonably the entry of new firms into the sphere of foreign trade. The Government are aware that some parties admitted under the scheme have not justified their choice, and the position, therefore, is being kept under constant review. You will appreciate that there is justification for a certain degree of preference to "new-comers" by way of reservation, in view of the fact that under the rigid control exercised during the long period of the war, there was no scope for the operation of the trade forces which in normal times tend to vary the pattern of trade structure and organisation. Barring this, it is not Government's policy to discriminate against or in any way injure the long established firms which, as you correctly observe, have built up laboriously an extensive system of trade connections with the outside world.

Adequate Representation

You express your concern at what you call a tendency on the part of some Government departments to regard your Association as a non-national organisation and to deny you representation on certain bodies set up by the Government in connection with commercial and other business matters. I have been at some pains to ascertain the true position in this matter and I find that on several bodies recently set up or reorganised by the Government, your Association has received adequate representation. I need only mention the Export and Import Advisory Councils, the Accountancy Board, the Central Oil-Seeds Committee and the various Port Trusts.

If in some cases you do not receive the same proportion of representation as you did in the past, this is only to be expected in view of the immense growth in recent years of the business interests represented by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the fact that in the past your position in the country *vis-a-vis* the then Government provided you with somewhat more than your due share of representation. The policy of the Government at present is that your Association should in this matter receive fair and equitable treatment, having regard to your knowledge and experience and your long established connection with business interests in the country.

British Interests

I am aware that one of the matters exercising your mind is the policy which the Government of India are likely to adopt generally towards British interests in India. The formulation of a definite policy in regard to this matter is dependent upon certain factors, constitutional and others, which are still under examination. You will appreciate that I cannot anticipate the decisions which may be reached ultimately on these issues. But if there is a feeling in your mind that there is any opposition on the part of the Government to British concerns in India, I should like to dispel it.

We have no desire to take any steps which will in any way injure British interests in India. On the other hand, in view of the friendly relations which we desire to promote between India and the United Kingdom, we would be glad to see the interests you represent continue and prosper. Our attitude towards British concerns in India must necessarily fit into the general framework of our industrial policy, but this does not in the least imply any objection on our part to the participation of British capital and enterprise in Indian industry and trade on terms and conditions which are of mutual advantage to our respective countries.

Special Responsibility

It is clear that for some time to come, India cannot obtain unaided all the capital goods and technical skill and experience she requires for her development, and it follows, therefore, that your participation will be of benefit to the country. This consideration must necessarily influence the general attitude of the Government of India towards your Association and the interests you represent. I must at the same time point out that there is a special responsibility resting on non-Indian concerns who participate in the business life of India to give reasonable opportunities to the nationals of the country to acquire training and find employment in the industries run by them.

Complaints have recently reached the Government from various quarters of discriminatory treatment of young Indians who in recent years have joined British business houses in India. As the maintenance of good relations must rest ultimately on a reciprocal basis it is, therefore, to your interests as it is to ours that this aspect of the problem should receive constant and careful consideration at your hands.

Let me thank you once more, Mr. President, for your kind welcome and hospitality.



Mr. K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Railways and Transport, Government of India, talking to a representative of the workers inside the Railway Workshops during his recent visit to Lucknow

FAIR DEAL FOR THE MASSES

Mr. Santhanam's Assurance at Kanpur Meeting

"If you show the masses that, as one of the first results of the advent of freedom, every worker in Kanpur is well housed, has got electricity, has got running water and there is no worker in Kanpur who is in slums, then, indeed, we shall be proud of you and we can say, now, these merchants have done their duty," declared the Hon'ble Mr. K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Railways and Transport, in reply to a joint address presented to him by the three Chambers of Commerce in the United Provinces at Kanpur on November 28.

We can argue, he said, about the Communist doctrine or the Socialist doctrine. There, it is possible for a man to be carried away by the abstract beauty of giving to every man what he needs and getting from every man what he can do; one can grow enthusiastic about the principle of bringing all the means of production under public control; but the only way by which the institution of private enterprise, in any measure, can be defended is to provide a visible demonstration that under private enterprise production is much more efficient and distribution much more equitable. If, on the other hand, State industries are able to give workers a better deal than private enterprise, no force on earth can resist the pressure that whatever the ultimate economic effects may be all industries must be taken over and the whole country must become one vast economic bureaucracy. This is, of course, a long-term consideration, but it is essential that every one of us, whether he is an officer of the Government of India or of a Province or he is a merchant, should view things from the point of view of the economy of the nation as a whole and try to fit the economics of particular industries and particular places in the broad outline of national economy.

Government's Determination

As far as the Government of India was concerned, said Mr. Santhanam, it was taking a purely practical and pragmatic view and would treat private enterprise with such consideration as it earned by its service to the country. Each member of Government, he said, was resolved that his only function in Government was to see that the masses of this country get a fair deal. He wanted his audience to realize that democracy could not function on the basis of poverty and distress. Unfortunately, these evils had been left as legacies by the former rulers, but they could not expect poor and illiterate workers to reflect on history.

Dealing with two matters regarding railway administration, the Minister said that in railways the most vital factors were not so much money or rates as time and space. In a single division, Allahabad, during the month ending November 30, no less than 589 wagons, allotted against acceptable indents, were not used by the trading public. "If all those wagons had been loaded and sent to their destinations," said Mr. Santhanam, "how much more traffic would have moved, how much more would have been available for both things coming into Kanpur and going out of Kanpur? I hope you will pardon me if I say—I do not mean any disrespect to any particular individual—that in the present context of economy when transport is called a bottleneck all over the country, it is a national crime to waste our wagons." He was determined that all these delays, all this misuse of railway space should be stopped, though he would like to take only such measures as the commercial community themselves suggested or agreed to.

Priority Organisation

Referring to the responsibility of Government, in particular of Railways, to see that raw materials reached the industries in proper time and finished goods moved as quickly and as safely as possible, Mr. Santhanam said he was willing to consider any proposals they made. "If any responsible person or organisation says why such a thing should be done, my only query is why should it not be done? If the balance is even, where the advantages and disadvantages equalise according to expert opinion, then the benefit of the doubt should be given to the public and they should be adopted. This is the attitude in which I want to approach every problem of the railway."

As regards their complaint about the Rail Priority Organisation, Mr. Santhanam said that the whole organisation was actually under examination and he proposed to spend some time during his visit to Calcutta next month, in examining how it could be improved and he would value the considered memorandum from the Chambers of Commerce.

As for the regrouping of railways, the question was under active consideration. He, however, confessed he was not able fully to understand their attitude. While from a certain point of view it might be desirable to make these railways much bigger units cutting across linguistic, provincial and communal boundaries and making them into a sort of national unitary concerns, there was also the view that they might be made compact, very small administrative units and he wished the Chambers to set up a special Committee to study the question with their intimate knowledge of commerce, industry and other considerations and give Government their considered views.

position to take a detached view of happenings in the country, think that we have tackled successfully the difficult problems which have confronted us. When we remember the conditions which prevailed this time last year, we cannot but regard with a feeling of deep thankfulness the remarkable recovery which the country has made in the political and administrative field.

Externally the prestige and status of India have never stood higher than to-day, and internally the territories included within the geographical limits of India have never been so closely knit or realised so strong a sense of unity.

These are no mean achievements and I am confident that they will provide a sure foundation on which to build the fabric of a strong and prosperous India.

I agree with you, however, that the progress we have been able to make so far in the economic sphere has been less satisfactory, although it is possible to derive some consolation from the fact that in this respect we have probably not fared worse than other countries. The Government, as you know, have recently been taking active steps to remedy the economic disorder from which the country is suffering.

As you point out, we are faced to-day with a somewhat extraordinary situation. On the one hand, there is a marked inflationary trend; on the other, a low level of investment and business activity. This is a complex and unusual situation which calls for clear thinking and energetic action. In my capacity as Minister of Finance, I feel there is no greater responsibility resting upon me than to determine its causes and try to find effective remedies for it.

Increased Production

In recent months the subject of inflation has received a great deal of public attention. It is generally appreciated that what is needed for its solution is to bring the productive capacity of the country into equilibrium with its purchasing power. Ultimately no solution of real benefit to the country can be found except on a basis of increased production. It is a process which will necessarily take time. That, however, does not absolve either the Government or the business community from their responsibility to speed it up as far as lies in their power.

Recently we have provided various concessions calculated to encourage the starting of new industries, which I am glad to note have been generally welcomed by the business community. It is Government's hope that these concessions will have the desired effect, and that they will result in the near future in a marked improvement in industrial production. We are also, as you are aware, engaged at present in the promotion of large schemes of agricultural development as well as measures for securing an immediate increase in the production of food-grains.

It is generally believed that since increased production in the present circumstances is likely to be a relatively slow process, no perceptible improvement in the price situation can be expected in the near future unless drastic steps are taken to reduce the purchasing power in the hands of the community. We have given consideration to this aspect of the problem in the anti-inflation policy which has been recently announced.

In this matter I admit that we have proceeded somewhat more slowly than some sections of public opinion have urged. We have done so deliberately because, in our opinion, a sudden adjustment of the active money supply of the country to suit the present low level of production is likely to create problems of a different character which might be equally difficult to handle and equally injurious to the country. A variation in the level of prices involves necessarily a corresponding adjustment of costs, although with a certain time-lag. Any attempt to bring down prices suddenly will cause a fresh disturbance in this process of adjustment which is bound to react adversely on productive activity and on business confidence generally.

Curtailment Undesirable

The immediate objective of the Government is to stabilise rather than curtail prices. If the measures we have taken succeed in preventing further rise in the level of prices, that by itself will generate forces which will induce a downward movement of prices. Recent figures of prices indicate that the level of wholesale prices, and in certain important industrial areas also of retail prices, has remained steady for some time, and that our immediate objective is likely to be fulfilled.

The degree of inflation prevailing in India is, I think, generally overstated. Our present prices as compared with pre-war prices are not by any means so high as in other countries, nor are they much higher than the level at which they are likely to settle when normal conditions have been established.

There is no sanctity about pre-war prices. It is not to be expected that prices will again reach or even approximate to the pre-war level, and therefore, the distance yet to be traversed before normality is reached will not be nearly so great as we are apt to think. It is, of course, unsafe to forecast the period when a break in world prices may occur. There is obviously no likelihood of anything approaching a depression in the near future. But the indications are that the balance of market forces in the case of many commodities is beginning to shift in favour of buyers, and that a downward readjustment of prices may not be far off. I personally think, therefore, that at this stage a steep curtailment of prices is neither called for nor desirable in the interests of the country.

I regard with some concern the present inactivity of the investment market in India. Apart from temporary causes, I ascribe the present state of investment partly to the fact that the margin of saving in industrial concerns has, in recent years, diminished substantially. It is out of savings that investments are made, and any reduction in them must correspondingly react on investment.

I have given some thought to this matter since assuming my present office, and I have come to the conclusion that, apart from the increase in costs of production due to the general rise in labour and material costs, one contributory cause has been the level of direct taxation. I am therefore, not, without sympathy with what you say regarding the subject of taxation. It must, however, be remembered that financially we are passing through difficult times; public expenditure in many essential fields of the Government activity such as Defence, Relief and Rehabilitation and payment of subsidies on imported food-grains is running at a high level, and the Government cannot lightly surrender such resources as are available to them. I am not therefore, in a position to say, especially with the Budget Session of Parliament so near, when and to what extent I can give practical expression to my sympathy.

Investment is not merely a matter of saving, but also of security. The serious civil disorders which occurred in the country immediately after the Partition have had undoubtedly some effect in generating a feeling of insecurity in the country which has reacted on the confidence of investors. But that phase is now over. There is little doubt that we have now reached a stage when it is possible to say that the problem of law and order in the country is well under control. It is reasonable, therefore, to expect that one important factor which has hindered investment will cease to operate.

Scope for Private Enterprise

Another matter which creates a sense of insecurity in the minds of investors is the uncertainty which is apparently felt about the Government's policy in economic matters, particularly in regard to the vexed question of nationalisation. Government's attitude towards nationalisation is set out in the Resolution on Industrial Policy issued last April. That policy contemplates a combination of private and public enterprise in the furtherance of industrial development. In the circumstances of to-day, the Government have necessarily to play a large role in industry and no one can deny that this is in the national interest. There are strong reasons of security and public welfare for insisting that certain basic industries and services—especially those which have a bearing on national defence should be controlled and owned by the Government.

This, however, does not provide a sufficient ground for the apprehension, which seems to be entertained in some quarters, that there will be less scope hereafter in the country for private enterprise. To my mind, the extent to which private enterprise will function hereafter will be determined by the logic of facts rather than by considerations of policy or ideology. Even a country like the United Kingdom, with its highly equipped administrative service and the powerful support which the Labour Government still commands, does not hope, within the next decade, to nationalise more than an insignificant fraction of the industrial field.

In India, the position is that on the one hand the Government have already undertaken vast responsibilities in respect of railways and other public utilities and the great river valley projects which they have in hand, and on the other hand, their resources in personnel and finance are likely for some time to come to be severely restricted. If we consider India's large industrial potentialities, with an extensive internal market and an expansible market outside, especially in countries near home, the conclusion is irresistible that unless Government's resources are supplemented with all the resources of private enterprise that the country can muster no substantial progress in economic development can be achieved.

In my opinion, for as long a period as we can foresee, there will be not merely a large but an increasing field for private enterprise in India, and the only limit to it will be its own readiness to venture ahead and organise itself for the great tasks that lie ahead. The recent concessions which we have provided for the encouragement of new industries, and the policy of protection of existing industries to which as a Government we are committed, are proof of the importance we attach to private enterprise.

Refund of E.P.T.

I will now turn to some of the specific matters which you, Mr. President, have raised in your speech. While you welcome the measures we have taken to check inflation, you express serious misgivings regarding one of those measures, viz., the postponement for a further period of three years of the repayment of E.P.T. deposits and refundable E.P.T. You will recall that the purpose underlying compulsory deposits scheme was to create a reserve for the rehabilitation and re-equipment of industries after the war. That purpose, therefore, should govern the disposal of those funds and the recent decision of Government is in consonance with this purpose. We are aware that circumstances might arise which would make it desirable that the limit of three years should be relaxed. Accordingly, we have provided for making repayments even before the expiry of this period for those who require it for the purpose of financing worn out plant and machinery. The net result of our decision, therefore, is that the money will not be refunded for merely augmenting the spending power of the depositors, but only on condition that the spending power so released will be utilised for renovating and increasing the industrial equipment of the country. I cannot share your view that a measure which is calculated to help in the fight against inflation and which, at the same time, fulfils the original purpose of these deposits is likely to affect the faith of any thinking person in the Government's ability and determination to meet its obligations.

You refer to a question relating to private limited companies in the questionnaire issued by the Income-tax Investigation Commission from which you appear to draw the conclusion that there is a movement against companies operating in India which are not owned or controlled largely by the public.

I am afraid you have read too much into the question. It is faulty logic, if I may say so, to infer what is in the mind of a questioner, from the form in which his question is put, especially when those who put it happen to be such experienced and resourceful jurists as the Members of the Commission. Many of their questions had been noted for consideration from time to time by the Income tax Department and, as the intention behind them was only to invite public criticism and discussion of various suggestions, they were necessarily framed in a manner which would directly bring out the implications of the proposals.

The form of the question does not represent the view of the Commission, nor does it necessarily indicate the policy of the Government. Your apprehensions, therefore, appear to me to have little foundation.

While I am on the subject of the Income-tax Investigation Commission, I should like to refer to the policy announced by the Government in a recent Ordinance affording facilities for arriving at a fair settlement in respect of income-tax arrears due by assessees whose cases have been referred for investigation by the Commission. I expect that, in the near future, many of these cases will be settled on terms which will be just to both the Government and the assessees. It seems to me that in the present circumstances what is of primary importance from the country's point of view is that hoarded wealth should be brought back as quickly as possible into fruitful lines of investment and industrial expansion.

Adjudication Awards

You mention in your speech Government's recent announcement regarding their intention to set up a Central authority to review and co-ordinate adjudication awards. The Government have realised for some time past that the setting up of a large number of Industrial Tribunals without any appellate or reviewing authority has led in some cases to divergent, if not conflicting, decisions.

The difficulty has been further increased by the fact that certain Provincial Governments have legislative enactments of their own which are not on all fours with that of the Central Government. The position is still further complicated by the fact that in the case of one of these Provincial Governments, both the Provincial and Central Acts are used for dealing with industrial disputes. I, therefore, appreciate the uncertainty experienced by employers regarding the principles which are likely to be followed by Industrial Tribunals.

The Government in the Ministry of Labour are urgently examining the steps that should be taken to provide a proper forum for the filling of appeals from decisions in the more important categories of disputes, and for the review of awards in certain circumstances. The details of the requisite machinery are still under examination, but it is hoped that the setting up of a Centra Appellate and Review Authority will go a long way towards ensuring greater uniformity.

It is not altogether correct to say that there is a general tendency on the part of Industrial Tribunals to fix the rate of wages at unreasonable levels. On an examination of the awards given by Industrial Tribunals in recent months, I find that on the whole it is in respect of basic wages and dearness allowance that there has been the largest measure of uniformity in their decisions. Whatever view we may take regarding the effect of wage rates on inflation, I am unable to accept the contention that the level of wages awarded by Industrial Tribunals has generally operated as a contributory cause.

Profit-Sharing

With regard to the question of profit-sharing, you are no doubt aware that profit sharing in principle was accepted by the Industries Conference convened in December last at which employers were fully represented, and this was endorsed by the Government in their Resolution on Industrial Policy. The whole subject is still under examination, and I am not in a position to give any indication to-day of the policy which the Government may accept finally.

The Central Advisory Council which is charged with the duty of evolving a scheme has not concluded its labours. It is for that body to consider the report of the Committee on Profit Sharing, and when the recommendations of the Council are received, the Government will give the matter their most careful consideration, taking into account the various points of view which have found expression in the discussions which have taken place on the subject.

As regards the right of an employer to reduce the number of workers, there seems to be a certain amount of uncertainty and even unjustified nervousness in the minds of employers. A careful study of recent judicial decisions on the subject will show that the discretion of an employer to adjust the volume of labour force to suit the tempo of his activities is not itself in jeopardy. An Industrial Tribunal in Government's opinion is empowered to prevent workers against victimisation, particularly for Trade Union activities, and to ensure that dismissals as a result of disciplinary action are not ordered without the procedure prescribed under the Industrial Employment Act being fully and fairly followed, and that unjustified retrenchments are not carried out.

In all cases of retrenchment, even where there are *bonafide* reasons for it, it is, you will appreciate, of the highest importance in the present circumstances of the country that workers should be taken into confidence by the management in working out a rational scheme of retrenchment, and that the industry concerned should so organise its activities as to minimise the hardship caused by genuine retrenchment.

Industrial Relations

In the general awakening among all sections of the community which has followed the attainment of political freedom, it is essential for responsible leaders of Industry to recognise that the whole problem of industrial relations

ASSISTANCE FOR MOVEMENT OF ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

Working of Railway Priorities Organisation

INCREASED assistance for the movement of foodstuffs, cement, textiles and other essential commodities—yet another sign of the steadily improving rail transport position in the country—was afforded by the Railway Priorities Organisation of the Central Transport Ministry during October, 1948. Outstanding movements were of cotton, cotton textiles and cement. Compared to September figures, despatches of (a) cotton from the C. P. and Berar to Bombay increased from 192 wagons (14,983 bales) to 576 wagons (44,724 bales) ; (b) textiles from Bombay to the consuming centres rose from 1,37,916 bales to 1,52,526 bales, and (c) cement increased from 32,300 tons to 43,328 tons.

In addition to the large traffic ordinarily carried in priority classes by means of wagon quotas or otherwise, nearly 200 goods specials were run during October by Indian Railways.

The Transport Ministry gave special facilities in overriding priorities, despite restrictions, for the movement of constructional and exhibition materials required for the ensuing Congress Session in Jaipur. Other important transport features are the movement of 3,250 tons of tea, mostly from Assam Railway, to Calcutta for export to Russia in part exchange for wheat ; allotment of a quota of one wagon per day for the movement of walnut kernels from Pathankot (E. P. Railway) to Bombay for export, this quota operating until March, 1949 ; and the extension for the fourth time of Priority Class I (b) to sugar movements up to November 25, 1948, in order to facilitate clearance of stocks.

Salt for Kashmir

In the latter half of October, the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport was called upon to meet an emergent demand for the movement of 7,500 tons of salt, representing six months' requirements of the Kashmir Valley, before the end of November. Despite short notice, the Committee planned and finalised a movement programme envisaging the running of 14 special trains, 10 from Sambhar and 4 from Kharagodha, to Pathankot. Accordingly four specials from Sambhar and 2 from Kharagodha were run before the end of October.

Transport conditions in the various priority regions were as follows :

Delhi Region. Conditions on the E.P. Railway were unsteady, due to operational difficulties resulting in traffic being restricted temporarily and, on occasions, even up to class I (b). Till the end of October, about 2,41,524 maunds of seed potato were carried from the Simla-Kalka section to various destinations.

Charcoal and firewood receipts for Delhi during the month were 607 and 260 wagons, respectively. To augment charcoal supplies to the Capital, two special trains were arranged from the G. I. P. Railway.

Bombay Region.—The transport situation on the G. I. P. Railway was generally satisfactory except on the Jhansi and Jubbulpore divisions. Due to shortage of wagons, the implementing of quotas for various commodities was not satisfactory. Thirteen special trains (seven for foodgrains and six for cement) were run in October. On the B. B. and C. I. Railway (broad gauge) the position deteriorated during the latter part of October owing to heavy receipts of coal and their poor release resulting in accumulations, power shortage, etc. Thirty-five special trains were run, foodgrains accounting for 19, cement 7, textiles 4, cotton 3, firewood 1 and salt 1.

Coal Loadings

Calcutta Region.—There was a slight improvement in coal loadings, particularly in the second half of October ; the average daily loading was 2,807 wagons as against 2,775 in September, 1948, and 2,281 in October, 1947.

General transport conditions on the E. I. Railway continued to be difficult. Lower Divisions were booking traffic in Classes I and II, including raw materials to and finished products from iron and steel works, paper mills and refractories. Upper Divisions were able to load traffic in all classes, subject to wagon quotas. This railway arranged to run a special goods train on October 28 from Howrah to Kanpur consisting of all kinds of goods irrespective of priority classes from the Calcutta area to stations in U. P., and if traffic offers these arrangements are likely to be extended on a weekly basis. Sixty special trains were run on the E. I. Railway, foodgrains being 21, chemicals 5, sugar 2, timber 2, cement 1, stone 10, jute 4, and and gravel 6.

On the B.N. Railway, loading in classes I and II was possible throughout, while class III and non priority traffic was allowed to load on certain days. Forty four special trains (manganese ore 32, iron and steel 9, one each for gravel, bamboo and kainite) were run.

Sugar Specials

Madras Region.—Conditions were satisfactory in this region. On the M S. M. and S. I. Railways (broad gauge) 1,928 wagons of non-priority traffic was booked.

Gorakhpur Region.—The daily average sugar loading improved from 102 wagons in September to 114 in October, but remained below the daily reduced target quota of 150 due to insufficient offerings by factories, partly due to price factor. Two specials a week have been arranged for carrying essential commodities, particularly sugar, for Assam. Two such specials ran in October. Thirty-seven special trains (fuel 17, sugar 5, timber 7, baib grass 2, foodgrains 2 and sleepers 1) were run during the month.

Movement of Material for Congress Session

'First things first' has been the idea behind railways' planned movement of 1,256 wagons of material and foodstuffs for the Jaipur session of the Indian National Congress.

The movement of these requirements had to converge on Jaipur from various centres in India. Ballies, bamboos, cement, and iron and steel for the construction of Gandhi Nagar and electrical equipment and machinery, pipes, tents and charpoys and other subsidiary equipment had to be transported as also foodstuffs which included wheat, sugar, arhar dal and even patal-donas. Ballies, cement, and iron and steel and tents and such had naturally to be moved first and movements of these in some cases have even exceeded those originally planned. For instance, the programmed movements were for 100 wagons of ballies, 50 wagons of pipes and 100 wagons of iron and steel ; the actual dispatches till November 23 were 194 wagon loads of ballies, 70 wagon-loads of pipes and 127 wagonloads of iron and steel. Most of the firewood, cement and tents have been moved. Of the foodstuffs to be moved 11 wagons of sugar and 51 wagons of wheat as against a target of 15 and 56 have already reached Jaipur.

Apart from these programmed movements, another 162 wagonloads of unprogrammed goods which include a wagon load of telephone material, have also been despatched. Against a total of 1,256 wagons requiring movement, the railways have already moved 934 programmed and 162 unprogrammed wagons till November 23.

EXPEDITING REMOVAL OF RAILWAY CONSIGNMENTS

Much of the congestion prevailing in Goods Sheds and Parcels Offices as a number of important railway stations is the result of delay on the part of consignees in removing their consignments. To assist consignees in obviating such delays, railways are introducing a procedure which will enable advice of arrival to be given to the consignee immediately a consignment becomes available for delivery. Although non-receipt of a notice of arrival will not exempt a consignee from the payment of any demurrage or warfage charge which may have been incurred, it is hoped that the regular issue of arrival notices to known consignees will be found of service to them and assist them in taking delivery of their consignments within the free time allowed. A list of consignments unloaded will also be posted daily in a prominent place at railway stations.

Reduction of congestion at stations will permit of the removal of some of the restrictions now placed on the movement of traffic. Every consigner can assist in this matter by entering the consignee's full name and address in the forwarding note and by fully and properly addressing each package.

INCREASED PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR RAILWAY RUNNING STAFF

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on December 14, 1948 said :—

The final decisions of the Government on the pay and allowances of the running staff on railways have just been announced. These decisions involve an increase of over a crore in the annual expenditure resulting from the acceptance of the interim recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and about Rs. 2-1/3 crores over the scale of expenditure in 1946.

The Central Pay Commission pointed out that running allowance had an element of pay and that the revision of pay should be considered from the point of view of total emoluments. In view of the complexity of the problem, however, the Commission mainly recommended certain basic scales of pay for running staff. The orders of the Board accepting the pay scales and directing the Railway Administrations to give effect to them were issued over a year ago. The Commission suggested, as an interim measure only, that running allowance should be paid under the existing rules with a ceiling limit equal to the average running allowance earned by each employee in 1946. It further suggested that action should be taken to frame revised running allowance rules and visualised a possible revision of pay scales also consequent upon the alteration in working hours resulting from the Adjudicator's Award.

In July of this year, an *ad hoc* Department Committee was appointed by the Railway Board to recommend reasonable basic scales of pay for this category of staff and to suggest a rationalised and uniform procedure for payment of running allowance on all Indian Government Railways. The Committee recommended a rationalised and improved pay structure as also uniform running allowance rules for all Government railways. In the final orders passed by the Government certain further improvements have been made both in the scales of basic pay and in the rates of running allowance as recommended by the Committee.

This has involved an additional expenditure of about half a crore of rupees over that visualised by the Committee. Actual emoluments on the new basis will be paid from 1-1-1949, but for purposes of fixation of pay, grade and the like, the orders now issued will be deemed to have been introduced from 1-1-47, the date from which the recommendations of the Pay Commission have been given effect to. The rules governing the payment of running allowances to the running staff and the methods of calculating these allowances have been completely overhauled. The new scales will apply to all post-1931 employees. The staff on pre-1931 scales of pay will remain on the existing scales of pay and will draw running allowances under the existing rules unless they expressly opt for the scales now being introduced.

Drivers and Guards employed on Mail and important Express trains are to be placed in Grade A, those employed on fast and through passenger trains in Grade B and the rest in Grade C.

The tabular statement given below shows the basic scales of pay and running allowances both as recommended by the *ad hoc* Department Committee and as accepted by Government.

Category of staff	Scales of basic pay		Running Allowances per 100 miles	
	As recommended by the Committee	As accepted by the Government	As recommended by the Committee	As accepted by the Government
Drivers.	220—15—310	260—15—350	3-8-0	4 per 100 miles.
Gr. A.	150—10—250	160—10—300	3-4-0	3-12-0 do.
Gr. B.	80—5—130-EB-8—170	As recommended	3-0-0	3-4-0 do.
Gr. C.				
Shunters.			2-0 per day	2-8 per day (of 8
Gr. A.	75—5—105	As recommended	1-8 do.	2-0 hours)
Gr. B.	60—2½—70—EB—2½—85			
Firemen.		60—5—90	1-4-5	1-8-0 per 100 miles.
Gr. A.	60—3—90	As recommended	1-2-0	1-6-0 do.
Gr. B.	50—2—60		1-0-0	1-2-0 do.
Gr. C.	40—1—50			
Guards.			2-0-0	As recommended.
Gr. A.	150—7—185—8—225	As recommended	1-12-0	As recommended.
Gr. B.	100—5—125—6—155—EB—6—185		1-8-0	As recommended
Gr. C.	60—4—120—EB—5—170			
Breaksmen.			1-0-0	1-4-0 per 100 miles
Gr. A.	60—5/2—80	As recommended	1-0-0	1-2-0 do.
Gr. B.	40—1—50—2—60			

Railway Projects in West Bengal and Assam

The post-war programme of new line railway projects in West Bengal and Assam was discussed by the Central Board of Transport in New Delhi on December 10, 1948, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Transport and Railways. The Hon'ble Dr. B. C. Roy, Premier of West Bengal, and the Hon'ble Shri Gopinath Bardoloi, Premier of Assam, were also present.

Of the West Bengal projects, the most important relates to the Kamarganj—Baluraghat link of 54 miles and the 34-mile long Kamarganj-Barsoi line. As a result of partition the old Dinajpur district in Bengal has been cut into two and the portion lying in India has been formed into a new district called Dinajpur West. This district is a surplus rice area and has no outlet except through the East Bengal Railway. The completion of this rail project is expected to open up this rich tract of country and provide better transport facilities.

Engineering Survey

In regard to Assam, the Board approved the Dudhni-Darugiri project (47 miles). This line is necessary for the development of coal and other mineral and forest resources in the Garo Hills area and would make the Assam Railway self-sufficient in the matter of coal.

The Board sanctioned the carrying out of Engineering and Traffic surveys of this line together with the necessary link with Pandu and an extension from Darugiri Sijo.

MAGNESIUM CHLORIDE INDUSTRY

Tariff Board's Report

RECOMMENDING that the Magnesium Chloride Industry need not enjoy protection after March 31, 1949, the Indian Tariff Board in its report to the Government of India states that there is wide scope in the country for the development of this industry to meet the growing demand both for home consumption and for export. The principal raw material, namely, 'bitterns', is plentifully available in India. The process of manufacture is simple and does not involve the employment of skilled labour or the use of elaborate and expensive machinery.

The existing total capacity of the indigenous industry is 15,000 tons per annum, against a production of only 6,267 tons in 1947. The Indian demand for magnesiam chloride is 2,000 tons at present, although it is expected to increase considerably if the Cotton Textiles Sizing and Filling Control Order, 1942, is withdrawn.

At present, the industry is not faced with foreign competition as both Germany and Japan—one-time formidable rivals—are now out of the market. On the other hand, there is scope for the development of the export trade in this product, the two important importers being the United Kingdom and Holland. The Tariff Board has recommended that the Government should give all possible facilities for the development of this export trade.

PROTECTION TO LAPSE

The Government of India's resolution on the Indian Tariff Board's report relating to the continuance of protection to the Magnesium Chloride industry was published on December 11 in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary). The Board held that "protection" had achieved its purpose in the case of this industry, that the industry was no longer in need of protection and that the existing protective duty might, therefore, be allowed to lapse on March 31, 1949. The industry had been protected since 1931 and was now well established.

The Government accepted the recommendations of the Board, and accordingly the protective duty would be replaced by a revenue duty as from April 1, 1949.

The question of affording protection to the grinding wheels industry has been investigated by the Tariff Board and Government have, in the light of circumstances that now exist, decided to impose a protective duty of 80 per cent., as the Board recommended, on all imported grinding wheels with effect from December 4, 1948. From the same date it has also been decided to include all categories of grinding wheels in the Open General Licence as it is felt that the 80 per cent duty should be adequate protection to enable the indigenous manufacturers to compete effectively with foreign imports.

CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF INDUSTRIES

THE Government of India have announced the names of the members of the Central Advisory Council of Industries, recently constituted by the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, is the Chairman of the Council. A list of the members is given below :—

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Central Government :

Ministry of Industry and Supply ..	Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary.
	Dr. Sir J. C. Ghosh, Director-General, Industries and Supplies.
Ministry of Commerce	Mr. C. C. Desai, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary.
Ministry of Finance :	Mr. A. K. Roy, Joint Secretary.
Ministry of Labour	Mr. S. Lall, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary.
Ministry of Railways	Dr. H. J. Nichols, Member (Engineering), Railway Board.
Ministry of Works, Mines and Power	Mr. B. K. Gokhale, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary.

Provincial Governments :

Assam	Mr. K. Balachandran, I.C.S., Secretary, Department of Transport, Shillong.
Bihar	Dr. K. R. Krishnaswami, Director of Industries, Patna.
Bombay	Secretary, Department of Education and Industries, Bombay.
Central Provinces	Director of Industries, Nagpur.
East Punjab	Mr. S. N. Kapur, I.S.E., Director of Industries, Simla.
Madras	Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Madras.
Orissa	Mr. M. L. Narasimiengar, Secretary, Department of Industries, Cuttack.
United Provinces	Hon'ble Mr. K. D. Malviya, Minister for Development, Lucknow.
West Bengal	Secretary, Department of Commerce and Industries, Calcutta.

States :

Baroda	Dewan of Baroda, Baroda.
Hyderabad	Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, Hyderabad.
Madhya Bharat	Mr. V. V. Dravid, Minister for Industries, Commerce and Labour, Gwalior.
Mysore	Director of Industries and Commerce, Mysore.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE

Ministry of Industry and Supply ..	Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, M.C.A., Chittoor.
	Mr. B. L. Sondhi, M.C.A., "Salig Niwas" Jullundur City.
Ministry of Commerce	Mr. Prabhu Dayal Himatsinghka, M.C.A., 6, Old Post Office Street, Calcutta.
Ministry of Labour	Mr. Khandubhai K. Desai, M.C.A., Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad.

REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMERCE

Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.	Sir Shri Ram, 22, Curzon Road, New Delhi.
Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry.	Sir Shankar Lal, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi.
All-India Manufacturers' Organisation	Mr. Morarji J. Vaidya, Vice-President, All India Manufacturers' Organisation, Bombay.

REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOUR

Indian National Trade Union Congress	Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, 11/39, Gwaltoli, Kanpur.
	Shri G. D. Ambekar, Mazdoor Manzil, Parel, Bombay 12.
Hind Mazdoor Panchayat ..	Mr. Asoka Mehta, 8, Dadysett Road, Babulnath, Bombay 7.
	Mr. Rohit Dave, 23, Dongarsi Road, Walkeshwar, Bombay 6.
Indian Federation of Labour ..	Miss Maniben Kara, Cumbala Hills, 7, Hughes Road, Bombay.

REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY

Coal	Mr. J. N. Mookerjee, Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta.
	Mr. K. Basu, Indian Mining Association, Calcutta.
Iron and Steel	Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Bombay House, Fort, Bombay.
	Sir Biren Mookerjee, 12, Mission Row, Calcutta.
Cotton Textiles	Mr. T. V. Baddeley, Bombay Millowners' Association, Bombay.
	Mr. S. C. Roy, Bengal Millowners' Association, Calcutta.
	Mr. R. Venkataswami Naidu, Southern India Millowners' Association, Coimbatore.
Shipbuilding	Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, Director, Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Bombay.
Automobiles	Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, Premier Automobiles Ltd, Construction House, Ballard Estate, Bombay.
Machine Tools	Mr. M. Jambhekar, Mysore Kirloskar Ltd., Harihar Harpahalli Road, Harihar, Mysore State.
Electrical Engineering	Mr. Kishan Chand, Kaycee Industries Ltd., Kamani Chambers Nicol Road, Bombay.
Structural Engineering	Mr. A. M. Kapadia, Structural Engineering Works, Ltd., Sewri Fort Road, Bombay 15.
Mechanical Engineering	Mr. S. S. H. Sitwell, Indian Engineering Association, Calcutta.
Basic Chemicals	Mr. P. A. Narielwala, Tata Chemicals, Ltd., Bombay House, Bombay.
Fine Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	Mr. B. Maitra, Calcutta Chemical Co., Ltd., 35, Panditia Road, Calcutta.
Non-Ferrous Metals	Mr. G. D. Binani, Indian Non-Ferrous Metals Manufacturers' Association, Calcutta.
Cement	Sir Homi Modi, Bombay House, Bombay.

(Continued on Page 24)

Cotton Cloth and Yarn Prices

Tariff Board's Recommendations

THE Government of India's Resolution on the Indian Tariff Board's report on cotton cloth and yarn prices was published for general information on December 14, 1948.

In its report the Board has recommended that the prices of yarn and cloth should be fixed at fair figures arrived at by the Board, and that provision should be made for suitable periodical adjustments for fluctuations in the main elements of cost, viz., raw cotton, manufacturing charges, power and fuel and stores. The Board has also recommended that the distribution charges for cloth and yarn should be carefully reviewed with a view to keeping retail prices within reasonable limits and that adequate measures to rationalise and re-equip the cotton textile industry should be taken so as to enable it to supply the requirements of a rising standard of living on the one hand and to face foreign competition on the other.

The Government of India accept the Board's recommendation with regard to the yarn prices and for the purpose of fixing prices, which came into effect on August 4, Government have already adopted the formula of the Tariff Board.

As regards the prices of cloth, the Government of India adopted the Board's formula with some minor changes for the purpose of the *ad hoc* prices now in force. These prices, however, have resulted in complaints from the industry that they are unremunerative. In view of this, the Government carried out a further examination of the weaving costs and in discussion with the Tariff Board decided that in determining the price of cloth weaving charges based on the rate of 77.44 as. per loom shift for grey cloth of 36" width should be allowed.

Periodical Revision

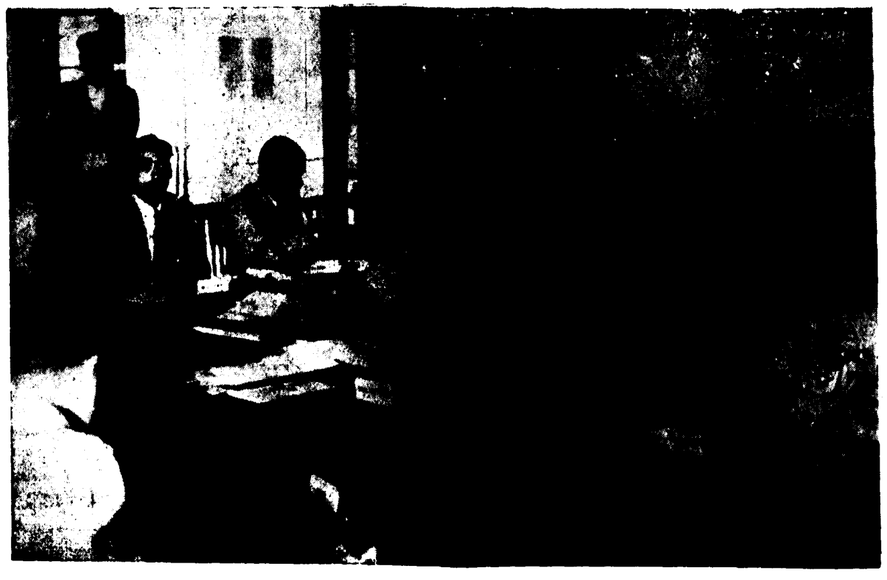
The Government have also decided that the periodical revision of prices should be undertaken by the technical staff of the Textile Commissioner.

The recommendation regarding rationalisation and reequipment of the textile industry is under active consideration.

Following re-imposition of control over cotton textiles on July 30, 1948, the Government have decided to leave fixation of wholesale and retail margins of profit to the Governments of the Provinces and States according to local conditions, but in such a manner that the total burden on the consumer inclusive of costs of transport and incidentals does not exceed 20% over the ex-mill prices.

The Government of India has decided that licences for the import from Peru of all commodities covered by Open General LicenceNo. XI, as amended from time to time, should be granted liberally subject to the condition that payment is made in Peruvian currency or Sterling.

Intending importers should apply for licences to the licensing authorities concerned.



Mr. Manek Gandhi, representative of the All India Trade Union Congress, addressing the third meeting of the Central Employment Advisory Committee recently held at New Delhi

WORK OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ORGANISATION

IMPORTANT matters relating to the future of the Employment Service, the opening of more District Employment Offices, the referral policy and the Training Schemes were discussed at the Third Meeting of the Central Employment Advisory Committee attached to the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour, which was held recently in New Delhi. Dr. N. Das, Ph. D., I.C.S., Director-General of Resettlement and Employment presided. The meeting was attended by representatives of Provincial Governments, of employers, and Labour Organisations.

Reviewing the work of the Employment Service Organisation for the six months since January 1948, when the Committee met last, the Chairman pointed out that the Employment Exchanges had established new records in placings; training facilities had been extended to displaced persons from Pakistan and there had been a steady demand for additional seats in many Regions. The plans for development, however, had to be examined in the context of the Prime Minister's directive relating to economy and restricting new commitments to absolutely essential projects.

Mr. Manek Gandhi (Workers' representative) drew the attention of the Committee to the failure of many of the Provincial Governments to implement a previous recommendation of the Committee relating to the opening of more District Employment Offices. After a discussion, the following resolution was passed:—

"This meeting regrets that in spite of the recommendation of the Central Employment Advisory Committee made in January 1948, District Employment Offices have not been opened in most of the Provinces. The Committee, therefore, urges on the Government of India and the various Provincial Governments to take immediate steps in that direction and set up District Employment Offices where the necessity for opening such offices has been clearly recommended by the Regional Committees."

Mr. Manek Gandhi complained that no action had been taken on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee made at its last meeting to place the Resettlement and Employment Organization on a permanent footing. The Chairman, Dr. Das, while expressing the hope that the Organization may be made permanent, explained that the main difficulty was the uncertainty as to whether the Exchanges should be managed entirely by the Provinces or, whether they would be joint responsibility of the Centre and the Provinces.

Dr. C. A. Mehta (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) suggested the admission of civilians to the training centres of the Ministry of Labour with a view to meeting the general shortage of skilled workers in the country. The Chairman stated that in spite of limited accommodation if the Provincial Governments were prepared to bear the additional recurring expenditure involved in the training of civilian, the Central Government would be prepared to consider the proposals favourably.

Neutral Policy

The policy of referring candidates to vacancies caused by strikes was discussed on the basis of the recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Employment Exchanges. The Chairman explained that the Employment Exchanges were already following a policy of strict neutrality in labour disputes and did not submit applicants unless the strike in question was notified by a competent authority as illegal or against public interest.

The Committee agreed that the authority competent to declare a strike illegal need not necessarily be a Court or a Tribunal, and may be an officer duly authorised in this behalf. Such an officer should, however, satisfy himself in every way before making any pronouncement of the illegality or otherwise of the strike.

The following recommendations of the Employment Sub-Committee were accepted:—

The Employment Service should—

(i) observe strict neutrality in the case of employment available because of a labour dispute unless directed to submit applicants by an authorised officer of the Central-Provincial Government;

(ii) not submit applicants to employment in respect of which the wages or conditions of work fall below the standard defined by law or regulations;

(iii) refrain from submitting workers on religious grounds except in respect of vacancies of a purely domestic character in which limitations regarding selections are imposed on the ground of religious susceptibilities; and

(iv) subject to the above conditions and to any orders prescribed by Government to meet any emergencies, submit applicants, so far as practicable, in the order of registration.

Mr. M. R. Dalvi (Indian Federation of Labour) moved a resolution recommending that the Government of India do immediately introduce a legislation to be known as The National Employment Service (Control and Regulation) Act" with a view to control and regulate the functions and working of the National Employment Service in India and to place it on a permanent footing. The Committee accepted the resolution in principle, but agreed to defer detailed consideration until the constitutional position *vis-a-vis* the Employment Service had become clear.

RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES

During October, 1948, 15,752 displaced persons, of whom 736 were women, were registered by the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour in India, bringing the total number of persons so far registered to 3,01,425. 4,207 displaced persons, including 290 women, and involving 14,438 dependents were placed in employment during the month. This brings the total number of displaced persons placed up to the end of October last to 74,023, involving 2,73,662 dependents. Of those registered and placed during the month, about 40 and 70 per cent, respectively were in the East Punjab.

In addition to the registrations and placing by the regular Employment Exchanges, 119 highly qualified refugees, of whom 44 were placed, were registered by the Special Employment Bureau, recently transferred to the control of this office, bringing the total number of registrations to 2,100 and of placings to 318.

Financial Assistance

With a view to accelerating further the placement of refugees, the East Punjab Government has offered financial assistance, in the form of loans, to Co-operative Societies established by refugee artisans, such as, weavers, sports goods makers, leather workers, etc. Sub-offices of the Employment Exchanges have been opened in the refugee camps in the Ferozepur District to assist in the resettlement of 20,000 displaced persons who were sent to the district from the Kurukshetra camp.

6,276 adult male refugees were undergoing training at the Technical and Vocational Training Centres at the end of October, 1948. In addition, 1,640 refugees were undergoing Apprenticeship training in industrial undertakings. 310 refugee girls and women were undergoing training at the Training Centre, Curzon Road, New Delhi, during the same period.

HIGH STANDARD NECESSARY FOR INDIAN GOODS TO CANADA

THE prospects before Indian exporters who seek to develop trade with Canada are encouraging. But while the picture, as evident from India's trade with Canada last year, affords cause for satisfaction, there emerge some ugly features regarding certain exports which should equally prove a warning, if not cause for alarm in the future.

These factors, according to the Indian Government Trade Commissioner in Toronto, relate generally to shipment of goods of inferior or non-uniform quality, the use of out-of-date designs and defective dyes and certain "questionable means of trading" as well as malpractices by some exporters. If the marketing possibilities which already exist are to be taken advantage of, he says, effective and prompt means should be devised to set these matters right.

In this connection he makes particular mention of coir goods, carpets and rugs, sports goods and a number of other products of medium sized industries as well as handicrafts, and comments. "Despite warnings and appeals made from time to time almost all such goods, as a result of malpractices and unfair and unethical methods employed by some exporters, enjoy today the worst possible reputation in the North American markets. This has done serious injury to the trade with India." He adds that in the carpet and sports goods trades particularly some Canadian trade organisations have actually passed resolution, calling upon their member firms to stop all imports from India unless Indian exporters agree to inspection of goods on arrival before payment is made.

Consumer resistance in Canada is on the increase and Indian exporters are advised to note this tendency and study this market in order to meet its demands efficiently and adequately. "The Canadian consumer does not like poor quality," the report adds. "Soundness of products as well as competitive prices are still major factors in the merchandising of goods, particularly if little known, or if they are from countries known to have a low living standard." It is stated that Indian goods, which at one time brought high prices because of their novelty appeal, unique designs and handmade manufacture, now tend to be left in the background.

Points for Manufacturers

Pointing out that the main avenues of entry into the Canadian consumer market are competitive prices and specialised production, the Trade Commissioner mentions a number of factors which should be borne in mind by the Indian manufacturer. These are:—

Care should be taken to export goods of uniform standard and quality, with an assurance of continuity of supply. Prices must be competitive.

Manufacture of Indian goods intended for export to Canada should be suited to Canadian tastes, that is, colour schemes should be adapted to Canadian requirements.

It will be found that in many types of manufactured goods, it is a distinct advantage to keep to Indian designs and decorations in order to increase sales appeal. This is particularly true of many types of handicrafts regarding which there has been a growing curiosity on the part of the Canadian public and merchants.

Mass Buyer Appeal

The possibilities of production suitable for mass buyer appeal should constantly be kept in mind. A vast amount of business is done in Canada on a mass appeal basis, so that the cost of advertising and sales is cut to the minimum.

"It is conceivable and quite probable" the report adds, "that in time India will export certain types of mass produced goods which have no special character except that they can, for any one of many reasons, be merchandised in Canada more cheaply than those produced in any other section of the globe. On the other hand, there are those goods, by reason of craftsmanship, design, colour, tradition, superiority of materials used, and other such specialised conditions, present a ready sale. In either case, this market requires a high standard of quality, labelling and packaging. Indian goods quite often arrive in such bad shape that they cannot be marketed without further cost-increasing labour."

Nothing Shoddy Wanted

It is felt that there is definite need to improve the technique and tools used in the handicraft industry so as to achieve greater uniformity and efficiency in production. A common complaint heard in Canada against almost all types of Indian manufactures so far marketed there is that they seem to lack the proper finish to raise them from shoddy articles to those for discriminating buyers. To meet the need for a better and more direct method of securing goods from the Indian manufacturer for the Canadian consumer it is suggested that Indian exporters should study the question of establishing depots, or maintaining adequate sample and showrooms in Canada, distributing literature on films showing the craftsman at his bench and in his workshop, and properly utilising the various industrial exhibitions.

"The label 'Made in India,' the Trade Commissioner states, "should be synonymous with quality and value in the mind of the average Canadian consumer, and not a hallmark of shoddiness."

BETTER FACILITIES FOR TRAVEL

Railways Advisory Council Discusses Measures

A meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways was held at New Delhi on December 4, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways. The Hon'ble Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyengar, Minister for Railways and Transport, presided.

Settlement of Claims

Among the important subjects discussed by the Council were settlement of claims by railway administrations, marking of railway carriages to indicate the new classes of railway travel, and the publication of railway time-tables in Indian languages.

The steps proposed to be taken to speed up settlement of claims were explained to the Council. It was expected that as a result of this, the settlement of all claims outstanding for more than six months would be expedited. The new temporary measures, which come into effect from January 1, 1949, include the powers conferred on Station Masters and Claims Inspectors to settle claims up to Rs. 50 at the time of delivery of consignments on certain conditions; prompt settlement of arrear claims of over three months' standing where the railway's liability is clear; or, in the alternative, prompt repudiation of claims where there is no liability on the part of railways.

In the case of total loss of a consignment settlement will be made without further enquiry if a year has elapsed from the date of the booking of the missing consignment. Claims for total loss to which no answer exists, are to be settled, if the goods have been missing for more than six months, provided the claimants agree to reimburse to the railways the money paid to them in the event of the consignments being subsequently traced. The procedure for the settlement of current claims up to Rs. 200 is also being improved.

Markings for Classes

The Council decided that the new classes of railway accommodation should be marked in a manner which could be understood even by illiterate persons. The new markings for Upper, Inter and Ordinary classes are to be 1, 2 and 3 vertical lines, respectively. This will also obviate markings in different languages.

The Council agreed to the following appellations of refreshment rooms:—"Vegetarian," "Non-vegetarian" "Refreshment Rooms" and "Restaurants" Vegetarian refreshment rooms will cater for vegetarians only, while non-vegetarian refreshment rooms will provide both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food. At important railway junctions where foreign tourist traffic is likely to pass through, "Restaurants" which serve both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food in Western styles, are to be provided.

The Council approved of some steps being taken to provide facilities for long distance third class passengers, such as setting apart some special compartments at starting stations, special facilities for booking and obtaining meals at intermediate stations. It also considered whether special accommodation could be reserved but it was not considered practicable to do it now. However, if the present arrangements do not yield the expected results, it may be reconsidered.

On the question of the issue of time-tables the Council decided that an all India time-table should be published both in English and Hindi, while railway administrations should publish time-tables in English and at least one local language.

INDUSTRIAL SHOW ROOMS FOR FOREST PRODUCTS

The establishment of industrial show rooms at important centres in India, for the display of products utilising timber and other forest produce on a commercial scale, is engaging the attention of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. Chambers of Commerce and Forest Departments of Provinces and States have been asked to make suggestions regarding the establishment and maintenance of the show rooms, with reference to the centres in each region where they are likely to be most useful, the sources in the regions from which exhibits can be collected, and proposals for the maintenance of the show rooms.

The purpose of the show rooms is to bring out effectively the resources of the forests of the adjacent regions, to draw attention to established industrial uses for them and to indicate the scope of further use with the development of research and improvement. The exhibits will be collected from the Provincial and State Forest Departments, from contributions from established industries utilising forest products, and from the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun.

The questions likely to be examined separately for each centre, will be whether the show rooms will form part of a general or industrial museum, whether it should be set up as an independent show room under Government management, or be attached to a recognised or large industrial undertaking.

The Money Order service from India to Palestine is suspended temporarily in consequence of the suspension of M. O. service to Palestine from Egypt through which latter country Indian Money Orders are advised.

REVISION OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE RULES

Consequent on the revision of passenger accommodation on Railways with effect from January 1, 1949, the Government of India have decided to modify with effect from that date the travelling allowance rules relating to Government servants in civil employ, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on December 11, 1948.

It added: According to the new rules all officers of the First Grade and officers of the Second Grade if in Class I Service or in receipt of a pay exceeding Rs. 500 will be entitled to Upper Class accommodation. The remaining Second Grade Officers and Third Grade Officers will be entitled to Intermediate Class. Fourth Grade Government servants will be entitled to Ordinary Class.

Mileage allowance for journeys on tour and transfer will continue to be calculated as at present, that is, on the basis of the fares of the new class to which the Government servant is entitled.

The practice of placing certain officers in the First Grade irrespective of their pay will be discontinued. But an officer so included in the First Grade under the existing rules will be retained in that Grade provided that on December 31, 1948, he holds in a substantive capacity a permanent post in the particular service. With this exception, the First Grade will consist only of officers whose salaries exceed Rs. 750 p.m. There will be no change in respect of the other grades.

These decisions will also apply to officers of the ex-Secretary of State's Services.

FIVE-YEAR INTEREST-FREE PRIZE BONDS

In terms of the Government of India, Finance Department notification, dated December 15, 1948, the Five-Year Interest-free Prize Bonds, 1949, will be repaid at par on or after January 15, 1949.

It will facilitate repayment if holders present their bonds at the respective office of issue of the bonds. Similarly holders of bonds issued at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi may present their bonds at the Reserve Bank of India Offices at these centres though the bonds may have been issued by the local office of the Imperial Bank of India.

In cases where it is impracticable for any reason to present these bonds either at the office of issue or, in the case of bonds issued at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi at the Reserve Bank of India Offices at these places, the bonds may be forwarded by the holders either direct to the Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Prize Bonds Section, Bombay, or tendered at the local treasury or sub-treasury transacting Government business when repayment thereof will be arranged.



Shri C. Rajagopalachari receiving the gift of a cachet of rice from Dr. Thanat Khoman, Siamese Charge d' Affaires, at a ceremony held at Government House, New Delhi, on December 4

PRIME MINISTER'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE TO M. STALIN

Messages were exchanged between Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, and Generalissimo Stalin on the latter's 69th birthday on December 21, 1948. The Prime Minister's message in Hindi, and Generalissimo Stalin's reply in Russian translated into English were as follows:

From the Prime Minister

"On my own behalf and on behalf of the people of my country I send Your Excellency our cordial good wishes on the occasion of your birthday and trust you will accept them."

From Generalissimo Stalin

"Please accept, Mr. Prime Minister, my gratitude for your good wishes on the occasion of my birthday."

Among those present at the ceremony were the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Agriculture, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Mr. R. L. Gupta, Secretary, Ministry of Food, the Director-General of Food and Mr. P. A. Menon, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

SIAM'S GOODWILL TO INDIA

At a picturesque ceremony at the Government House, New Delhi, on December 4, 1948, Dr. Thanat Khoman, Siam's Charge D' Affaires in India, presented a small cachet of rice to His Excellency the Governor-General as a token of Siam's "goodwill and friendship for India and her people."

In presenting the cachet Dr. Khoman said:

"In Siam, rice is considered our source of life and energy and since this rice had grown on the soil of Siam and was harvested by Siamese farmers, it represents, as such, an expression of esteem and friendship not only from the Government but also from the entire peoples of Siam.

"I wish, therefore, to request Your Excellency kindly to accept this modest gift as coming from friends with whom India has a long tradition of close and cordial relationship which has been recently revived and, I sincerely hope, will be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of our two nations and the rest of Asia."

Indo-Siamese Friendship

Accepting the gift His Excellency replied: "I am very grateful for this beautiful gift and for the very beautiful message of friendship you have given with it. Rice is sacred in India as in Siam and this gift betokens the strong bonds of friendship between Thailand and India."

The gift consists of seven bags of rice despatched from Siam. At His Excellency's wish it will be distributed to Refugee Camps for the benefit of children.



The Soviet merchant-ship "BELORUSSIA" being loaded with a cargo of 7,200 tons of rice at Bangkok. The rice was sent to India under the Government of India's scheme for importing foodgrains from the sterling area particularly from South-East Asian countries. Prior to this trip the ship carried wheat from the USSR to India

Cottage Industries for Rehabilitation of Refugees

THE Government of India have forwarded to all Provincial Governments, major States and States' Unions detailed suggestions for the speedy organization of cottage and small-scale industries as a measure of rehabilitation of refugees.

They have been requested not to delay action till their long-term plans for the promotion of cottage industires are ready, but to take urgent steps to help refugees in setting up small-scale industries requiring nominal capital. Advantage may also be taken of the present situation to introduce in India cottage industries which formerly flourished only in the Provinces now in Pakistan and to train in cottage industries refugee shop-keepers and others who followed non-producing occupations in Pakistan.

Among the concrete suggestions offered one is to the effect that workshop equipment should be provided at refugee camps so that refugees could employ themselves in gainful occupations like bricklaying and masonary, carpentry, blacksmithy, weaving, dyeing and calico-printing, block-making, carpet and durree-weaving, manufacture of ordinary boot-polish, ink, metal-polish, etc. Refugee camps at present located in barracks should be converted into workshops which could remain in existence as work centres for some time to come.

Provinces and States have been asked to encourage industrial co-operative societies and to help them with loans, where necessary, and with concrete schemes drawn up by Government Departments. Governments should also provide assistance in the shape of expert advice and supervision, procurment of raw materials, power, premises and other necessary amenities.

Centrally-Sponsored Township

In a communication addressed to the various Governments, the Central Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have pointed out that the Centre has sanctioned an experimental scheme for building a new township round a number of cottage and small-scale industries at Nilokheri, 80 miles from Delhi. Work on this scheme is now in progress and about 10,000 refugees are expected to be rehabilitated there. The Provincial Governments have been asked to consider the starting of similar colonies at sites now occupied by refugee camps or elsewhere.

By way of illustration, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have supplied to the various Governments a statement giving a list of 16 cottage industries suitable for refugees, and in each case the initial cost, the working capital required, the approximate yield and the areas in which each industry has scope have been shown.

The 16 industries listed are : the manufture of all kinds of brushes; cotton and hemp ropes; cotton and hemp nets; brass and copper utensils; glue; sports goods; carpets; wooden and tin-plate toys; cutlery and surgical instruments; pottery and ceramics; dyeing and calico-printing; weaving of cottons, silks and woollens; weaving of fancy laces; fabrication of steel trunks, buckets, Persian Wheels and allied articles; embroidery; and tailoring.

(Continued from Page 23)

Sugar and Power Alcohol	Mr. Karam Chand Thapar, 5, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta.
Paper	Seth S. P. Jain, 9, Dalhousie Square, East, Calcutta.
Jute	Mr. M. P. Birla, Indian Jute Mills Association, Royal Exchange, Calcutta.
Soap	Mr. K. M. Antia, Tata Oil Mills Co., Ltd., Bombay House, Bombay.
Leather and Leather Manufactures ..	Sir A. C. Inskip, British India Corporation, Kanpur.
Rubber	Mr. J. P. Gupta, R. B. S. Jain Rubber Mills, Benares.
Woollen Textiles	Mr. Manganlal B. Patel, Federation of Woollen Manufacturers in India, Dougall Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay.
Silk Textiles	Mr. N. Rama Rao, Mysore Silk Filatures Ltd., Basavangudi, Bangalore 4.
Tobacco	Mr. J. B. Elias, National Tobacco Co., of India Ltd., 1 and 2, Old Court House Corner, Calcutta.
Vanaspati and Processed Foodstuffs ..	Mr. C. S. Petit, Hindustan Vanaspati Manufacturing Co., Bombay.
Plywood	Mr. Debes C. Ghose, Mission Court, P. 12 Mission Row Extension, Calcutta.
Fertilizers	Mr. V. Seshasayee, Seshadri House, Mowbrays Road, Madras.
Skins and Hides	Mr. M. J. Jamal Mohideen, Southern India Hides and Skin Merchants Association, Madras.
Aluminium	Sir Padampat Singhania, Kamla Tower, Kanpur.
Re-rolling Mills	Mr. N. N. Rakshit, Indian Steel Re-rolling Mills Association, 20 Strand Road, Calcutta.
Economists	Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee, The University, Lucknow.
	Dr. Gyan Chand, Prime Minister's Secretariat, New Delhi.

A further notification will be issued regarding the three unfilled seats.

The term of membership will expire on December 31, 1949.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO MINING STUDENTS

The Government of India have decided to raise the number of scholarships awarded to first year students in the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology, Dhanbad, from two to three. The Scholarships will be of Rs. 40 per month tenable for two years and nine months each. In addition, out of the two similar scholarships reserved for Scheduled Caste students, one will be given to other candidates if a suitable scheduled caste candidate is not available. Three scholarships of Rs. 40/- per month each tenable for nine months are also awarded to students in the fourth year.

Government's decision has been guided by a desire to encourage a larger number of students to become geologists and mining engineers in view of the great need for developing the country's vast mineral resources.

Machnie Tool Industry in India : State-Owned Factory Proposed

THE Government of India are now considering a proposal to start a State-owned Machine Tool factory for manufacturing the more intricate types of machine tools. As a single State-owned factory, however, will not by itself be in a position to meet the entire demand for the production and precision types of machine tools, there will also be room for private enterprise manufacturing these types."

The above is an extract from an article on the Machine Tool Industry in India in the third number of *I & S*, a quarterly Bulletin of the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

The Bulletin which was published recently contains a number of articles on India's major industries and a report on production figures and problems relating to some 20 industries during the third Quarter of the year 1948. Among the special articles contributed to the latest number there are besides the one machine tool industry, a comprehensive review of the position of cloth and yarn production in the country, progress records on the work of the Hindustan Aircraft Factory (Bangalore) and the Sindri Fertiliser Project and general articles on engineering, problems of chemical industry in India, power alcohol etc.

The writer of the article on machine tool industry surveying its recent development in India observes :

"Machine Tools are power-driven appliances for the precise shaping of metal parts from raw or semi-processed metals, viz., rough castings, forgings or rolled sections, by removing the excess metal by process of cutting. This definition, therefore, excludes wood-working machinery, forging and casting machines and presses ; however, as these types of machines are grouped under the nomenclature of "Machine Tools" under the Government of India Machine Tool Control Order of February 15, 1941, these will be considered as machine tools for the purpose of developing Machine tool Industry in the country.

Demand for Machine Tools

"There was no organised Machine Tool Industry in the country before the last World War. In spite of serious difficulties and shortcomings, the machine tool production in the country rose from an insignificant output of 100 machines per annum, to an output of about 6,000 machines per annum, during the war period. In the year 1946 there were 24 graded firms, and about 100 ungraded firms manufacturing machine tools in the country. The total number of machine tools manufactured during that year was 8,810 valued at about Rs. 1¼ crores.

"In the current year there are 15 graded firms and about 52 ungraded firms engaged in the manufacture of machine tools.

"There is a rising demand for machine tools in the country for both simple and primary types, as well as for precision and production types. The major portion of the demand relates to production and precision types which are urgently required for rehabilitation of existing factories, and for the extension programmes of essential services, *viz.*, Railways, Ordnance Factories, etc., and the key industries in the country. Our immediate problem is the production of this category of machine tools, without which it will not be possible to step up industrial production at economic level.

"The monetary value of the annual demand for machine tools is roughly estimated at over Rs. 9 crores. This amount is actually the c.i.f. value of machine tools for which Import Licences have been issued in 1947 and thereafter. The machine tools actually received from abroad, form a small portion of this demand."

Referring to the proposed State-owned factory, the article says :

The proposed State-owned factory is to manufacture fifty per cent of the following types of machines within the first five years and the remaining types within ten years.

(1) Centre Lathes, "all-geared head," motorised, 4½" to 12" centre, 6' to 12' length of bed.

(2) Tool Room Precision Lathes.

(3) Capstan Lathes, 1" to 2" capacity, 6" to 9" travel.

(4) Combination Turrets, 1" to 5" spindle bore.

(5) Radial Drilling machines, 2"to 3" drilling capacity, 4' to 8' radius.

(6) High Precision types of Milling Machines, Universal Horizontal and Vertical types.

(7) Plane-millers.

(8) Planing machines, electric push-button control 3' to 5' with, 6 to 12 length of bed.

(9) High speed shaping machines, electric drive with push-button control.

(10) Boring machines, horizontal and vertical types, motorised.

(11) Grinding Machines, cylindrical, internal external and surface types.

(12) Heavy Power Presses of various types, *viz.*, inclines, deep drawing, double action types, etc.

It is roughly estimated that about 1,000 machine tools will be required for the Machine Tool Factory which is proposed to be started during the short term plan.

Machine Tools already earmarked for this project are shown below :

1. Machine Tools selected from German Reparations already allocated to India	312
2. Machine Tools selected from available Disposals stocks	314
Total	626

In addition to the machine tools already earmarked the proposed machine tool factory will require a capital investment of about Rs. 5 crores, for implementing the "short and long term" plans.

It is proposed to start the State-owned Machine Tool Factory with the active assistance and close co-operation of the leading machine tool manufacturers abroad.

A Czechoslovakinn Expert, whose services have been secured by the Government toured the country, investigating the various aspects of the enterprise, such as selection of site, class of labour, machine tools to be manufactured and machinery required to supplement the equipment already available for starting the factory.

IMPROVED VARIETIES OF COTTON

The research and fibre testing activities of the Technological Laboratory, Bombay, were maintained at their previous levels and valuable assistance was rendered to cotton breeders by helping them to select improved types which would bring better monetary return to the cultivator and prove more acceptable to the trade and the industry, according to the Annual Report of the Director, Technological Laboratory, for the year ending May 31, 1948, published by the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The improved strains of cotton, mainly of medium and long staple, now cover 56 % of the total cotton area in the Dominion.

A new micro-spinning technique suitable for Indian cottons was evolved by which it is possible to spin and estimate with reasonable accuracy, the spinning quality of even small quantities of lint.

Tests of Samples

Experiments on kapas samples were made to ascertain the relative efficiency of the pre-cleaning machines and to evolve a technique of cleaning kapas to obtain better quality lint.

Tests on 391 samples of various textile fibres, yarns and cloths as compared with 279 in the previous year were made on behalf of firms and mills in the Testing House of the Laboratory. The total number of samples received for tests of all kinds was 1,248 in the year on which 259 reports were issued.

Tests on medium staple Indian cotton regarding their suitability for the manufacture of hosiery yarns were also made with satisfactory results.

has done most useful work and has wisely refrained from making any recommendation which might embarrass the General Assembly in its consideration of the further steps to be taken.

In the second part of the report, in chapter two, in paragraph 47, we are reminded by the Commission that the General Assembly is now confronted with two faits accomplis first, there is the people's republic in the North and, secondly, there is the Government of the Republic of Korea established in the South. Commenting on the situation, the report goes on to say "over the whole of Korea and beyond a perfectly artificial boundary both regimes claim sovereignty, and in their respective areas both exercise effective authority subject only to the rights of the occupying forces".

Again, the Commission has emphasised the urgency of the need for presenting a procedure for peaceful negotiations between the two Governments. As pointed out by the Commission, such a procedure should be established "before military evacuation of the occupying forces abandons Korea to the arbitrary rule of rival political regimes whose military forces might find themselves driven to internecine warfare".

The problem of the independence of Korea is thrown back into the lap of the General Assembly and the question now is as to the further action to be taken by the General Assembly, bearing in mind their objective, viz., independence of Korea as one whole and entire economic and political unit.

Main Considerations

My delegation is of opinion that, in coming to any conclusions, the General Assembly should be guided by the following considerations : (1) Independence for the whole of Korea has to be achieved in the shortest possible time, (2) Such independence should be for a unified Korea and the General Assembly should not be party to any arrangement which might weaken the prospects of independence of unified Korea, (3) Every effort should be made at conciliation between the two parts of Korea, and the General Assembly should lend its fullest support and assistance to this end.

In the light of these considerations, my delegation suggests that our course for the future in relation to the Korean question has to be steered carefully. It is necessary to see that we do nothing either directly or indirectly which might harden and perpetuate the unnatural and tragic division of Korea into two regions, each having a Government which claims to be the National Government of Korea.

The people of India has great admiration for the people of Korea. Not only are they bound to them by ties of ancient culture, but they have watched with understanding, admiration and sympathy the heroic struggle of the Korean people for independence from the ruthless subservience of Japan. The independence of Korea is long overdue, and my Government will be always ready to lend its support to any proposal which will bring to the people of Korea a suitable and lasting peace and independence. Believing as we do, however, that the division of the Korean people will be disastrous not only for the future of Korea but will jeopardise the stability and peace of the Far East, my delegation will not look with favour on any proposal which may have the effect of widening the present unfortunate cleavage between North and South Korea. We have to tread our path warily and bend our energies to reconciliation between different political sections in Korea. My delegation will scrutinise the proposals which may be put before the Committee in the light of these considerations.

PALESTINE PROBLEM

Addressing the Political Committee during its consideration of the progress report of the U. N. mediator on Palestine on December 1, 1948, Mr. M. C. Setalvad said :

My Delegation did not take part in the general debate and has not so far intervened in the debate on the paper produced by the working group as we had hoped that the discussion in the Committee would gradually tend to narrow the field of differences and bring us nearer to a solution.

We regret, however, that the prolonged debates have not achieved this purpose and that the differences between the parties are as wide as ever. My Delegation is convinced that it was most unfortunate that the idea of a federal solution, that of a single state with autonomous Jewish and Arab areas held together in Federation, which was put forward in the statement of my Delegation last year, did not then receive any support in Committee. That solution adopted at that stage would have justly met the viewpoints of both Arabs and Jews, and would have served to maintain the character of Palestine as a unitary state. Instead, the General Assembly decided on the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab States.

Not a Real Solution

That the course adopted was not a real solution, and that it was a mistake has been abundantly proved by what has happened after the passing of that resolution. Not only Palestine but a large part of the Middle East has been involved in a conflagration and hundreds of thousands of persons, mainly Arabs, have been uprooted from their hearths and homes and are now refugees in other lands. We know from our own experience what suffering and hardship, and physical and moral degeneration, are involved in this vast movement of populations.

In our view, the decision of the General Assembly of November 29, 1947, has, instead of solving the problem, created a multitude of most difficult problems, both political and human which the United Nations is finding it most difficult to deal with.

My Delegation is of the view that no solution of the problem which is not based on the consent of the Arabs can be satisfactory. Notwithstanding the resolution of the General Assembly of November 29,1947, the Arabs have refused to accept the partition. Any attempt at finding a solution which proceeds on the assumption that the partition as envisaged in that resolution is sacrosanct is, in our view, doomed to failure. That is not the path of conciliation but a road which will lead to yet greater trouble and confusion. An attempt at conciliation there must be. But in order to have a fair chance of success it must not be tied to an assumption, and decisions, which would clearly prevent it from succeeding.

Partition Opposed

We are convinced that no solution which is not reached by agreement between the parties will be a lasting one and bring peace to Palestine and the Arab world. To the extent that the various Resolutions contemplate conciliation, my Delegation will support them. But since they are convinced that the decision to partition Palestine into two separate Arab and Jewish States embodied in the Assembly's Resolution of November 29, 1947 was a mistake, and so long as the Representatives of the Arabs are opposed to any compromise on the basis of the partition, my Delegation cannot support any resolutions or amendments which have as their basis that Resolution or Count Bernadotte's proposals. In coming to this conclusion my Delegation is influenced by principles rather than expediency. We were against the partition last year, and we consider that any proposal based on the partition without agreement between the parties will not solve the problem.

The Syrian Resolution puts forward towards its end this idea of a federal solution such as we advocated last year. We doubt whether that idea can furnish at this stage any prospect of a practical and realistic solution of the problem. If it can, my Delegation would be prepared to support the Syrian Resolution that I have mentioned.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH WESTERN GERMANY

The Government of India has ratified an Agreement to give most-favoured-nation treatment to Western Germany under Military Occupation. The Agreement is in force as from December 2, 1948, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on December 8, 1948.

It added : The two-day trade between India and Western Germany will now enjoy most-favoured-nation treatment of the same standard as that laid down in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, to which the Government of India, is already a Contracting Party. India has already entered into a trade agreement with Western Germany, and as a large turn-over of goods between the two countries is expected, this reciprocal most-favoured-nation treatment should be advantageous both to India and Western Germany.

The Agreement is limited to the period of occupation and can be terminated on or after January 1, 1951, by giving six months' notice.

TANNERIES AND LEATHER GOODS MANUFACTORIES

Basic Wages and Bonus for Labour Recommended

"IF at times we are inclined to take Labour to task for its impatience, we should not be unmindful of the exemplary patience it showed during the long period of the war years and of the miseries caused to it by the unsettled conditions of the post-war period", declared Mr. K. N. Subramanian, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, inaugurating the first 2-day meeting of the Industrial Committee on Tanneries and Leather Goods Manufactories at Council House, Lucknow, on December 10, 1948.

Mr. Subramanian who presided at the meeting said: "In welcoming you to the first session of the Industrial Committee on Tanneries and Leather Goods Manufactories, may I say how keenly the Hon'ble the Labour Minister regrets his inability to attend the meeting and how earnestly he hopes that the deliberations of the Committee will produce tangible results which will go a long way towards ameliorating the conditions of workers and strengthening the relations between employers and workers.

We had decided upon Lucknow for the first meeting of the Committee long before the present acute shortage of accommodation at Delhi was begun to be felt, for we thought that it was only fitting that the Committee should be inaugurated in a Province which was the home of a large portion of the industry with which we were dealing. The Government of India are particularly grateful to the U. P. Government for their assistance and hospitality and their excellent arrangements without which it would not have been possible to hold this meeting so soon.

Aims and Objects

Some of you who have taken part in other Industrial Committees will require no explanation why they are constituted and periodically summoned, but for the sake of others I may briefly mention their objects. Until a few years ago the Indian Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee were the only national Tripartite bodies which discussed labour problems. While many problems are common to all industries, there are certain features and problems peculiar to each industry which call for timely and detailed examination if they are to be solved in a practical and effective manner.

For obvious reasons such an examination must be left to those who have an intimate knowledge of the conditions obtaining in the industry concerned. It is for this reason that the International Labour Organisation has set up a number of Industrial Committees, which, as you may be aware, have produced excellent results. Our Industrial Committees are largely a national counter-part of the Committees set up by the International Labour Organisation.

The necessity for the setting up of Industrial Committees became all too evident when the reports of the Labour Investigation Committee on various Industries were published. Those who have read the Report on Tanneries and Leather Goods Factories will, I am sure, agree with me that the present Committee has come into existence none too soon. The Report points out that the wages and earnings of workers are low, working conditions unsatisfactory, washing facilities poor, protective equipment inadequate and welfare and medical facilities almost entirely absent.

Recent investigations conducted by the Director of the Labour Bureau in a few selected factories at Calcutta, Kanpur, Bombay and Madras have shown that there has unfortunately been no appreciable change since the report was written. There seems, therefore, a *prima facie* case for an urgent improvement in the wages and working conditions in this industry. We have met here today to examine how best that can be done.

Main Functions

The setting up of Industrial Committees has assumed importance in another context, though it is possible that they will eventually have to be fitted into the new machinery envisaged by the Industrial Truce Resolution. That Resolution, accepted by the Central Government, provides for the setting up of a Central Advisory Council with Committees under it for each major industry. These Committees will split up into sub-committees dealing with specific questions relating to the industry, e.g., production, industrial relations, wage fixation, and distribution of profits.

The Central Advisory Council will deal with the problems of industrial relations as a whole, its main functions being to evolve schemes for the determination of fair wages to labour, fair return on capital, reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of the undertaking and labour's share of the surplus profits and of the method by which labour could co-operate with employers in securing an increase in production. It is also the function of the Council to devise measures for the regulation of the relations between employers and labour. The Central Advisory Council held its first session in this very city last month. A Committee on Wages set up by it has since met and issued a questionnaire on fair wages. Whether the full machinery contemplated by the Industrial Truce Resolution comes into existence, the Industrial Committees already constituted will have to be adapted to suit the general framework of that machinery. Until then we must go on as before.

Industrial Committees, such as the present one, have, in my opinion, come into existence at a particularly opportune moment. Labour is restive everywhere in the world and naturally we have our due share of labour troubles. If at time we are inclined to take Labour to task for its impatience, we should not be unmindful of the exemplary patience it showed during the long period of the war years and of the miseries caused to it by the unsettled conditions of the post-war period.

In the present situation there is hardly any mechanism better fitted to tackle the problems between employers and workers in certain fields than a Tripartite Industrial Committee where the parties get every encouragement for a heart to heart talk across the table and where many an ugly situation which might have far-reaching repercussions on industrial relations could be saved by a reasonable measure of give and take.

A forum like the Industrial Committee is a much safer and more satisfactory place for settlement of certain types of industrial disputes, especially those connected with wages and working conditions, from the point of view of both employers and workers, for what is often forced on one of the parties by an Industrial Tribunal or a Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery could, with greater ease and equal satisfaction, be settled between the parties in an atmosphere of goodwill and practical reality.

Commonsense Plan of Wages

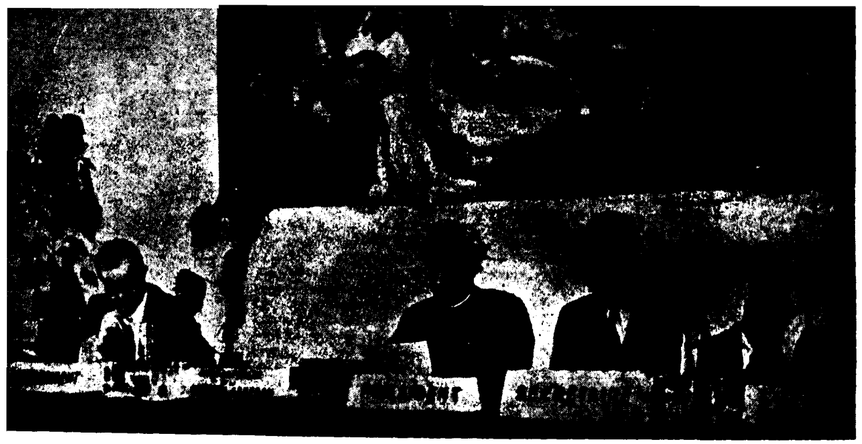
As you are aware the industry we are dealing with is covered by the scope of the Minimum Wages Act. It will be more acceptable to you and more agreeable to the Provincial Governments if, when the time for the fixation of minimum wages comes, you have already in force a commonsense plan of wages freely agreed upon between the parties. If you have come to this meeting with the fixed intention of fostering goodwill through an amicable settlement of outstanding problems, then indeed you have been farsighted in responding to our invitation. Let me hope that your deliberations will show that our hopes have not been in vain.

FORMULA FOR BASIC WAGE

The Industrial Committee on Tanneries and Leather Goods Manufactories at its meeting on the first day arrived at a formula for the minimum basic wage and dearness allowance in the organised sector of the Industry. In accordance with this formula the sum of Rs. 5 will be appropriated from the dearness allowance to the basic wage so that the basic wage in big cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur will be Rs. 40 during the first 5 years of existence of a concern and Rs. 45 in subsequent years.

At other centres the corresponding rates will be Rs. 35 and Rs. 40 respectively. As for dearness allowance, taking the year 1939 (cost of living index equal to 100) as basis, the scale is to be : index no. 101 to 150, Rs. 10 ; 151 to 200, Rs. 15 ; 201 to 250, Rs. 20 ; 251 to 300, Rs. 25 ; 301 to 350, Rs. 30 ; 351 to 400, Rs. 35 ; 401 to 450, Rs. 40 ; 451 and above, Rs. 45.

In the absence of sufficient data in respect of the unorganised sector of industry, it was decided that a Sub-Committee should be set up to examine the question of wages in unorganised units of the Industry. The Chairman, Mr. K. N. Subramanian, pointed out that the Committee on Fair Wages which was



Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, leader of the Indian Delegation to the Beirut Conference of UNESCO, presiding over the meeting of the Nominations Committee to the plenary session. Sir John Hardman, leader of the British Delegation, is on his right

DR. RADHAKRISHNAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF UNESCO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

DR. S. Radhakrishnan who was elected as the Chairman of the UNESCO's Executive Board on December 1, 1948 at the Beirut Conference has been a member of the Executive Board since the inception of UNESCO and his work in the General Conferences and Executive Board has won universal appreciation.

In his speech to the Plenary Session of the General Conference of the UNESCO at Beirut recently Dr. Radhakrishnan drew attention to the fact that Asia and Africa were awake and on the march and added that the UNESCO would do well to take cognisance of this great change in world situation.

He also made a powerful appeal for an understanding between cultures of the East and West and for the advance of the ideals of democracy, liberalism and tolerance.

Functions of the Board

The Executive Board consists of 18 members elected by the General Conference who are persons of eminence in arts, humanities, sciences, education and diffusion of ideas and represent diversity of cultures and different geographical areas. The Executive Board is responsible for the execution of programmes adopted by the General Conference and its members, and exercises powers delegated by the Conference on its behalf as a whole and not as representatives of the respective Governments.

Mr. P.N. Kirpal, one of the Indian Delegates was elected Member of the Budget Sub-commission of UNESCO, on November 30, 1948.

The plenary session of the Conference on December 1, 1948. reelected Dr. Radhakrishnan as Member of the Executive Board of UNESCO for a further term of three years. Both in the Nominations Committee and the General Conference, Dr. Radhakrishnan's work in UNESCO was highly praised.

The Programme Commission of the UNESCO on November 29, 1948 adopted a Resolution on the free flow of the media of mass communication sponsored by the Indian Delegation. Mr. Azim Husain, (India), in his speech, stressed the importance of making educational, cultural and scientific films available to all member States.

Mr. P. N. Kirpal, Rapporteur of the meeting of Representatives National Commissions and Co-ordinating Bodies presented his report, which was unanimously adopted by the Official and External Relations Commission. The Commission recommended to member States and National Commissions to give special attention to enlisting the support of young people in implementing UNESCO' programme.

The Indian delegation has proposed that Unesco should sponsor a plan for setting up an International Institute of Cultural Co-operation for South and East Asia. After discussion in the Cultural Sub-Commission, the Budget and Programme Commission and the Official and External Relations Commission, it has been decided that the Director-General should present to the next General Conference of UNESCO a report on the project and its relation to the proposals for establishing centres of UNESCO in different cultural regions of the world.

The Education Seminar of UNESCO in 1949 which was originally to be held in China will now be held in India. The subject for the Seminar will be "Rural and Adult Education," and it is likely that the Seminar will be held sometime next Autumn.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO BUDGET

The Budget Sub-Commission of twelve, including Mr. P.N. Kirpal (India) concluded its work on December 7, after costing all programme items and administrative services for 1949. The proposed Budget is for 7·78 million dollars. India's contribution has been fixed at 3.86 per cent of the total contributions. The highest contribution is that of the United States, being 38·47 per cent. the United Kingdom coming next with 13.5 per cent of the total Budget. China and France will contribute 7.15 per cent each.

Reception to Asian Delegates

The Indian delegation on December 7, entertained the delegates and representatives of all Asian countries to lunch. Those present included Mr. Hamid Bey Frangie, the Lebanese Foreign Minister and representatives of China, Siam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Egypt.

In a brief speech after lunch Dr. Syud Hussain, Leader of the Indian delegation, said that the gathering was in the nature of a family party to which representatives of all Oriental countries had been invited. He referred to the historical and cultural associations between India and the countries represented at the party, including the Arab world, China, Iran and Afghanistan. He hoped that this meeting in Beirut was a prelude to larger co-operation and stressed the importance of Oriental solidarity as a necessary pre-requisite for the peace and prosperity of the world.

In his reply, Mr. Hamid Bey, Frangi said that India truly expressed the true spirit of the Orient in a most spectacular way. She had contributed to the Orient and the world her penetrating and comprehensive philosophy.

INDIA'S STAND ON KOREAN INDEPENDENCE

Mr. M. C. Setalvad's Address to U. N. Political Committee

"THE people of India have great admiration for the people of Korea. Not only are they bound to them by ties of ancient culture, but they have watched with understanding, admiration and sympathy the heroic struggle of the Korean people for independence from the ruthless subservience of Japan. The independence of Korea is long overdue and my Government will be always ready to lend its support to any proposal which will bring to the people of Korea a suitable and lasting peace and independence," observed Mr. M. C. Setalvad speaking on "the problem of the independence of Korea" in the Political Committee of the U. N. General Assembly in Paris on December 7, 1948.

Following is the full text of Mr. Setalvad's speech :

India has a special interest in the problem under discussion not only because she is a member of the temporary Commission on Korea, but also because our discussions concern the fate of an Asiatic country, ancient in civilisation and having a rich cultural history. It is for those reasons that I desire to state the attitude of my delegation to this question. Members of Committee have no doubt gathered from the report of the temporary Commission on Korea the difficulties of that Commission and the limited extent to which it was able to carry out the mandate given in the General Assembly's resolution of November 14, 1947.

I may briefly refer to some of the broader aspects of its work with a view to indicate what the views are which my Government has held and continues to hold in relation to the problem of the independence of Korea. It will be recalled that the Assembly's resolution of November 14, 1947, required that certain specific functions should be undertaken by the Commission in relation to the whole Korea—both South Korea where U.S. Military forces were in occupation and in North Korea where U.S.S.R. forces were in occupation.

Initial Difficulty

Soon after arrival in Seoul, however, it became clear that the Commission would not be in a position to undertake its task in North Korea. Faced with this initial difficulty, the Commission made a reference to the Interim Committee and, on February 19, 1948, at Lake Success, the then Chairman of the temporary Commission who was India's representative, placed the whole issue before the Committee and asked for instructions on the future course of action by the Commission.

The Chairman indicated the attitude of the Commission in the following words: "The Commission is unanimous in thinking that they must go on functioning as long as there is a shred of hope that a unified independent Government of Korea can be established with the good-will of all concerned. The United Nations cannot afford to leave Korea in the air. The Commission is all but unanimous in thinking that a separate Government which may be established in South Korea cannot be a national Government as defined in the resolution of the General Assembly."

The Interim Committee decided to advise the Commission to implement the programme as outlined in the Assembly's resolution of November 14, 1947, in such parts of Korea as were accessible to the Commission. The considerations which led to this advice were embodied in a letter presented by the Chairman of the Interim Committee to the Chairman of the temporary Commission in which the Interim Committee expressed the hope that representatives from the South elected to the National Assembly as a result of their advice would, by their negotiations with groups who did not participate in the elections, be able to secure through their efforts full co-operation in the Government of all Koreans. The Interim Committee was anxious that all peaceful means of persuasion should be used to the greatest possible extent for the attainment of Korean unity. Further, it was recognised that temporary Commission itself had authority and discretion to discharge its duties in Korea whenever and to the extent that circumstances permitted.

National Government

The representative of the Government of India on the Interim Committee was at pains to point out that the Government which would emerge from the elections in South Korea could not in the nature of things be regarded as a national Government. It would, he said, be the Government of South Korea. There was no reason, however, to assume that this Government should not, in course of time, mature into the Government of all Korea. It was emphasised that this could be accomplished if the leaders and the Government in South Korea could enter into, or continue, negotiations with leaders of North Korea with a view to the establishment of a unified independent Government of Korea. We thus supported the advice of the Interim Committee in the hope that the Government which would emerge in South Korea as a result of the elections of May 10 would, in consultation and in conjunction with the Government of North Korea, soon became the national Government of Korea.

We see from the Commission's report that elections were held in South Korea on May 10, 1948. 198 persons were elected, who convened the National Assembly on May 31, and a Government calling itself the Government of the Republic of Korea was established on August 5. Between the convening of the Assembly and the establishment of the Government an effort was made, as advised in the letter of the Chairman of the Interim Committee to which I have already referred, to bring into the Korean Government any of the major parties in the South which had refused to participate in the elections. Moreover, except for a general appeal broadcast to the people of North Korea, no attempts were made for rapprochement or reconciliation with the regime which had been established in North Korea.

A Step Forward

My Government was in favour of preservering in the implementation of the resolution of the Interim Committee not merely because there was no other alternative, but also because they hoped that that course would prove a step forward in the solution of the problem of Korean independence. Bearing in mind, however, that the Commission could only try to implement the resolution of the General Assembly wherever and to the extent that circumstances permitted, and no further, we maintained the view that the Commission could call a halt wherever it found that it could go no further in implementing the resolution. Indeed, the representative of India pointed out at the 22nd plenary meeting of the Commission on March 12, at Seoul, that it was open to the Commission at any time to say "thus far and no further".

It is against the background of these events that the Commission received a notification from the new Government that it was entitled to be regarded as the Government envisaged in the resolution of the General Assembly, namely, as the National Government of Korea, and that it was entitled to take action as proposed in paragraph 4 of the Assembly's resolution of November 14, 1947, in consultation with the Commission.

'Although the new Government had been formed under the auspices of the United Nations and in a democratic way, circumstances evidently militated against its fully natinal character as the Government of all Korea. It was clearly impossible for the new Government to "take over the functions of Government from the Military Command and the civilian authorities of North and South Korea" as envisaged in para 4 of the General Assembly's resolution.

It was in these circumstances that the Indian representative voted against any further implementation of the General Assembly's resolution. Recognition of the Government in the South as the National Government of Korea was too grave a step for the Commission to take without giving the General Assembly an opportunity of reconsidering the question in all its implications.

I have tried to outline in brief the attitude taken by my Government in regard to the activities of the Commission. The Commission was unfortunately placed under a serious handicap from the very beginning by reason of its inability to visit North Korea, and to make any efforts to bring about a reconciliation between the leaders and parties of North and South Korea. Nevertheless, my delegation feels that within the limits imposed by this handicap the Commission

already busy with its task would take some time for its decisions and until wages and dearness allowance were fixed on a statutory basis the present agreement should be observed.

Referring to U. P. Government representatives' statement that the fixation of basic wage and dearness allowance at rates agreed upon between the parties today might have repercussion on either industries, the Chairman said :

"We have been thinking for sometime about wage structure generally in Industries and on the whole we have come to broad conclusion that it might be useful to amalgamate portion of dearness allowance with basic wage for obvious reasons. It is very unlikely that we will ever go back to 1939 level of basic wages and as Mr. M. L. Khaitan pointed out a light increase in the rate of basic wages will last even after dearness allowance has completely disappeared.

No Grave Repercussions likely

"From that point of view it is an all round advantage, we feel, to have a reasonable basic wage coupled no doubt with a reasonable dearness allowance. So I personally do not feel that there will be any grave repercussion on other industries so long as it is understood—and this is important—that the rate of basic wage agreed upon here is to be read with the rate of dearness allowance which goes with it. They both go together."

Concluding the Chairman said that he was sure that employers' representatives would advise their constituent units to give effect to the decision as early as possible and inform the Government accordingly. He paid a tribute to Mr. M. L. Khaitan (Employers' representative) and his colleagues who had been very useful in helping the Committee to devise the compromise formula.

Earlier the Committee considered its provisional draft constitution which provides for 7 representatives each of Government (Central and Provincial), workers and employers respectively.

BONUS FOR WORKERS

The Committee concluded its meeting the following day after evolving a scheme for bonus and subsistence allowance to workers in the leather industry. Throughout the discussions an atmosphere of cordiality prevailed and representatives of Workers and Employers acknowledged the spirit of compromise displayed by either party.

I have sat in many Tripartite conferences but it is not often that I have come across a block of employers' representatives who have come so determined to contribute to the success of the Conference. Alas, it is also not always that workers' representatives have displayed the same gift for timely and realistic, compromises as our friends here have, remarked the Chairman.

According to the decision arrived at the meeting a bonus equal to 1½ month's basic wages or in the case of weekly payments six weeks basic wages was recommended. Similarly, for temporary breakdowns or suspensions, workers would be paid 75 per cent of their basic wage in addition to their full dearness allowance for the first week after which it was optional on the part of the employer to serve the prescribed 2 weeks notice, or, in anticipation of early resumption continue to keep them on the same basis as for the first week. These recommendations would be placed before the various constituent units of the industry.

The Employers' representative suggested that the payment of bonus should be treated as *'ex gratia'*, but the Chairman assured that such fears need not be entertained as the question of principles would be decided by the Central Advisory Council.

The question of regulating labour conditions and means to provide stoppages of work and increased product on was examined, with special reference to the difficulties of the employers, as it was contended that though an improvement was desirable, there was a number of small employers who could not afford to give workers all welfare facilities. However, it was felt that if both parties adhered to the formula on more important problems, like, basic wage, bonus and subsistence allowance, an amicable settlement would be possible in this direction.

Co-operatives Suggested

The Independent Employers' representative, who is a member of the Scheduled Caste, paid a tribute to the Hon'ble Minister of Labour, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, who was their representative, and conveyed to him his community's sense of profound gratitude. He remarked that for the first time since the dawn of Independence, the condition of thousands of them (Scheduled Caste) employed in the leather industry was receiving attention. He urged that co-operative societies should be organised to enable scheduled castes engaged in the leather cottage industry to set their own business and thereby contribute not only to their prosperity but to maximum production.

SALIENT FEATURES OF INDUSTRY

This industry which is generally concentrated in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Kanpur and other parts of U. P. employs about 35,000 workers. The industry expanded during the war as will be gauged from the fact that while in 1939, there were 12,938 workers in the industry, this figure rose to 33,733, in 1943. There are 13 large concerns and numerous smaller ones spread over the large cities of India.

The wages differ widely from place to place. The minimum basic wage varies from as. 6 to as. 7 per day in Kanpur, from as. 6 to as. 12 per day in Madras, from as. 9 to Rs. 2 per day in Calcutta, and from as. 12 to Rs.1/4/- per day in Bombay. Similarly, there is no uniformity in regard to the method of paying dearness allowance. In some places a flat rate is given and only in the larger units in Madras dearness allowance is linked to the cost of living index number. The payment of bonus too does not seem to be prevalent in this industry. In Madras a bonus equal to 3½ months' wages is paid by some concerns; while in Bombay one concern only pays a bonus equal to these months' wages.

It is desirable that uniform and reasonable rates of wages subject to appropriate differentials should be adopted. The U. P. Labour Enquiry Committee recently recommended that the minimum basic wage for all industries including leather should be fixed at Rs. 30 per month. It may be pointed out that this industry is one of the 'scheduled' employments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and as such the minimum wage in the industry would have to be fixed by the Provincial Governments in accordance with the procedure laid down in section 5 of that Act, Moreover, there is in this industry an enforced period of idleness arising out of reasons such as non-availability of raw materials, lack of transport facilities etc. The question of granting to workers some subsistence allowance during this period will have to be fixed. The Jute Mill Industry in similar circumstances pays a subsistence allowance to its workers.

Welfare Activities

The Labour Investigation Committee appointed by the Government of India pointed out that there were numerous shortcomings in respect of this industry *inter alia* unsatisfactory working conditions, inadequacy of washing and bathing facilities and the absence of welfare and medical facilities. Recent investigations conducted in 16 factories in Calcutta, Kanpur, Madras and Bombay have revealed that the present position is more or less the same.

Most of the establishments are located in ill-ventilated and poorly-lighted premises. There are no proper arrangements for drainage and workers have to stand in water or on wet floors. Moreover in view of the nature of work in this industry, it is essential that proper washing and bathing facilities should be provided. There are no welfare activities. In most cases, arrangements for the supply of drinking water and sanitation left much to be desired. Recent investigations showed that out of 20 factories, only 5 had canteens, 7 medical facilities, 3 facilities for the education of workers' children and 4 facilities for recreation. In the smaller units neither the daily and weekly hours of work nor the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, regarding a weekly holiday are strictly observed.

There also appears to be a complete disregard for the workers future. None of the factories in Bombay and U. P. have introduced any scheme of Provident Fund or Gratuity. Three concerns in Calcutta and one in Madras have introduced such a scheme.

Decline in Disputes

The position regarding disputes in this industry appears to be encouraging. Whereas in 1946 there were 30 disputes involving 34,566 workers and resulting in a loss of 307,496 man-days, the corresponding figures for 1947 were 20 disputes, 22,977 workers and 594,329 man-days respectively. In 1948 there has been only one strike involving 61 workers in the industry. In spite of this, it would be necessary to set up Works Committees consisting of representatives of Management and Employees as recommended by the Industrial Truce Resolution of December 1947.

ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF I. L. O.

Important Labour Problems to be Discussed

A series of consultative conferences in connection with the Asian Regional Conference of the I.L.O. to be held in 1950 are taking place in Delhi, Bombay and Madras. On November 29, the I.L.O. Mission discussed the "Promotion of facilities for workers' welfare" with representatives of the Government, workers and employers.

Welcoming Mr. John S. Fox, Member of the Mission, the Chairman Mr. K. Subramaniam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour, referred to the Indian Factories Act of 1948 which contains many welcome provisions relating to working conditions like ventilation, temperature, artificial humidification, proper lighting and cleanliness, canteens and rest rooms. He also referred to the other statutory enactments like the Employees' State Insurance Act, Maternity Benefit Act, Coal and Mica Welfare Fund Act and the Provincial Housing Acts which provide most of the measures enumerated in the outline report of Mr. Fox.

Factory Inspection

The report was discussed under various heads as sanitary and medical facilities, canteens, creches and day nurseries, housing, recreation facilities and administration and finance. It was conceded that while there were enactments providing certain minimum sanitary medical standards, it was felt that the enforcement of legislation leaves much to be desired.

In this respect, a Conference of representatives of Labour Inspection Services of Asia was held in Ceylon in November when special difficulties which confronted the inspection service were considered. The lack of public opinion, the absence of private organisation as in other countries which supplement the work of officials by such activities as research in health and welfare problems and publicising industrial standards, the Inspector's role is often reduced to that of a policing officer.

In other industrially advanced countries, the Labour Inspector is a kind of trusted adviser, who can count on the confidence of employers and workers to obtain more effective results by persuasion than by punitive action. To remedy this defect, it was suggested that Joint Bodies of employers and workers to co-operate in the task of implementation of accepted standards, should be established.

"Slum Industries"

There were also dangers in a rigid application of the law. The strict enforcement of legislation, for instance, for the protection of women and young persons sometimes had the undesirable effect of reducing employment possibilities. In Asian countries certain "slum industries" in which the capital outlay is so small make it impracticable for them to conform to satisfactory standards of conditions of work. It must be borne in mind that the strength of Inspectorates must keep pace with the expansion and development of labour and social legislation. In India the number of Factory Inspectors has increased twofold in the last 4 years.

As regards canteens it was urged by the workers' representatives that a beginning might be made in providing snacks and light refreshments, but the extent to which workers will make use of a canteen would depend upon the charges for meals which would have to suit their purse. It was also pointed out that want of space was one of the primary difficulties in big cities like Bombay in providing canteens in factories.

The most important problem was that of housing of industrial workers. While there were a number of private undertakings which provide accommodation for their workers and some company-towns like Tata Nagar had sprung up, this problem is greatly complicated on account of the constant drift into cities from rural areas and shortage of building material. The Conference decided that this measure required first priority as other welfare measures like transport etc. depended on the housing facilities available to workers.

It was recognised that the provision of proper recreation facilities was an important means of increasing the worker's output, but that no basic standard could be laid down as it depended greatly on the voluntary co-operation of both the employer and the worker. Representatives of workers suggested that recreation facilities should be provided in co-operation with trade unions so that workers could decide what particular type of recreation would suit their needs. The question of providing rest centres where the worker could spend his holidays came in for discussion, but it was felt that in view of its impracticability at present this measure be postponed.

Administration and Finance

To what extent the State and employers should bear the expenditure entailed by the provision of workers welfare facilities? While certain welfare facilities were so related to the needs of the community as a whole that a State subsidy is justified, it was suggested by employers' representatives that workers should also have some share in financing some of the welfare schemes like canteens.

They also felt that any legislation which makes welfare schemes a charge on private employers should equally apply to Government undertakings. On the other hand, the workers' representatives made it clear that workers were unable to contribute to any scheme unless they were given a living wage.

DEVELOPMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE

Great stress was laid on the urgent need for co-operative enterprise at the meeting of the I.L.O. Consultative Mission held in New Delhi on December 2, 1948, under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. Subramaniam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour. The representatives of the Government, the workers and the co-operative institutions participated in the discussion. The outline report of Mr. S.K. Jain, Member of the I.L.O. Mission, was examined in detail and suggestions on various important problems confronting the co-operative movement with special reference to housing, cottage industries, co-operative farming and resettlement of displaced persons were made, which would be placed before the Asian Regional Conference.

Spread of Literacy

It was recognised that the spread of literacy and less rigid application of the rules by the Co-operative Department were the primary factors on which depended the development of the co-operative movement. Representatives of workers urged that credit facilities should be made more attractive by lowering the rate of interest and that in the present economic circumstances the movement could extend if the State took the initiative in starting more societies and granting a subsidy.

The question how far Trade Unions and other promotional agencies like Universities and Welfare Institutions could assist in the spread of this movement came up for discussion and it was felt that so far as trade unions were concerned it would greatly depend upon their stability. Representatives of workers contended that the movement should be run on a purely voluntary basis and that they were opposed to the application of any kind of compulsion.

COMMITTEE ON FAIR WAGES

The Committee on Fair Wages, which was constituted at the meeting of the Central Advisory Council at Lucknow in November last, met on December 6, 1948, at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Mr. K. M. Subramaniam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour. It discussed the procedure to be adopted by the Committee and examined a draft questionnaire on the principles of 'fair' wages which will be issued to Provincial Governments, Organisations of Employers and Workers, Industrial Associations, Chambers of Commerce and Economists for obtaining their replies thereto.

The questionnaire which is exhaustive purports to elicit information on various economic principles like the concepts of 'minimum,' 'living' and 'fair' wages, the factors determining living and fair wages, the productivity of labour, the capacity of industry to pay, and the statutory machinery for the enforcement of these principles.

Persons who are interested in the subject and desire to send their opinions to the Committee may obtain copies of the questionnaire from the Secretary to the Committee on Fair Wages C/O the Ministry of Labour, New Delhi.

MR. LALL ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING BODY OF I. L. O.

MR. S. Lall Government of India's representative on the Governing Body of the I.L.O., was elected Chairman of that body at its meeting in Geneva on December 8.

Mr. Lall has been intimately connected with the I. L. O. for over 20 years.

Born on October 4, 1894, Shamadhari Lall received his education at Calcutta University and Exeter College, Oxford. He entered the Indian Civil Service in October, 1919.

On his arrival in India in January, 1920, he served in Bihar and Orissa as Assistant Magistrate and Collector. In 1924, he became Under Secretary, Finance Department, to the Government of Bihar and Orissa and a year later was appointed Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour. In 1927, he became Deputy Secretary in the same Department and in 1929 was appointed Joint Secretary to the Royal Commission on Labour which visited India. He was Director of Industries and Labour and Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, Education and Development Department.

In 1938, Mr. Lall was appointed Deputy High Commissioner for India in London and continued in that post up to March, 1944, when he was appointed Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Labour Department. He has been Secretary to the Ministry of Labour, Government of India since April 1946.

Mr. Lall was the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the International Labour



Mr. S. Lall

Conference at Montreal in 1946. He was again a Government delegate to the Conferences held at Geneva in 1947 and at San Francisco in 1948.

He is a keen sportsman, is intensely fond of tennis and shooting. In 1921, he married Shrimati Maina Shaw. They have five children.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE TO MEET IN GENEVA

THE 32nd session of the International Labour Conference will open in Geneva on June 8, 1949, and is likely to continue up to July 2, 1949, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Labour on December 9, 1948.

It added : The agenda will consist of: Director-General's Report; Financial and Budgetary Questions; Reports on the application of Conventions; Applications of the principles of the right to organise and to bargain collectively (second discussion); Industrial Relations, comprising collective agreements, conciliation and arbitration, and co-operation between public authorities and employers' and workers' organisations (first discussion); Labour clauses in public contracts (second discussion); Protection of wages (second discussion); Wages' General Report; Vocational guidance (second discussion); Revision of the Fee Charging Employment Agencies Convention, 1933; Migration for employment, Revision of the Migration for Employment Convention, 1939, the Mirgration for Employment Recommendation, 1939 and the Migration for Employment (co-operation between States) Recommendation, 1939.

The delegation from each Member State will consist of two Government delegates and one delegate each of Employers and Workers who will be assisted by Advisers. The responsibility for nominating the personnel of the entire delegation rests with the Government of India. In accordance with the terms of the Constitution of the I.L.O. the Employers' and Workers' delegates will be nominated in agreement with the industrial organisations which are most representative of employers or work people as the case may be.

Industrial organisations desirous of submitting recommendations in regard to the selection of Employers' and Workers' delegates and advisers are requested to submit their suggestions after obtaining the consent of the persons concerned, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi, not later than February 1, 1949. The organisations concerned may recommend panels of names for selection as delegates and advisers but in submitting their recommendations they are advised to take into account considerations relating to proper regional distribution. Delegates and Advisers will be paid travelling expenses and subsistence allowance by the Government.

THE INDIAN LABOUR YEAR BOOK, 1946

THE Indian Labour Year Book, 1946, prepared by the Labour Bureau (Ministry of Labour), Government of India, and published by the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi, contains an authoritative account of problems relating to Indian Labour. The foreward is contributed by the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour. Although the Year Book is for 1946, it gives information on several subjects up to the the end of 1947.

The Chapter on Employment, besides giving serial statistics of employment in factories, mines, plantations and railways, gives a brief account of migration, recruitment, absenteeism and a description of the activities of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation of the Government of India.

In the chapter on Labour Legislation the main provisions of the various labour laws enacted by the Central, Provincial and State Governments are given together with the historical background. The system of wage payment and the rates of wages, allowances, and and bonuses paid to different categories of workers in important industries are dealt with in the chapter on Wages and Earnings.

The part played by India in the International Labour Organisation and other details regarding the I.L.O. Conventions ratified by India, their contents, as well as various other Conventions adopted by the International Labour Organisations, are briefly described. The Cost and Standard of Living of industrial workers, Trade Unions, Industrial Disputes and the machinery for settling them, Health and Safety, Education, Housing and Welfare, Agricultural Labour, Indian Labour Overseas, Labour Policy, etc., are some of the other sections of topical interest dealt with in the publication.

There are thirteen chapters, and two appendices including a comprehensive index.

The Year Book is priced Rs. 3/0/0. and copies can be had from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

VANASPATI PRICES REVISED

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on December 1, said:

The Government of India have had under consideration the question of fixing revised prices for Vanaspati in tulk packs in view of the increase of excise duty by Rs. 40 per ton, the higher price of tin and increased cost of manufacture. It has now been decided to raise the controlled price of Vanaspati, with immediate effect, in the case of bulk packs by 6 pies per pound in Bombay city and 9 pies per pound in the rest of the country for packs containing 36 pounds and over. Simultaneously, it has been decided to reduce the prices of small packs, reduction being of the order of 6 annas in the present price for a 10-pound pack.

PLAN TO AID AVIATION IN S.-E. ASIA

Dr. Warner's Broadcast

"A complete plan for the development of ground services required for international civil aviation in S.E. Asia and a manual of special precautions to be observed and practices to be followed by aircraft flying in that region will be ready when the committee of the regional aviation conference meeting now in Delhi finish their work," revealed Dr. Edward P. Warner, President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, in a broadcast talk on December 3, 1948, from All India Radio, Delhi.

Dr. Warner also disclosed that ICAO's Council was on the brink of taking a decision on the standard type of radio equipment for guiding aircraft through the final stages of landing.

Dr. Warner stressed the need for attaining uniformity of standards, practices and procedures in ground arrangements, communications, traffic control and weather information for aircraft in flight. If for any reason the Government of a country in the region was not able to provide all the required services, it would be helped by international financing through ICAO.

The ICAO and other international organizations, Dr. Warner pointed out, were a step towards the establishment of a universal loyalty to the common interests of mankind.

Dr. Warner observed that the representatives of 16 governments and of a number of international airlines were taking part in the S. E. Asia Regional Air Navigation Conference which started its meeting in Delhi on November 23. He said: "To assist their work, the Indian Government has assigned a number of the most experienced members of Civil Aviation Directorate, and fifteen members of ICAO's international staff have come to India from the Organization's headquarters in Montreal and from its offices in other parts of the world. The meeting has quickly split up into small sub-committees, as such meetings always do; and if you were to visit Patiala House, any morning or afternoon in the next two weeks, you would find little knots of people gathered around tables in every available corner of a lounge, in the edges of corridors, and even on verandas.

Committees at Work

One such group would be found discussing how many civil aircraft of all nationalities together are likely to be in flight at any one time over the various parts of South East Asia, and how many different radio frequencies will be needed to enable them all to keep in continuous communication with the ground. Another would be considering the dimensions to which various aerodromes ought to be developed in order that they may take care of future needs.

In most of such groups you would find an expert on the subject being discussed, taken from ICAO's staff, advising the representatives of the several governments and telling them of ICAO's experience on the subject under discussion and how it has been settled in other regions.

When the groups have finished their work they will produce a series of reports, a total of 200 or 300 pages, which ICAO will publish. They will be a complete plan for the development of the ground services required for international civil flight in South East Asia, and a manual of the special precautions to be observed and practices to be followed by aircraft flying in any part of that region.

As soon as we begin to fly internationally, or to have any other international relations, we are all dependent upon one another. Flights between India and other parts of the world cannot be made safe and efficient by action taken by the Indian Government alone. They will be equally dependent on what is done elsewhere; and all governments along the route must take such actions in concert and must have such a body of people as the ICAO staff to assist them in doing so.

Uniform Standards

If the type of aircraft which is best suited for flight on a particular route needs aerodromes with 5,000-foot runways to leave the ground safely with a full load and safely to land again, it is not enough that aerodromes of that size be provided at one or two points in the countries through which the aircraft is proceeding. They must be provided everywhere a step is to be made; and to make that possible the needs of each route must be defined, and must be known to all governments concerned. All governments can then proceed simultaneously to make preparations for satisfying the requirements.

We have such meetings also to assist in attaining uniformity of practice. Wherever people encounter one another, there must be certain conventions to govern their conduct in order that the encounters may be without friction or collision. The more complicated and frequent the encounters become, the more important it is to have such a code of behaviour. If a few people are walking along a sidewalk, they do not particularly require any rules of the road to tell them what to do when they meet people coming in the other direction. If they do bump into one another occasionally no serious harm will be done. When they begin driving motor cars, or even riding bicycles, it becomes more important to have rules that everybody will follow.

It becomes important too, that the rules for vehicles that move easily from city to city should be the same in every city, to avoid confusion between residents and strangers. When we leave the ground, and begin flying at 200 or 300 miles an hour, the need for such understanding is even greater. It is necessary to avoid collisions between aircraft and for other reasons as well.

If there were only one pilot in South East Asia who needed to get information from the ground by radio at a particular time, for example, he could ask for it in any words that he might choose at the moment, such as a pedestrian asks a policeman for directions as to how to reach the railway station. In the course of two or three minutes of radio conversation the pilot and the radio operator on the ground would no doubt understand one another as the pedestrian and the policeman do. Instead of one aeroplane trying to communicate with the ground, however, 10 or 12 may actually need to do so at the same time. They can not take two or three minutes understanding one another's messages. They must get through in a few seconds, to clear the radio channel for somebody else to use, and the only hope of doing it is to use standardized wording and many abbreviations, and in general to adhere strictly to what is called a standard communication procedure. Such standard procedures are needed for other purposes also, for transmitting information about the weather and forecasts and so on—and it is ICAO's business to see that they are prepared and put into use.

Regional Meetings

Much of this work can, of course, be done for the whole world at once. The ideal procedure or practice is one that can not only be the same throughout South East Asia but the same throughout the whole world. ICAO has had a good deal of success in developing standards that are so fundamental that they will serve equally the needs of India, Australia, Canada, France and Brazil. There are some points on which pilots should never be taken by surprise, because we should always find ourselves governed by exactly the same rules.

Many conditions are consistent throughout the world's air routes and permit such uniformities; but there are others that differ from one place to another. Some practices may be needed in a very congested area like that of London that it would be foolish to insist upon in areas where there is very little flight. Some practices may be suitable in an area where it can be taken for granted that everyone speaks the same language fluently, and quite impracticable where the pilots and the ground stations as a whole have no language in common. Some measures that are appropriate where meteorological observations can be taken at very brief intervals and radio stations can be placed every 100 miles or so would be wholly unsuitable for areas which for one reason or another have not been so extensively developed. To meet these requirements, such Regional meetings as the one now being held prepare supplementary regional procedures as additions to the procedures that have been found suitable for world-wide application.

There is another example of the separate needs for general and regional activity. ICAO's Council can decide

after having held meetings and heard the views that governments may wish to express, that a particular type of equipment for guiding aircraft through the final stages of landing by radio should be chosen at the standard for that purpose. The Council is on the brink of taking just that decision; and it is very necessary that it does so, for if several different types of equipment for assisting landings by radio were available, and if one government chose one type and another government chose another type, the unfortunate operator of aircraft would have to load his aeroplanes down with as many different receivers and different kinds of indicating instruments as there were kinds of equipment on the ground. Even worse, perhaps, the pilots would have to be trained in operating with each of these alternative systems, inevitably being less skilled in the use of the alternative than they could be in the use of a single one. It would be an intolerable burden for international flight, and it is only to be avoided by such standardization as is progressively being accomplished.

The regional problem remains, however. A general decision can be taken that where radio aids to navigation are provided they should be of a certain type; but decisions on where such aids of standardised type are actually to be provided requires special knowledge of the weather, geography, flow of commerce, and operating conditions in particular areas. The Regional meetings, such as the one now being held in New Delhi, have the task of deciding exactly where it is particularly necessary that such equipment be placed. The final decision on what can be done on these matters will lie with the Government that operates the services; but the conclusions of the Regional meeting on what ought to be done will certainly have a great influence with every government that takes part in ICAO's work, as most of the governments of the world now do.

International Financing

Of course, a government may be prevented from carrying out the conclusions of a regional meeting by financial difficulties. It may be that it cannot afford the expenditure; or it may seem to the government concerned that its people gain no particular advantage from the services that are to be provided and that they, therefore, ought not to be expected to pay for them. It is, of course, the normal thing for every government to provide all the required services for civil aviation within its territory at its own expense. If for one of the reasons that I have mentioned that cannot be done, however, we have a possibility of taking care of the cost throughout international financing.

It was foreseen when ICAO was formed that there would be occasions on which the costs of such work would have to be shared by the governments whose aircraft benefitted from expenditure and the Civil Aviation Convention, therefore provided that ICAO might act as the agent through which such financing would be arranged. We have recently had a case of that in Iceland, where needed services for North Atlantic air transportation are now being provided by the Icelandic Government at the expense of nine other governments, each of which contributes in proportion to the amount of trans-Atlantic flying that its aircraft do. There will no doubt be other such cases. Perhaps some of them, as time goes on, will be in South East Asia. At least it can be foreseen that the financial limitations of a government need not in themselves prevent the provision of the necessary services for International air navigation within the government's territory.

In opening this talk I suggested that much of what I would say would apply as well to other aspects of international relations as to those directly concerning civil aviation. ICAO is a particular example of the growing need for international organization. As the subjects of international contact become more varied and complicated, there is need for common action in many fields. These international organizations must have representative bodies, to serve the same purpose for the international community that a Parliament or Constituent Assembly serves for a nation. In ICAO the governing body is called the Council; it has 21 members; and India, which was elected to membership, has a representative sitting in Montreal with his 20 colleagues to act on behalf of the 51 states of the organization. There is need to give such bodies adequate power to act for the whole membership of the organization, and to be ready to re-examine their powers from time to time and if necessary to change them as the result of experience. There is need for governments to accept and loyally to give effect to conclusions which are reached in the name of the international community, even though the individual government may not have fully concurred in them at the time when they were reached.

It is true of ICAO, as of most other international organizations, that decisions taken by its Council have in general no mandatory effect on the member states. Such decisions do have the great force that comes from a common understanding that in this business of civil aviation, as in so many others, the nations of the world are inter-dependent.

There is much talk nowadays of world government. The existing international organisations, ICAO included, are very far from being such a government; but they are a step towards the realization of the great purposes that those who talk of the need for world government have most in mind. They are providing machinery which assists, even if it does not yet ensure, the adoption of uniform practices and the maintenances of uniform standards where such action would benefit the common interest. They are a step towards the establishment of a universal loyalty to the common interest of mankind.

A Press Note issued by the Director-General Posts and Telegraphs on December 13, 1948 said:

The Overseas Radio Telephone Service will be extended to the French Zone of Germany with effect from December 15, 1948. Charges for each call will be Rs. 48 for the first three minutes, Rs. 16 for each subsequent minute and Rs. 5-6-0 for a Report Charge. The hours of service will be the same as between India and United Kindgdom.

Service to United States and United Kingdom zones of Germany already exists.

Recommendations of I.C.A.O. Committees

Aerodrome Facilities

Noting that the existing aerodromes in the South-East Asia Region lack in numerous ground facilities, the Aerodromes, Air Routes and Ground Aids Committee of the Regional Air Navigation Conference has recommended a number of improvements to be effected as rapidly as possible in the aerodromes of the Region, in order that the safety, regularity and efficiency of international air operations may be ensured.

The Committee has suggested that 57 out of 88 land aerodromes in the Region should be developed so as to satisfy immediate technical requirements, within not more than 18 months after receipt of notification of the approval of the Report by the Council of ICAO.

It has also recommended that these aerodromes, together with 4 others, should be developed in all respects into aerodromes of higher specified classes before January 1, 1954, in order that international standards and practices may be conformed to. These include Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bhuj, Santacruz (Bombay), Dum Dum (Calcutta), Palam (Delhi), Hyderabad, Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Madras and Trichinopoly.

The Committee has decided that the provision of airport lighting was necessary at all the aerodromes to serve the ever increasing number of night flights. Going further in this respect, the Committee has recommended that approach lights as an aid to night landing be installed at all the larger aerodromes in the Region.

The Committee has decided to leave the improvement of water aerodromes to the States concerned. It was however, felt desirable that such aerodromes as were essential should be maintained in at least their present condition. There are about 20 water aerodromes in the Region including Allahabad, Calcutta, Gwalior, Akyab, Rangoon, Saigon, Shanghai, Hongkong, Karachi, Bangkok, Sourabaya and Singapore.

Regional Manual

The Committee has decided that the I.C.A.O. procedures for air navigation services in respect of aerodromes, air routes and ground aids which has been applied to the South Atlantic, the South American and the Caribbean regions should apply to S. E. Asia also and that these procedures should be adopted within three months of notification of the approval of I.C.A.O. Council.

The Committee has also recommended that in the Regional Manual a list of aerodromes for international services should be included with information on customs and other administrative facilities available. The Manual should also contain a chart of each aerodrome showing *inter alia* its geographical location, physical features and obstructions; location of wind and landing direction indicators, control towers and signal areas; details of each runway such as, length, width, bearing capacity and type of services with the elevation of the highest and lowest points: location of aerodrome beacons and of runways, taxiways, and approach lights.

AIR NAVIGATIONAL AIDS

Radio navigational aids to aircraft are inadequate in the South East Asia Region, particularly over sea routes. In order to cover the gaps, additional stations should be set up at suitable locations. Also, the States in the region should consider if trial installations of long range navigational aid such as the German invented CONSOL could be encouraged.

This is the view of the Communications Committee set up by the South East Asia Regional Aviation Conference which met in Delhi recently.

The Committee felt that it would be advisable to discontinue Medium Frequency Direction-Finding Beacons if other aids were available and to instal short navigational aids on the lines of Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Radio Range, if it is approved by ICAO. It would be necessary to employ very high frequency in order that atmospherics do not interfere with reception.

Instrument Landing System

As regards approach aids, the Committee felt that Blind Approach Beacon System (B.A.B.S.) and other existing systems would be continued until the standard Instrument Landing system is established in the Region. India has installed SCS-51 system for instrument approach and landing at Bombay and Calcutta and B.A.B.S. in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. In addition, Calcutta has ASV-Responder Beacon for the use of flying boats.

Regarding facilities for communication between aircraft and aerodromes a revised plan in the making envisages the provision of additional channels at Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok and Singapore. Additional channels to meet the requirements of meteorology also figure in the revised plan.

The desirability of installing radio tele-type channels has been stressed where the capacity of tele-communication channels is inadequate for the traffic demand. As regards fixed circuits the Committee, in general, felt that so far as India was concerned, the circuits, already planned would meet most of the requirements of international aircraft.

ALLOCATION OF RADIO FREQUENCIES

In a 17-point Report, the Frequency Sub-Committee of the Regional Air Navigation Conference has recommended that very high frequency radio channels (VHF) should be substituted for high frequency channels (HF) wherever practicable.

It has also recommended that minimum power should be used for all transmissions so that the geographic duplication of frequencies is possible.

Further, it has favoured a reduction in the time now utilised for communications with aircraft, consistent with safety, by the use of abbreviated standard codes and procedures, by a reduction in the number of reports from the aircraft and of the points to which aircraft must report and by the development of means of communications having a capacity higher than manual telegraph. In order to bring about this reduction it has asked the ICAO to review its practices and procedures and see if the plans already outlined under the systems of the Major World Air Route Area and the Regional and Domestic Air Route Areas are sound so that a world-wide basis could be found.

The Committee is of the opinion, however, that power limitations would be undesirable in view of high atmospherics in most of the areas in the Region. The use of very high frequency channels is possible in the immediate future only within the Kathiawar peninsula in India. The Committee has suggested the creation of a new sub-area in the Region, and a few changes in the existing sub-area so as to facilitate certain routes.

To increase the possibility of duplication of frequencies, the Committee has recommended investigation if the Regional and Domestic Air Route Area could be divided into smaller sub-areas and if the load on the frequencies may be increased without reducing the protection ratio. It has discouraged demands for frequencies below 2,850 KCs and has suggested that bands adjacent to 3,500 KC will be most useful for the region.

It is expected that the Report of the Committee, which consisted of representatives of 9 nations including India, Pakistan, China, United Kingdom, U.S.A., France, Australia, the Netherlands and Portugal, when approved by the Council of the ICAO, will be used, in co-ordination with similar reports from other regions, as a basis for the preparation of a plan of allotment of radio frequencies by the International Administrative Aeronautical Radio Conference of the International Tele-Communications Union. This Conference has the task of preparing a world-wide allotment of the frequencies provided for the Aero-mobile Service by the ITU Conference held in Atlantic City in 1947.

MORE FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS

The establishment of fifteen flight information regions in South-East Asia, two of which will be new and will be located at Bangkok and Canton, has been recommended by the Air Traffic Control Committee of the Regional Air Navigation Conference meeting recently held in New Delhi. These will be at Karachi, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Colombo, Rangoon, Bangkok, Saigon, Singapore, Batavia, Morotai (Indonesia), Shanghai, Canton and Hongkong.

A few changes have been made in the boundaries of existing regions so as to facilitate a more efficient control of aircraft flying through them. The boundaries of the various control areas and zones have also been defined. In order to reach these decisions, the Committee took into consideration the existing and projected air routes and the communications facilities between air traffic control centres operated by adjacent States together with the range of communications between control stations and aircraft in flight.

Agreed recommendations have been made in respect of procedures for the control of aircraft. The majority of the procedures will be in line with those used in other ICAO Regions and will help the safe landing, take-off and flight of international aircraft.

When the recommendations of the Committee are implemented, international aircraft flying over the S. E. Asia Region will receive such advice and assistance as are essential for their safety while operating over a large net-work of air routes now being developed throughout the area.

HELICOPTERS TO AID IN AIR ACCIDENTS

The desirability of stationing helicopters at seventeen strategic points in the South East Asia region, to aid search and rescue operations in case of accident to aircraft, has been suggested by the Search and Rescue Committee of the Regional Aviation Conference.

The places recommended include Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Karachi, Colombo, Rangoon, Saigon, Hanoi, Singapore, Bangkok, Canton, Shanghai, Manila and Darwin.

Drawing up a plan for adequate coverage of all air routes in the region for search and rescue operations, the Committee has recommended the setting up of two more centres and various subcentres in addition to the existing seventeen centres for rescue co-ordination. It has also detailed a number of additional facilities, such as long and medium range aircraft, rescue vessels, and boats and land rescue units, to be provided at various places. The Committee felt that the area of responsibility for rescue co-ordination should broadly approximate to the flight information regions.

Rescue Operations

In order that formalities do not hamper search and rescue operations, the Committee has suggested that States in the region should dispense with clearance by diplomatic channels and facilitate immediate entry of such aid on request by rescue co-ordination centres in other States.

Amongst the supplementary procedures recommended for the region is notification of three emergency phases for uncertainty, alert and distress to the various Rescue Co-ordination Centres. Another procedure enjoins that equipment for cropping to survivors, such as medical supplies, food and water, blankets and implements, should be distinguished by coloured streamers, red, blue, yellow and black respectively.

The Committee has recommended various measures for training in search and rescue operations. One of the steps suggested is the establishment of a library of motion pictures on such and rescue activities by the ICAO which should make these films available to Member States. The Committee has stressed that crews of search and rescue marine craft should be specially trained for rescuing survivors from the Sea.

Weather Information for International Aircraft

" Flying of international aircraft over the South East Asia Region will become easier and safer when the recommendations of the Meteorological Committee, set up by the Regional Aviation Conference which met recently in New Delhi, are implemented.

One of the recommendations of the Committee will ensure that international aircraft get all the meteorological information they require during their flight. The Committee has proposed that apart from briefing and supply of necessary documents and charts to an aircraft before its flight from an aerodrome, each individual aircraft should be provided with full meteorological service during the flight from the air-port of destination as well as from intermediate aerodromes en route.

It is also proposed to institute a system of half-hourly and hourly sub-area broadcasts of current weather reports and forecasts from aerodromes. Further, a plan is under preparation for exchange of hourly reports, analyses, forecasts and warnings between meteorological offices.

The Committee is of the view that arrangements should be made for the reception and dissemination of weather reports from aircrafts in flight. The need for establishing more island stations in the Indian Ocean area for upper-air observations has also been recognised.

A list of existing and recommended meteorological facilities in the region has been prepared for inclusion in the final Report of the Conference.

23 Delegates, Advisors and Observers representing 10 countries and 3 International Organisations are members of this Committee. Mr. Basu (India) is Chairman and Mr. N. R. Hagen (U. S. A.) Vice-Chairman.

RESTRICTION IN BOOKING OF POSTAL PARCELS

The booking of parcels at post offices in West Bengal excluding the North Bengal districts of Malda, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Cooch Behar State and intended for those districts and Assam are restricted to those not exceeding 500 tolas in weight and 18 inches in length, and 2½ feet in length and girth combined, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on December 8, 1948.

The Governor-General is pleased to make the following appointments in the Calcutta High Court :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nirmal Chandra Chatterjee, at present an additional Judge, to be a permanent Judge in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Justice W. M. Sharpe.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kulada Charan Das Gupta, at present an acting Judge, to be an Additional Judge.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF I. C. A. O. REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Mr. N. C. Ghosh's Address.

WINDING up the proceedings of the South East Asia Regional Air Navigation Conference in New Delhi on December 14, 1948 the Chairman, Rai Bahadur N.C. Ghosh, expressed satisfaction that the labours of the conference would benefit international aviation in South East Asia.

He said : It is satisfactory to note that you, representatives of States and Organizations, have through these crowded days, the last three weeks, succeeded in preparing an adequate plan for the development of Ground Services for International Civil Aviation in South East Asia Region and in making recommendations which, if accepted by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization and implemented by the States concerned, would ensure greater safety in navigation of aircraft flying in the region.

Results of the Meeting

Summing up the results of the Conference he observed : You have provided a co-ordinated plan in regard to the operational and technical requirements, made recommendations in respect of boundaries of the region, uniform instrument approach and landing procedures, and uniform practices for altimeter setting. You have made recommendations for the improvement of Radio Navigational Aids to aircraft, for the installation of short range aids and for the employment of very high radio frequencies. Deserving special mention is the completion of the work entrusted by the Council to this Meeting in regard to a plan for the allocation of frequencies. It is to be hoped that the work done at this Meeting in this connection will enable the Council to formulate a co-ordinated plan in a matter which so far has presented considerable difficulties.

The Meeting has approved recommendations in regard to information regions in South East Asia and also in respect of procedures for the control of aircraft, the majority of which will be similar to those used in other ICAO Regions, to ensure safe landing, take-off and flight of aircraft. You have proposed a number of improvements in existing ground facilities and also in regard to Airport Lighting.

Human interest, besides that of the technical expert, attaches to the plan drawn up at this Meeting in respect of Search and Rescue of aircraft in distress. Your plan also seeks to ensure that every individual international aircraft will get all the Meteorological information it requires during flight and that exchange of reports, forecasts and warnings is effected as frequently as possible. Finally, a satisfactory measure of agreement has been reached for co-ordination in the implementation of dates of supplementary procedures.

I have no doubt that the last three weeks of concentrated attention which you have devoted to your task will greatly benefit international air navigation in South East Asia, and, in the larger sense, all people, aircraft personnel and passengers, who use air routes in the region.

He concluded saying : Your efforts have resulted not only in the pages which comprise the final reports of the Meeting, but also in the attainment of greater understanding among the representatives of all the nations, big and small, who have worked together for the achievement of ends beneficial to all peoples. The spirit of mutual understanding, co-operation and helpfulness that has characterised the deliberations in all the meetings of the various Committees, Sub-Committees and working Groups have undoubtedly set up a standard and a pattern for human relations which must have a far-reaching effect.

FINAL REPORTS ADOPTED

The South-East Asia Regional Air Navigation Conference concluded in New Delhi on December 14, 1948 after adopting the Final Reports of the Five Technical Committees and of the Co-ordination Committee set up earlier.

The Reports were presented by the respective Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committees.

On behalf of ICAO Mr. Banes thanked the Government of India for its hospitality and paid a tribute to the organisation of the secretariat of the Conference in contributing to the success of the Meeting. He also said that all the delegates, advisers and observers had thoroughly enjoyed their visit to India and were carrying away imperishable recollections of this great country.

After the Chairman's closing address and a vote of thanks proposed by the Leader of the Pakistan Delegation and seconded by the Leader of the French Delegation, the Conference ended.

A brochure 'Crop Calendar,' issued by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Central Ministry of Agriculture gives information of agricultural operations in progress in the different provinces of India from month to month in respect of the principal crops. Background information is also provided relating to soil, rainfall, crop rotations, and the sowing and harvesting seasons.

Included in the brochure are diagrams of the sowing and harvesting seasons of the principal crops in India and abroad, and a glossary of names in the principal Indian languages of all important crops grown in India, with the English and botanical equivalents.



Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State (Information and Broadcasting) Government of India, being sworn in by Shri C. Rajagopalachari at Government House, New Delhi, on December 7

TWO NEW MINISTERS APPOINTED

A Press Communique issued by the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, Government House, New Delhi on December 3, 1948, said :—

Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Member of the Constituent Assembly, is appointed Minister of State. He will be in charge of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. He will take charge on December 7, 1948.

Another Communique issued on the same day stated :—

Dr. Balkrishna V. Keskar, Member of the Constituent Assembly, is appointed Deputy Minister. He will be attached to the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. He will take charge of his duties on December 7, 1948.

Oath of Office

His Excellency the Governor-General administered the oaths of office to Mr. Ranganath Ramachandra Diwakar and Dr. Balkrishna Vishwanath Keskar who assumed office on December 7, 1948, as Minister of State (Information and Broadcasting) and Deputy Minister (External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations) respectively. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and Dr. John Matthai, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Mr. Mehan Lal Saksena, Mr. K. Santhanam and Mr. Khurshed Lal were present at the ceremony.

RANGANATH RAMACHANDRA DIWAKAR

R. R. DIWAKAR, who was born in 1894, was educated in Belgaum and Hubli. He graduated from Fergusson College, Poona in 1916. He took his M. A. in 1918 and was Professor of English in Rajaram College, Kolhapur.

In 1921, he graduated in Law and entered public life by joining the Non-Cooperation Movement. He started a weekly newspaper in Kannada called "Karmaveer," and on a charge of sedition, was sentenced to two years imprisonment. In 1923 he became Editor of "Nava Shakti," an English Weekly, but was again convicted for sedition and sentenced to two years imprisonment. From 1926 to 1929 he was Secretary of the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee and thereafter was its President till 1934.

During the Salt Satyagraha Campaign of 1930 he was arrested and sentenced to a term of imprisonment. In 1933 he was again convicted for sedition for a period of three years, but was released in August 1934. In 1935 he took over the "Samyukta Karnatak"—a Kannada Daily.

In 1940-41 he was arrested during the Individual Civil Disobedience Movement. In 1942 he was arrested during the "Quit India" Movement and detained till July 1945. The same year he was elected a Member of the Congress Constitution Committee and Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Board for Karnatak Province.

In July 1946 he was elected a Member of the Constituent Assembly from Bombay Province. In September 1948 he was one of the Indian Parliamentary Observers to the 37th Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference held in Rome.

BALKRISHNA VISHWANATH KESKAR

B. V. Keskar, who was born in 1903, was educated in Poona. He graduated from Kashi Vidya Peeth where he later served as a Professor for three years. In 1933 he proceeded to Paris, where he stayed for seven years receiving Doctorate in Economic Sociology and Diploma in International Studies.

He joined the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1921, was sentenced to imprisonment in 1930, 1931 and 1941. He was an active figure during the "Quit India" movement in U. P. and Central India.

He was for two years, 1940-42, Secretary of the Foreign Department in the A. I. C. C. Office. He was General Secretary of the Congress in 1946 until the Meerut Session in 1947.

He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from U. P. in February 1948. In September 1948 he was one of the Indian Parliamentary observers to the 37th Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference held in Rome.



Dr. B. V. Keskar, Deputy Minister (External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations) Government of India, was also sworn in by the Governor-General the same day



Shri C. Rajagopalachari speaking at the Gita Jayanti celebrations at the Lakshmi Narain Temple, New Delhi on December 12

RAJAJI ON TEACHINGS OF GITA

"WORK without aiming at personal profit and with an eye only to the welfare of the community, is the way of life taught in the Gita," observed His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, in his speech at the Gita Jayanti Celebration held at the Lakshmi Narain Temple Grounds, New Delhi, on December 12, 1948.

The following is the full text of His Excellency's speech :

The fathers of Hindu religious thought approached their subject in a scientific spirit. They treated religion on the whole as a search for truth and not as a matter for dogma. So from time immemorial, although hypotheses were put forward, there was no intolerance of difference. Religion with us has always continued to be rather a science of the spirit than a body of dogma. Naturally, therefore, every variety of approach to the great mystery is permitted in Hindu religion and treated with respect provided the approach is in a spirit of reverence. Various forms of elucidation are adopted by various vedantic schools of thought, but all of them recommend the same code of conduct. All schools of Vedanta and perhaps all religions lead to the same ethic. The Gita sets out this way of life. It applies to all good men, whatever their religious denomination may be. The way of life taught in the Gita is quite consistent with the modern world's requirements.

According to the Gita, the activities of the world must go on. It does not teach that salvation consists in retiring from work. We should look upon the tasks which appertain to us either by being specially entrusted with them or by reason of our place in society, as our duty and perform them with the diligence and the skill shown by people who work for selfish ends, but inwardly maintaining a spirit of unselfishness and detachment. Yoga is the name given to that state of mind which enables a man to live a dedicated life while engaged in worldly affairs. Enlightenment and devotion are necessary to enable a man to live this life.

It is easy to be attentive and live a laborious life when we are moved by selfishness. But what the Gita wants is that we should be diligent and skilful although the good results are for society and not for our own advantage, and we should cultivate an unselfish and detached attitude even while we are engaged most busily in material activities. The good man bears in mind always that within him and in every object in the world dwells the supreme soul. He is constantly in prayer to keep his mind free from lust, anger and personal designs. He looks upon all work as noble which is necessary of performance for the maintenance and welfare of society.

A good man regulates his work, food, recreation and pleasures. He does not lose heart seeing difficulties, and maintains courage and equanimity when succeeding or losing, leaving results in the hands of God.

Even a little effort in this direction is good. There is no waste or danger even if we fail. It is not like the rule of medicine in respect of some drugs which lays down that if one fails to follow prescribed rules of diet, the medicine may not only fail to do good, but may do harm.

Religion and Science

What we believe in science, what we believe in religion and what we believe in statecraft should all be in harmony with one another. Modern science reveals that the universe is evolved by the gradual unfoldment of the power lodged in the primordial substance. Hindu religion is most consistent with this revelation of science.

Just as Vedanta is most consistent with the awe and beauty of the universe more and more revealed by science, the way of life preached in the Gita is most consistent with the progressive views of citizenship and the conditions for the welfare of the State.

planned economy and co-operative life in place of competitive and selfish motive is modern economy. This cannot be effectively achieved if it depends on more external authority, however powerful, we must have a generally accepted culture which works as a law from within to assist the law imposed from without. Unless we have the help of culture, mere material planning culminates in fraud and corruption.

The Vedantic culture is pre-eminently fitted for planned co-operative community life wherein everyone must work according to capacity and everyone should get according to his need. Work should be allotted to individuals as well as to groups in accordance with the demands of the general interest. If we want society to control individual life so as to produce general welfare, we cannot depend only on the spy and the policeman. We must build up a spiritual life and a culture which makes joy out of duty discharged and acts as a law from within, making the execution of state imposed law easy.

We have in the Gita a teaching which can serve as the spiritual and cultural foundation for a just economy of life. Vedantic thought is the root of Indian culture. This root is still living. The source is not yet decayed. The lives of the rich and the poor, of the leisurely classes as well as of the peasants and labourers, of Hindus as well as of people belonging to other religions living in India are all responsible to the philosophy of the Gita. The fragrance of Vedanta appeals to all people in India, illiterate as well as learned.

Work without aiming at personal profit and with an eye only to the welfare of the community, is the way of life taught in the Gita. It lays emphasis on the equal dignity and the sacredness of all work that falls to one's lot. Indeed, the Gita lays down the socialist doctrine in terms of religion, and treats work as worship if done in the right spirit.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL UNVEILS GANDHIJI'S PORTRAIT

THE Governor-General Shri C. Rajagopalachari, unveiled a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at the Association of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Ministerial staff, on December 4.

Speaking on the occasion His Excellency said : "I am very grateful for the sweet words of welcome read by the President of the Association. He said many nice things. This is one : 'Ours is the first Association in the Secretariat which has the honour to greet amongst us the first Indian Governor-General of free and independent India.' I think he could have even said that it is the first Association in the Secretariat which has the honour to greet any Governor-General. It gives me great pleasure to be asked to meet on intimate terms the young men who are working in the Offices in, as they think, a subordinate position.

Encourage Sports

"Many are our difficulties, some of them avoidable, some unavoidable. All can be faced more effectively with patience than without patience. That is absolutely certain. Not that I do not understand the difficulties of young men but those difficulties are not caused by any particular persons whom you can blame now but are difficulties inherent in our present condition of affairs. I have very great pleasure to be with you all on this occasion when you have tried to encourage play and sports and to award prizes. I wish this were a more common phenomenon in Delhi. There should be more play, more fun and healthy competition in sports. I am very glad that Dr. Mookerjee and the head of the Department, Dr. Bhatnagar, are helping you in this matter. I would like to help you if you will show how I can do it.

"Members of the ministerial staff of a Scientific Department may not be scientists or doing scientific work. But any work that facilitates Science is also as essential as Science itself. Although priests and learned men may be chanting hymns in the main shrine of a temple the people engaged in sweeping the steps and keeping the courtyard of the temple clean were considered by our Saints as equally dear to God so that they occasionally did that work too in order to enhance their own merit. Do not think therefore that you are occupying any humble or humdrum position."

MEETING OF UNIVERSITIES' COMMISSION

THE first meeting of the Universities' Commission was held on December 6, at New Delhi. The Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, inaugurated the meeting.

The Commission was recently appointed by the Government of India to enquire into and report on the conditions and prospects of university education and research work in the universities. Its appointment was in pursuance of a suggestion made by the Inter-University Board at its meeting held in December, 1946, and endorsed by the Central Advisory Board of Education. The Commission is composed of the following members :—

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (Chairman),
Dr. Tara Chand,
Dr. A. L. Mudaliar,
Dr. Meghnath Saha
Dr. Zakir Hussain,
Dr. K. N. Bahl,
Dr. J. E. Duff, Vice-Chancellor, Durham University.
Dr. A. E. Morgan, formerly Chairman of the T. V. A., U.S.A.,

Dr. J. J. Tigert, formerly President Florida University, U. S.A, and
Prof. N.K. Sidhanta (Secretary).

Inaugurating the meeting the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad the Education Minister said, "The last survey of education on an All-India basis had been in connection with the Simon Commission and before that the Sadler Commission had conducted a thorough investigation of University education. But the former enquiry was not an intensive one and the latter related almost solely to one university. Now that a new chapter has been opened in the history of the country higher education requires to be examined and remodelled. The objectives of education have to be carefully examined and the functions of universities properly defined. With the help of the eminent eucationists who have responded to my invitation to represent on this Commission I feel it will be possible to accomplish this task within a comparatively short time."

After the Education Minister's address, the Commission had a short sitting and discussed some of the preliminary work to be undertaken. The meetings of the Commission are to continue for about a week.

SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

To provide facilities for officers to learn foreign languages, the Ministry of Defence have decided to establish a school of foreign languages. To start with, instructions will be given in French, Russian, German, Persian, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese. Though the School is primarily intended for officers of the Armed Forces, civil officers of various Ministries will also be admitted.

There will be intensive day course for officers who will be able to attend classes during office hours. Special evening classes will also be held for officers who are unable to attend classes during the day.

In the initial stage, the courses of study will be so designed as to impart in the minimum time possible sufficient knowledge to enable a student to read, write and talk freely in the language concerned. Advanced courses may be arranged later.

Mr. P. N. Banerjee, a linguist, who knows 18 modern languages and four classical languages, has been appointed Director of the School.

Cotton Statistics, the fourth publication in Commodity Series of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, which was issued on December 3 contains statistical information relating to the area, yields, prices, imports and exports, stocks etc., of cotton in India, as well as world cotton statistics. Among the tables included in the publication are those relating to the production, prices, stocks, mill consumption, as well as imports and exports of Indian cotton, classified according to varieties and staple length, the utilisation of cotton for different purposes, cost of manufacture of yarn and cloth, and the zonal distribution of mills and spindles in India.

Uday Shankar in Moscow: Soviet Reactions To "Kalpana"

ON the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Moscow Art Theatre, the Soviet Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries invited Uday Shankar, the noted Indian dancer, along with many other famous stage artists to take part in the celebrations. The 50th anniversary of the Moscow Art Theatre was held on October 27, 1948, but since the invitation to Uday Shankar was late in being sent and the winter blizzard started rather early this year, Uday Shankar did not reach Moscow before November 2. Initially the invitation was sent to Uday Shankar alone, but on further negotiations, Mrs. Uday Shankar and child were also asked to accompany Uday Shankar.

Uday Shankar's visit to Moscow was an occasion for which the Indian Embassy had been waiting for some months. The musical soiree given by Mrs. Dayal last June thawed the general Soviet aloofness with regard to India and paved the way for real cultural contact between the two countries. The Indian Embassy was planning to hold monthly "India Evenings" for the benefit of Soviet writers and artists and had been waiting for the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries to give their assistance in contacting Soviet writers and artists. The above Society, however, had still been "considering" the project when Uday Shankar's visit gave a fresh fillip to Indo-Russian cultural relations.

Uday Shankar was on his way to the United States unaccompanied by his troupe; so he could not give a dance performance which would have been very effective in Moscow. He had, however, a film called "Kalpana" with him representing the various regional folk dances of India, grafted with some of his inventions. The Society gave a very cordial reception to Mr. and Mrs. Uday Shankar and arranged for the film to be shown at their private hall. Owing to shortage of accommodation the Society could ask only the most eminent writers and artists. The following were among those present:

Gonsev, Director of Kinematography; Gerasimov, Leading Film Producer; Makareva, leading Cinema Actress; Shaporin, renowned Composer; Erimilov, Editor of Literary Gazette, and Ulanova, the world-famous Ballet Dancer, the Head of the South-East Asia Division and other officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cultural Relations

Before the projection of the film Mrs. Uday Shankar delivered a short speech in Bengali which was later translated into Russian, saying that Indo-Russian cultural relations had already passed its initial stage and it was now hoped that further relations would be fostered by both countries.

Before the projection of the film a short synopsis of the story was read out in Russian, but during the projection, too, separate episodes had to be explained in Russian. The reception of the film during projection was varied because being highly specialized Soviet artists were trying to concentrate on the technical side of the picture and felt that the story interest was standing in the way. Remarks to the effect that the film was "formalistic" were heard during the projection.

After the projection, Gonsev, Director of Kinematography, delivered a short speech in which he said that the Soviet Union was deeply interested in India's art and culture and he would not consider himself a friend of India if he could not give his candid appraisal of the film. The folk motives of the film, he said, were excellently done but wherever the producer tried to draw his inspiration from sources other than Indian, he created a disharmony in the entire ensemble. As such, he said, his impression was that the film, as a whole, was not likely to be in favour with the people of India.

The following day the Indian Embassy invited the Moscow Diplomatic Corps, foreign journalists and many of the same Soviet artists who had viewed the film at the Society's hall. At the Embassy the film however, had a success which might be described, to use a cliche, as "roaring". Among the guests, about 200, 27 heads of Diplomatic Missions attended including Ambassadors of United States, Roumania, Poland, Italy, Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Iran, Afghanistan and Ministers of Syria, Finland, Siam, Austria and Egypt.

The general impression among diplomats and journalists was extremely favourable. Many thought that not only the dances themselves were excellent but the production itself was good. Deducting the element of exotism which is generally associated in the mind of the Continental European with India, it may be said that the film had a genuine appeal to all. Many had heard for the first time that such film and films in general, were produced in India.

Unlimited Scope

The Russian guests, after a second view of the film, were not so critical and the same Director of Kinematography was heard to express a different view. Indeed, many Russian artists also gave a very favourable estimate of the film. It was felt that the Russian spectators had been trying to corroborate the Soviet official attitude to all foreign films and had come to the first projection with pre-conceived ideas.

A second view convinced them that whatever was outside the Soviet Union was not necessarily "formalistic," and even if it were formalistic, it might not necessarily be eschewed or discarded. They had seen an Indian film for the first time and if further opportunities were provided, they would gradually learn to approach Indian art and culture without any pre-conceived "Marxist formalistic" ideas.

Films having a direct visual appeal should be a very effective means of presenting India to Soviet Russia. An isolated effort like that of Uday Shankar's is not likely to leave any lasting impression, but if we could follow this up by a persistent effort to present India visually to Soviet Russia, the scope is almost unlimited and it will be all to India's benefit.

EIRE APPRECIATES PANDIT NEHRU'S STATEMENT

The following telegram has been received by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, from Mr. McBride, Foreign Minister of Eire:

"I thank you sincerely for your telegram of November 25 and for the friendly and helpful terms of your statement in the House of Representatives on November 26. My colleagues and I appreciate deeply the cordial and understanding attitude of the Government of India and feel confident that the change now made will help to strengthen the existing relations of friendship and sympathy between our two peoples."

INDIANS IN AMERICA

The first of the Mary Keatinge Das Memorial Lectures at Columbia University, New York, was delivered by Robert L. Schuyler, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History, on November 17, 1948. The subject of the lecture was: "India, the United States and the British Commonwealth."

Dr. Tarakanath Das, in whose wife's memory the lecture series is arranged, said: "This lecture is a symbol of greater activities that might be undertaken to promote Indian studies in Columbia University, through the active support of University authorities, American friends of India and the people of India in America and other parts of the world."

Dr. Das, who came to the United States in 1906 as a political refugee, became an American citizen in 1914, and has written and lectured on Indian affairs to promote understanding between the United States and India. Currently, he is a lecturer in the Department of History at Columbia University.

Harry J. Carman, Dean of Columbia College, introducing the speaker, said: "I am happy that the authorities of Columbia University are deeply interested in furthering Indian studies which will serve as a firm and sound basis for better understanding between the peoples of India and the United States of America and thus between the East and the West."

In order to strengthen the friendly relations that already exist between them, the Government of India and the Government of Iraq have agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives at legation level, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on November 30.



INDIAN TRADE DELEGATION TO IRAN

Members of the Indian Trade Delegation photographed on their arrival at Teheran to negotiate a trade agreement between India and Iran. (L. to R.) Mr. A. N. Puri, Maj. B. K. Kapoor, Mr. K. K. Chettur (leader) and Mr. C. P. Rao. The Delegation returned to India on November 17, having had discussions with the Iranian Government with a view to facilitate movement of goods between the two countries. (Below, left) Mr. K. K. Chettur (second from right) talking to Mr. Ibtihaj, Governor of the National Bank of Iran, at a dinner party given by Syed Ali Zaheer, Indian Ambassador to Iran. (Below, right) Syed Ali Zaheer and Mr. Rahimollah Khan, Afghan Ambassador to Iran (first and second from right) at a tea party given by the Indian community in honour of the Indian Trade Delegation





Sardar Patel Inaugurates Malwa Union Legislature



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India inaugurating the first session of the Legislative Assembly of the Malwa Union on December 4 during his visit to Gwalior. (Left) Sardar Patel performing the opening ceremony of the Gajra Raja Medical College on December 5 in Gwalior. The College has been named after the mother of the present Ruler of the State.



The Maharani of Gwalior reading an address presented to Sardar Patel at the Mahila Sammelan in Gwalior. On the left is the Maharaja of Gwalior. (Below) Sardar Patel with the Maharaja of Gwalior at a public meeting held on December 4



PATENT SYSTEM IN INDIA

Sir Gurunath Bewoor's Broadcast

"IN view of the declared policy of our national Government in the matter of development and expansion of Indian industry so as to raise the general standard of life of our people, it is clear that a proper patent system is essential," said Sir Gurunath Bewoor broadcasting a talk on the Patent System in India on December 13, 1948 from the Delhi Station of All India Radio. He also made a reference to the functions of the Patents Enquiry Committee recently appointed by Government of India. Sir Gurunath Bewoor who is a Director of Tata Industries is a member of that Committee.

Continuing he said: Modern Industry is based so directly upon applied science that in many instances the financial success of an individual enterprise depends very largely upon its ability to keep pace with the technical advances within its field. New and improved products must be discovered; cheaper or faster processes must be developed; or else the enterprise may find itself hopelessly outdistanced in the economic race. This can be achieved only by continued research for new inventions and new discoveries.

Important Factor

An important factor in the encouragement of discovery and invention is a proper patent system which secures to the inventor or discoverer an adequate return for his labour, skill and ingenuity. A patent system is also necessary to ensure an adequate return to the investor and enterpreneur who finds the capital necessary to apply the invention for industrial purposes and takes the risk of its success or failure. In the asbence of such a system, these inventions and discoveries may lie dormant and bring no benefit to the industry and to the public.

At the same time, the patent system which secures a monopoly for a limited period to the inventor for the use of the invention or discovery concerned should be fair to the public as, otherwise, the inventor or discoverer may hold the nation to ransom. The patent legislation of all countries including that of India has attempted to hold the balance fairly between the inventor, the investor and the public.

Present Patent Law

The earliest patent legislation in India was in 1856. The first legislation only related to the protection of industrial inventions. In 1872, separate legislation was passed for the protection of industrial designs. A consolidated Act, namely, the Indian Patents and Designs Act was passed in 1911 and has, since then, been amended from time to time in various respects. Many complaints have been made periodically regarding the defects or the inadequacy of the Indian legislation and procedure.

It would take too long to detail all these alleged defects of the Indian patent system. Briefly speaking, it has been alleged that the genuine inventor does not get adequate protection, particularly if he has not the financial resources. On the other hand, it is alleged that the public is deprived of many of the patented processes or articles particularly food products and drugs by the withholding of such supplies from the market. In the alternative, excessively high prices are charged. In the case of patents taken in India by foreign nationals, the development of the industry involving the use of the patent is not encouraged and the country is made to depend upon foreign supplies of the patented articles.

The Patent Office of India is in Calcutta, and criticism has been directed against its location, the absence of sufficient literature and publicity, the absence of assistance to inventors and the absence of provision for following the subsequent history of the patented articles or processes. There is no provision for a properly authorised body of patent agents with the result that inventors are at the mercy of incompetent or dishonest persons.

Enquiry Committee

In view of the declared policy of our National Government in the matter of development and expansion of Indian industry so as to raise the general standard of life of our people, it is clear that a proper patent system is essential. In view of the many complaints made by the public, the inventors and the patentees, the Government of India have appointed a Patents Enquiry Committee, presided over by Sir Bakshi Tek Chand, a distinguished ex-Judge of the Punjab High Court.

The Committee has on it an industrialist the distinguished head of a Research Institute, the head of a pharmaceutical concern, a well known barrister and a solicitor. The sixth member who is also Secretary of the Committee is an officer who, for over 20 years, occupied the post of Controller of Patents and Designs in India.

Exhaustive Questionnaire

The Committee have had some preliminary meetings and have prepared an exhaustive questionnaire which states all the alleged defects of the system and the suggestions made by the public, the industry and patent holders from time to time. This questionnaire has been issued to certain industries, to Chambers of Commerce and Industry and to selected individuals. It is available to anyone who is interested in the Indian law of patents and designs. All he has to do is to write to the Secretary-Member of the Patents Enquiry Committee, c/o the Ministry of Industry and Supply, New Delhi. After receiving answers to the questionnaire, the Committee will visit important industrial and research centres of India and will call for examination selected persons as witnesses.

The range of consideration involved is very extensive. Enquiries by similar committees in the United Kingdom have taken years to complete. The interest involved, namely, those of the inventor, of the industrialist, of the consumer and of the nation are sometimes very conflicting, and a way out has to be found so as to be fair to all the interests concerned. It is hoped that the Committee will be able to frame amendments to the present Act or to draft a completely new Act in the place of the existing one so as to secure for the benefit of India the inventive genius of her people and the development and expansion of new industries.

Memorandum to Patents Enquiry Committee

Has the Indian Patent System developed on national lines?" asks an official memorandum submitted to the Patents Enquiry Committee which recently held its inaugural meeting in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Bakhshi Sir Tek Chand. The memorandum answers the question in the negative.

The Committee which has, among other things, to report generally on all measures enabling the Indian Patent System to be more conducive to national interest has drafted a detailed questionnaire on the subject to be sent to various Chambers of Commerce, Industrial Associations, Research Institutes, Government Departments, Patent agents, etc., who would be given two months time for sending their replies. During the interval between the issue of the questionnaire and receipt of the replies, the Member-Secretary (who was Controller of Patents and Designs for over 24 years) will visit important research and industrial centres and meet prominent industrialists, inventors, scientists, patentees, etc., and have informal discussions with them with a view to helping them in appreciating the Indian Patent System in its proper perspective and also to elicit their views on the questionnaire issued by the Committee. Such of the members of the Committee as are available in the place may also take part in the discussions. Regular examination of witnesses would commence after receipt of the replies to the questionnaire. The Committee would for this purpose undertake a tour of important centres of the country.

At its first meeting, the Committee initiated discussions on the Patent legislation in India and its drawbacks, with reference particularly to the abuse of patent rights and restrictions necessary on patents relating to food and medicinal products. The Committee also considered various suggestions for reform of the Indian Patent System contained in the official memorandum submitted to it.

"The Patent System has been the backbone of all modern industrial enterprise in the West," says the memorandum. Nevertheless, the question whether the patent system is beneficial or detrimental to public interest has been the topic of controversy for several decades and the subject of minute scrutiny by numerous committees. The result of these controversies and investigations has always been the same, namely:

(i) that for the establishment of new industries and for the improvement of existing industries, it is essential to stimulate invention and to encourage the development and adoption of new inventions for industrial purposes;

(ii) that the patent system has stimulated inventors to originate new inventions and facilitated the rapid development and general application of new inventions;

(iii) that the patent system is capable of being abused and has in fact been occasionally abused;

(iv) that the patent system, as it exists at present in various countries, is far from being perfect; but if properly used, it can be ranked among the most important of the industrial resources of a country.

Importance of Patent System

"It is noteworthy in this connection that the importance of the patent system has been recognised not only in countries whose political and economic structure is based on any particular theory, but in all civilised countries having widely divergent political and economic systems, such as the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Soviet Union, France, Japan and Germany.

India presents a sharp contrast in this respect not merely to the U.S.A., U. K. or Soviet Union, but also to the lesser industrialised nations such as Holland. The statistics published by the Indian Patent Office show that notwithstanding its operation in India for over 90 years, the patent system has not received any serious attention in this country; and further that even to the small extent it has played a role in this country, it is the foreigner and not the Indian inventor or industrialist who has mainly availed himself of it. In fact, criticism has been frequently voiced that the Indian patent system has been used by the foreigner for blocking the industrial development of India. In the year 1946, for example, out of 2,610 patents 2,344 were registered by foreigners. Further, foreign-owned patents not only preponderated in number but, in the field of drugs, food products and other essential articles they also covered almost all the important processes.

It is noteworthy that the first legislation for the protection of inventions in India was enacted in 1856, and was based on the then existing English Law on Patents. Since then, the Indian Law has been revised on several occasions, mainly on the lines of changes made in the English Law from time to time. It may be said, therefore, that the Indian Patent system has been merely an echo of the British system with a time lag. The British system has, however, developed in response to the particular and special requirements of that country, and as a result of comprehensive investigations by high-level committees, but there has hitherto been no investigation whatever in India to ascertain whether, and to what extent, the Indian Patent system has been fulfilling its purpose; or whether it can be made more conducive to national interests than hitherto. These are questions which should engage the attention of every one who feels that India should, as in the past, take her place among great industrial countries of the world.

Present Day Difficulties

Superficial observers have tried to explain the neglect of the Indian Patent system by attributing it to:—

(a) the lack of inventive talent in India;

(b) the backward conditions of Indian Industries and

(c) the present day problems arising from lack of machinery and experts.

These explanations will, on examination, be found untenable.

As a matter of fact, the present day difficulties with regard to obtaining experts and machinery from abroad, are precisely the conditions which are most favourable for providing full scope to Indian inventive talent. It is, therefore, necessary to look elsewhere for the reasons which are responsible for the neglect of the patent system in India. They lie, adds the memorandum, in defective legislation and in inadequate facilities provided by the State in this matter.

TRAINING IN MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR CANDY

Under the auspices of the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology, Kanpur, arrangements have been made for training in the manufacture of sugar candy and confectionery by improved scientific process. Details of the course and the prospectus can be had, free of charge, from the Chemist-in-Charge, Sugar Candy Research Scheme, Ravalgaon, Dt. Nasik, C. P. and Berar.

The Sugar Candy Research Scheme has been working under the guidance of the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology for the last 8 years with a view to improving the manufacture of candy and confectionery. Researches relating to the use of steam and modern machinery for the manufacture of sugar candy and the economic utilisation of mother liquor for the manufacture of high grade confectionery have been made. The processes developed have reduced the cost of production appreciably and increased the output of sugar candy. It has been possible for the first time to produce bright, lustrous, large, independent and well formed candy crystals in a specially designed Rotary Candy Crystalliser.

Advice can be given, on applications, to interested persons in matters pertaining to processing, equipment and quality control involved in the manufacture of candy and confectionery. Training is also imparted to interested chemists. The training period is one month and usually starts from January each year.

Direct Communications with Gandhinagar

Gandhinagar, the miniature town in Jaipur, was linked with all the important cities of India and the lakhs of persons that visited this place during the Congress session had no difficulty in speaking or sending messages to the remotest parts of India. Mr. Krishna Prasads, Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, who visited Jaipur and personally inspected the arrangements said that they were adequate to meet the needs of the vast concourse of persons estimated at 3 lakhs.

Telegraph Channels

Two carrier systems providing 7 speech and 12 telegraph channels were installed. In consequence of this arrangement, 7 persons could speak simultaneously on the trunks and 9 telegrams could be transmitted in each direction at the same time. Two teleprinter channels were leased to the A. P. I. and U. P. I. respectively.

Special arrangements were made for the expeditious delivery of letters and telegrams and there were separate counters for the press and public. Exquisitely shaped letter-boxes of novel design were fixed. It was difficult for any one to miss the Posts and Telegraphs office with its luminous sign-boards lit up by ultra-violet rays—such lighting effects being employed for the first time in the country. The exterior murals of the Posts and Telegraphs office were appropriately adorned with large pictures of Gandhiji, the Father of the Nation.

HINDI CANCELLATION POST-MARKS

The Gandhinagar (Jaipur) Post Office which catered to the requirements of the thousands of persons at the session of the Indian National Congress introduced an innovation when for the first time "cancellation post-marks" entirely in an Indian language were used. There were three distinct cancellation marks, two of which contained the inscription, "55th Congress-Gandhinagar-Jaipur" entirely in Hindi and English respectively. The third post-mark in English which contained the additional inscription, "Free India stands for World Peace" was impressed by an automatic stamp cancelling machine on such unregistered letters of normal size that had their postage stamps affixed on the upper edge of the address-side of letters. All the three cancellation post-marks were discontinued after the conclusion of the Congress session.

A notable feature of the post office at Gandhinagar, Jaipur, was the Philatelic Bureau in the charge of a trained official. Special stocks of Gandhi Memorial postage stamps were kept at the new post office

FORMATION OF NEW PROVINCES INADVISABLE

Linguistic Provinces Commission's Report

THE Linguistic Provinces Commission set up by the President of the Constituent Assembly, has unanimously recommended against the formation of Linguistic Provinces at present. They, however, expressed the view that when the Indian States have been completely integrated and the country fully stabilised, some of the provinces should be reformed on an administrative basis.

Below is given a summary of the Commission's report :—

The report of the Linguistic Provinces Commission, published recently is unanimous. It recommends against the formation of linguistic provinces at present, but is of opinion, that when the Indian States have been completely integrated and the country fully stabilised, some of the Provinces should be reformed on an administrative basis.

While recognizing that there is a sincere and strong demand for the creation of these provinces and that its non-fulfilment may lead to much disappointment, the Commission think that an emergency exits in this country which would not justify acceding to the demand at present. They say that the first and last need of India at the present moment is that it should be made a nation. The Constitution, which is now being forged for India, as also all the multifarious problems which clamour for immediate solution have to be considered in relation to this paramount necessity. Everything which helps the growth of nationalism has to go forward, and everything which throws obstacles in its way has to be rejected or should stand over.'

"We have applied this test', say the Commission, 'to linguistic provinces, and, judged by this test, they fail and cannot be supported. If once the principle is recognised, it will set the ball rolling for the disintegration of the entire country."

Personnel of the Commission

The Commission was appointed by the President of the Constituent Assembly as a result of a discussion in the Assembly in November, 1947, and of a recommendation by the Drafting Committee in their report.

The Chairman was Mr. S. K. Dar, formerly Judge of the Allahabad High Court, and the members were Dr. Panna Lall, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Retired), formerly Adviser to the Governor of U. P., and Mr. Jagat Narain Lal, M.L.A. M.C.A., from Bihar. The Secretary was Mr. B. C. Banerji, I.A. & A.S., Accountant-General.

With them were associated the following members from the various provinces concerned, who took part in the taking of evidence and the deliberations, but not in the final drafting of the report :

1. The Hon'ble Mr. Ramakrishna Raju, (President, Madras Legislative Council).

2. Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, (Member, Constituent Assembly of India).

3. Mr. Narayana Menon of Palghat, (Member, Madras Legislative Council).

4. Mr. Tokuri Subramanyam of Bellary.

5. Mr. K. M. Munshi, (Member, Constituent Assembly of India).

6. Mr. R. R. Diwakar, (Member, Constituent Assembly of India).

7. Mr. H.V. Pataskar, (Member, Constituent Assembly of India).

8. Mr. T. L. Shevde, (Retired Judge, Nagpur High Court).

9. Mr. Gopilal Shrivastava, (Advocate, Saugor).

The Commission started work on July 19, 1948, and its final meeting with the Associate Members was held on November 21, 1948. It submitted its report on December 10, 1948. The Commission toured Andhra, Tamilnad, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Konkan, and C. P. and Berar ; examined over 700 witnesses and received a thousand written memoranda.

Changed Circumstances

The report begins by describing the proposed linguistic provinces of Andhra, Kerala, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. It refers to the Congress declarations since 1921 in favour of linguistic provinces but it points out that the circumstances now are very different, and the pledges can only be redeemed in the context of present-day India. It enumerates the conditions necessary before an area can be formed into a province, e.g., geographical contiguity, financial self-sufficiency, capacity for future development, and the consent of the people affected.

The claim for the linguistic provinces is based on two alternative grounds :

(1) that the linguistic groups are subnations and, as such, contracting parties to the Constitution from which the Federation and the Centre derive their existence and power, and alternatively,

(2) that the existing provinces are unwieldy, heterogeneous, and administratively inconvenient, particularly in the fields of education, legislatures, etc.

The points against the formation of linguistic provinces are the intolerance which they breed against the minority speaking a different language in the same province, the parochial patriotism which they will emphasise, and the bitterness which will be caused by the marking-off the boundaries, particularly with reference to the cities of Madras and Bombay.

There are some who want these provinces to be immediately formed, saying that the demand has got deep down into the masses and its postponement is creating bitterness, impatience and frustration, and that the country cannot settle down to constructive work.

As against this, others say that the country is not yet free from dangers of external aggression, that it is in the grip of an economic crisis of great magnitude, that the integration of Indian States has not yet been completed, that the Government is pre-occupied with more urgent problems, and that the country cannot at this moment bear the financial and administrative strain which these new provinces will put upon it.

The report then goes on to describe the boundaries of these four provinces, and points out the difficulties of dealing with border districts which are not unilingual but bilingual. It says that it is not practicable to form Malabar district into a province which would be possible if it could unite with Travancore and Cochin.

Similarly, the union of Karnataka with Mysore would be in the interests both of Karnataka and Mysore, which would gain access to the sea.

Maharashtra, it is said, is a latecomer in the field, and opinion in the Marathi-speaking districts of C. P. and Berar has not yet sufficiently crystallized for any recommendation to be made.

Bombay and Madras

The Commission discuss in a separate section the problem of the cities of Bombay and Madras. They think that these cities are not populated exclusively or even largely by speakers of any one language ; that they are in every sense multi-lingual ; that they have developed a cosmopolitan life of their own and are more or less of all-India importance. The Commission think that it would be not right to include these cities in any one unilingual province and that they deserve special treatment in their own interest and of India as a whole.

Chapter IV of the report is devoted to the financial and administrative consequences. It is pointed out that the creation of the six new provinces with their full-fledged machinery of Government would entail heavy expenditure which would fall on the taxpayer. Besides, very heavy expenditure would be incurred on the building of the six new capitals, which would be unfortunate at a time when the problem of housing refugees is facing us. It would also worsen the inflation situation. There is already a strain on the administrative agency of the various provinces, and there will be a further tax on it by the creation of the new provinces. A new minority problem would come into existence ; and the allocation of boundaries is sure to leave some bitterness behind. The new provinces will all be deficit—some more, some less, and hardly any of them would be able to function any better than a mere Police State. The financial position of each province is examined in detail in Chapter III.

Chapter V contains the conclusions. The view of the Commission is that linguistic provinces will have a subnational bias and will militate against the welding of India into one nation. 'If the intention were to create subnations in India, there could not be a better way of doing it than by creating linguistic provinces.' It is further pointed out that, as a result of historical circumstances, many of the communities speaking the same language have become separated and included in different administration, and the two groups have developed in different directions and are not now very eager to combine. Lastly, it is said that the formation of linguistic provinces is sure to lead to similar demands from other parts of India, and already some such demands have been pressed. 'Indian Nationalism', they say 'is deeply wedded to its regional languages ; Indian patriotism is aggressively attached to its provincial frontiers.

If India is to survive, Indian nationalism and patriotism will have to sacrifice some of its cherished sentiments in the larger interests of the country. Till nationalism has acquired sufficient strength to permit the formation of autonomous provinces, the true nature and function of a province under our Constitution should be that of an administrative unit functioning under delegated authority from the Centre and subject to the Centre's over-riding powers in regard to its territory, its existence, and its functions. These powers are required to form new provinces and to mitigate the rigour of government by linguistic majorities, to prevent a breakdown of the administration on account of disputes amongst linguistic groups, to check fissiparous tendencies and strengthen national feeling, and above all to build up an Indian nation.

Mistaken View

In another place the Commission remark : 'It is said that by being put in a linguistic province, each linguistic group will be happier and stronger and will be able to develop according to its genius, and a stronger group will be able to serve India better and consequently will be a better nationalist. We are convinced that this is a mistaken view. The emotional response, which the subnational sentiment will receive from a linguistic province, will always be greater than the one received by the national sentiment. Nationalism and subnationalism are two emotional experiences which grow at the expense of each other. In a linguistic province sub-nationalism will always be the dominant force and will always evoke greater emotional response ; and, in a conflict between the two, the nascent nationalism is sure to lose ground and will ultimately be submerged.'

The Commission go on to say that after some time, when the future of Indian States has been more clearly determined and when the Indian nationality is well established, some of the existing provinces should be re-formed. But they make it quite clear that such re-formation shall not be based upon linguistic considerations, but rather upon administrative convenience. The Commission are emphatic that the present is not the time for this redistribution of provinces, when there are more urgent problems staring the country in the face, *e.g.*, defence, refugees, inflation, production, food, etc.

The Commission are impressed with the view which has been expressed before them that the Constitution of India should provide for a strong Centre with residuary and over-riding powers, and that a common national language should be introduced throughout the country.

At the same time, the Commission recognise that, in all those provinces, there are serious administrative problems. There are clashes and conflicts such as those between Telugus and Tamils in the Government of Madras, and there is the feeling in Malabar and Karnataka that their needs do not receive adequate attention at the hands of the headquarters Governments in far-away Madras and Bombay.

The Commission think that many of these grievances are genuine, and the Government of India should devise means to allay them at once.

EXHIBITION OF INDIAN ART

Half a Lakh Visit in One Month

The Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, lent to the Exhibition of Indian Art which was recently held in Government House, a set of Wayang or Shadow-Play figures from Java, depicting Krishna and the Pandava brothers, which was presented to him by Dr. Soekarno.

The Exhibition continued to draw a large number of visitors of all classes. During the first fortnight of its opening it attracted nearly 23,000 visitors and in the second fortnight ending December 5 another 24,000 a total of about 47,000 in the course of a month.

During the last fortnight the Prime Minister paid two visits to the Exhibition. Other distinguished visitors during that period included Sardar Baldev Singh, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Acharya Kripalani.

Judged by the large number of visitors and the interest they evinced in the various exhibits it would appear that the Exhibition fulfilled its primary functions of educating the public by imparting knowledge of the cultural and art heritage of India during the ages. The Painting Section which displayed about 380 master-pieces of ancient Indian pictorial art comprising different schools *viz.*, Pala, Gujarati, Rajasthani, Moghul and Pahari and covering a period from the 11th to 19th century attracted considerable attention from the visitors.

The sale of publications, picture postcards and souvenir albums etc. at the counters was keeping pace with the growing popularity of the Exhibition. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, has prepared a documentary film of the Exhibition for being released to the public.

Pending the appointment of an Ambassador, the Government of India have selected Mr.R.S. Mani, at present Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, for appointment as Indian Charge d'affaires at Rome.

Anti-Malaria Courses for Engineers

IN some countries malaria has been successfully controlled, but in India it is still the most important public health problem, constituting a major barrier to the development of the country as a whole. Apart from the colossal loss of life to the extent of over a million deaths a year, at least 100 million cases suffer from this disease, the financial loss runs into thousands of crores of rupees and there is still the continued wastage of manpower and loss of efficiency in those that survive. As a result of the immensity of the problem and in the absence of adequate means to combat malaria, the young India in particular *i.e.* the infant and child population, chiefly in the vast rural areas is, so to say, continually being sacrificed.

Hitherto, majority of engineering works have been completed without regard to the creation of permanent malariogenic factors or man-made malaria. The faulty conditions have been in the digging of burrowpits, interference with natural drainage, defective irrigation systems and the like.

Since 1940, special courses in malariology for engineers were started by Maj.-Gen. Sir Gordon Covell at the Malaria Institute of India with the specific object of imparting elementary knowledge of how malaria is caused, how it can be controlled and prevented by avoiding the formation of favourable breeding places of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, both during construction and thereafter. Apart from lectures and demonstrations in the laboratories of the Institute during the one-week course, anti-malaria engineering works in the Delhi province are examined and their objects explained and discussed on the spot.

During 1940 and 1941, eighty-seven engineers from different branches of the Public Works Departments of the Government of India, Provincial Governments, railways, etc., attended these courses but unfortunately during the following few years they had to be held in abeyance. Since 1946 they have been held every year and 24 engineers completed a course only recently.

Need for Training

For the successful implementation of the national programme of construction of highways, railways, water and sewage works, hydro-electric, irrigation, water utilization and other multi-purpose projects, the need for adequate training in malariology and instruction in fundamental principles of prevention and control of malaria, which have such an important bearing on public health, cannot be over emphasized.

It is hoped that Government engineering departments will henceforward fully avail of the training facilities offered at the Malaria Institute of India, Delhi, and thus ensure that the engineers in their employ keep in view the needs of the malariologist in construction programmes.

PLANS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD

All India Land Reclamation Conference

INDIA's Food and Agriculture Minister, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, gave details of some of the important measures being adopted to make India self-sufficient in regard to food through employment of tractors, tube-well irrigation and improved fertilisers on land at present under cultivation and to be reclaimed during the next five years, while inaugurating the All India Land Reclamation Conference in Bombay on December 11, 1948. The Food Minister stressed the need of planning increase of production from the bottom in each taluka, considering its peculiar circumstances, and ultimately fixing up an over-all target instead of planning from the top. He invited the Conference to draw a blue-print of their individual requirements with a view to providing data for a plan to be considered by the experts of the International Monetary Bank who are expected to visit India in January 1949.

The Conference was convened by the Government of India in Bombay to discuss the possibilities of reclaiming waste land in the country by using heavy tractors and sinking tube-wells. It is understood that an application for a loan can be made to the International Monetary Bank for this purpose.

Among those present at the Conference were Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. D.R. Sethi, Agricultural Development Commissioner, Rai Bahadur M.C. Bijawat, Irrigation Adviser, Mr. M. P. Patil, Minister for Agriculture, Bombay, and representatives of the various provinces and States including Madras, East Punjab, Hyderabad, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and East Punjab and Patiala States.

Food Minister's Address

In the course of his address, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram observed that this conference was convened to consider the most important matter of taking a big step forward in the direction of Government plans for making India self-sufficient in food. The country had various plans for producing more food since 1943 under the previous administration, when Provincial Governments were working under Section 93 and were concentrating their efforts for purposes of war. All these factors had combined to prevent the full results ensuing from the efforts during those four or five years. After 1947 new Governments took charge and attempts had been made to plan the country's food production on a better basis.

Suggesting that in his view targets should be fixed on taluka basis in the future, the Food Minister observed that there were several factors compelling their immediate attention. There were huge areas in the country which were capable of cultivation but were not brought under the plough. These lands should be reclaimed and put under mechanical or manual cultivation. Varying figures between 65 and 90 million acres were being given in regard to such lands but a proper survey had yet to be undertaken to arrive at a correct figure not of the entire waste land but of that part of waste land which was comparatively easily capable of cultivation.

Meanwhile, continued the Minister, they had to take certain decisions. Within about a month's time the representatives of the International Monetary Bank, an organisation assisting countries needing financial help, would be arriving in India. It was desired that with the material that can be put together during the next few weeks we should be able to decide as to what are our requirements in regard to machinery necessary for reclamation of vast areas.

Discussions with some Provinces were already initiated but it was felt that other Provinces should also get together in a conference to expedite preliminary discussions regarding their exact requirements.

Need for Tractors

These requirements, he continued, were of three different kinds. The first was of heavy tractors and lighter mechanical equipment for cultivation. But this would be only one string to the bow in the country's self-sufficiency drive through large areas to be reclaimed. The other strings were to increase production from the existing acreage at present under cultivation, because this would bring additional prosperity to a very large number of peasants as against a comparatively small number likely to work on lands to be reclaimed. The Food Minister said he personally laid greater emphasis on this factor. When they planned for increased food production, they must see that those plans resulted in the greatest possible good to the greatest possible number. The question was not merely of growing all the food required, but of making our peasantry more prosperous in raising its standard of living. With this end in view, it was necessary that they produced from the land much more than they did at present whereby the country as a whole also gained.

The Food Minister continued that tube-well irrigation was the next factor before them. Government wanted to increase the irrigation facilities even in the existing acreage. There were many parts of the country where people depended entirely on rain. They had seen that the uncertainties of weather often created food crises in the country resulting in great losses to farmers. Hence the programme of tube-well was being expedited and the conference had to discuss the exact requirements of each Province and State.

The next important question was of fertilisers. Until their programme for increasing organic manure reached its goal and until India was able to produce the requisite quantity of chemical fertilisers, to be mixed with organic manure for achieving best results, they had to import chemical fertilisers for some time to come. This would enrich the existing areas under cultivation and would also be useful for the areas to be reclaimed.

Concluding, the Food Minister stressed the urgency of expediting the conclusion of data regarding the requirements of each Province and State in a business-like manner, so that through their united efforts, India may achieve self-sufficiency in food and the import of foreign foodgrains costing crores of rupees may be ended. A time may come, he felt, when Provinces and States should cease to look to the Centre in making up their food deficiencies. Such a time cannot be indicated now, but ultimately India will have to stop begging for food from Australia, America, Turkey, Iraq, Egypt, and other countries. He urged the representatives of Provinces and States to go back with the determination that within the next four years or so, they must complete the task of making the country completely self-sufficient in the matter of food and cease to be beggars before the world.

In the course of discussion that followed, it was explained that the loan from the International Monetary Bank could be utilized for importing the necessary machinery for reclaiming waste land, sinking tube-wells and importing fertilisers. On a rough calculation the Government of India anticipated that about six million acres of land would be available for reclamation. The area would yield after reclamation within five years or so, approximately two million tons of foodgrains which was about the size of India's annual imports of foodgrains from abroad.

Available Land

Representatives of the Provinces and States present at the conference were asked as to the availabilities of culturable waste land in their areas and the availabilities were found to be as follows:

Bombay: 10,30,000 acres of which at least 5 lakhs could be reclaimed with advantage;

Madras: 14 lakh acres;

East Punjab: Total 25 lakh acres, of which at least 5 lakh acres could be reclaimed;

East Punjab States: Total 0 lakh acres, of which 3 lakh acres are available for reclamation immediately;

Jaipur: About 75,000 acres;

Jodhpur: 17 lakh acres;
Rajasthan: 20 lakh acres;

Madhyabharat: total 44 lakh acres out of which 14 lakhs could be taken up immediately;

Bhopal: 8 lakh acres;
Vindhya Pradesh: total 48 lakh acres and
Hyderabad: 40 lakh acres.

In addition, the representatives of the Central Government who toured the C. P. and Orissa were, it is understood, told that C. P. could make available 10 lakh acres and Orissa 5 lakh acres. The U. P. had another ten lakh acres of land awaiting reclamation. The total area available for reclamation was, therefore, revealed to be about 200 lakhs acres.

The Provinces and States reacted enthusiastically to the proposals of the Central Government and agreed that reclamation work should be taken in hand immediately. Most of the Provinces and States present further agreed that the initial reclamation of land should be taken up by the Central Government since the Provinces and States had neither the machinery nor the technical personnel for this work.

Certain difficulties such as lack of adequate and speedy transport, the non-availability of necessary fuels such as high powor kerosene or diesel oil and the lack of technical personnel, were pointed out by some delegates to the Conference. It was explained that these problems were engaging the attention of the Central Government and that suitable remedies would be found by consideration of those problems at the highest level.

A questionnaire specifying the various points on which the Provinces and States would be called upon to furnish information was handed over to the delegates. Their attention was further drawn to a model plan of land reclamation contained in the report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. The Central Government further decided to circulate to the Provinces and States schemes drawn up by the C. P. and Orissa Government in consultation with the representatives of the Central Government.

Finally, the various steps which the Provinces and States would have to take to prepare plans which could be integrated into an All India plan of land reclamation, were explained in detail to the delegates. The various steps included overall surveys of blocks of land to be taken up over the next five years, fixing up priorities between these blocks so as to form a target for the five years, detailed survey of the area to be taken up in the first year, the staff required for survey work as well as actual reclamation and colonization of the area so reclaimed, the manner in which the cost of reclamation and colonization has to be worked out etc. It was emphasised that the final plans of the Provinces and States should reach the Government of India by the end of this month.

Tube-Well Projects

With regard to irrigation by tube-wells it was explained that there were certain areas such as the East Punjab, U. P. and Bihar where the presence of underground water was known with certainty and where the construction of tube-wells could proceed without any exploratory work. All that was necessary, was to draw up a programme of tube-well construction. In the other areas it would be necessary first to intensify work of exploration. The probable cost of constructing a tube-well as also the additional output of foodgrains, as a result of irrigation in this manner, were explained.

REDUCTION IN SUGAR PRICES

Since the Government of India announced their intention to reduce the sugar prices, this question has been engaging their attention. When sugar was de-controlled in December 1947, the controlled price of sugar which then was Rs. 20-14-0 per maund, was raised to Rs. 35-7-0 by the industry in consultation with the Provincial Governments of United Provinces and Bihar which are the two main sugar producing provinces. Simultaneously the sugarcane price was increased from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2-0-0 per maund. These prices have remained effective throughout 1948, the retail price of sugar generally being Rs. 0-5-0 to Re. 1-0-0 per seer.

It is agreed on all hands that the price of sugar was raised unduly high and in order to combat inflation it is necessary to reduce it. The price of sugar cannot, however, be reduced without reducing the price of cane. The question of revising the cane price, was therefore, recently considered by the Governments of United Provinces and Bihar and after taking into consideration the advice tendered to them by their Joint Sugar Control Board, they have decided to fix a price of Rs. 1-10-0 per maund for United Provinces and Rs. 1-13-0 per maund for Bihar in the ensuing crushing season against Rs. 2-0-0 per maund in 1947.

The Bihar Government have not considered it feasible to make a larger reduction in cane price lest it may affect the extent of sugarcane cultivation and the crush available to the Bihar sugar factories. Based on these cane prices, the two Provincial Governments have, after taking into account the advice given by the Joint Sugar Control Board, recommended to the Government of India an ex-factory price of Rs. 28-8-0 per maund for sugar against Rs. 35-7-0.

The Government of India have carefully examined these proposals with a view to see if further reduction in sugar price is possible. But considering the cane prices fixed, the rate at which the Provincial cane cess is levied, the increased minimum wage to labour which factories have been called upon to pay and the incressed cost of manufacture of sugar, a further reduction has not been considered practicable. The proposed price of Rs. 28-8-0 per maund also takes into account the existing stocks with the factories which were manufactured out of last season's cane purchased at a higher price. The Government of India have, therefore, decided to accept the recommendation of the Provincial Governments to stabilise the sugar prices in the country based on an ex-factory pooled price of Rs. 28-8-0 per maund for D24 grade sugar. At this price, the retail price of sugar should range between Rs. 0-12-0 to 0-13-0 per seer.

The Government of India would reiterate that it is not their intention to re-introduce statutory control over sugar unless circumstances force them to do so, and they would leave the industry free so to market their produce as to ensure that the effective prices of sugar throughout the country are not above those which the Government have considered reasonable. They trust that the Indian Sugar Syndicate which represents the United Provinces and Bihar sugar industry will co-operate with Government in giving effect to this price. The Government appreciate the co-operation which it has received from the industry in the past and hope that they will in view of the overall necessity of curbing inflation, continue to receive co-operation from the industry also in the future.

NEW GAME SANCTUARY IN U.P.

An area of 100 square miles of forest with natural boundaries in the Saharanpur Forest Division has been declared a game sanctuary and the United Provinces Government have obtained the Governor-General's permission to name it the Rajaji Sanctuary.

This Sanctuary is a stretch of forests to the west of the Shiwalik Ridge about eight miles to the south west of Dehra Railway Station. It is part of a block of forests reserved for Viceroys and Governor-General and their highranking guests for exclusive shikar.

The present Governor-General decided sometimes ago to convert an area well-defined by natural boundaries out of the reserve into a game sanctuary, and the United Provinces Government have taken the necessary steps and set apart the forest area known as Barkla East and Dolkhand West consisting of nearly 100 sq. miles as a close sanctuary.

The District had been heavily shot over and the fauna has been greatly depleted by reason of the use of modern weapons and indiscriminate killing. Still it is hoped that as a result of the establishment of this Sanctuary there will be a natural restoration in course of time. The fauna in the hill forests include elephants, tigers, leopards, black bear and deer and a wide variety of birds.

Mr. N. D. Chaturvedi, the Forest Conservator, is taking keen interest in making a success of this Sanctuary.

FRUIT DEVELOPMENT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

A proposal to put about 7,000 acres of unused forest land in the Himachal Pradesh which are estimated to produce approximately 10,000 tons of dry fruits, is under consideration of the Central Ministry of Agriculture. A recent survey of two tehsils in the Himachal Pradesh shows that the area is suitable for growing walnuts, almonds, apricots, raisins, chilgoza and grapes.

The scheme, when it materialises, will cover to a great extent, the fall in supply of dry fruits to India, which before partition India had been receiving through Pakistan.

FOURTH SESSION OF ECAFE

India's Support to Indonesia

THE Fourth Session of the ECAFE in its plenary session on November 30, 1948, unanimously accepted the Indian proposal that Nepal should be admitted to Associate Membership.

When the Indonesian membership question was taken up, Australia moved that the discussion be postponed to next session in view of delicate negotiations now going on in Jogjakarta. The Australian Delegate feared that those negotiations might be prejudiced by anything said at the ECAFE meeting. He also suggested that the Indonesian Republican Representative in Australia might be invited to attend the session as a guest of the Commission.

India opposed the Australian motion and stressed that it was unfair to the Republic to postpone the discussion unless the Republic itself wished it to be postponed. The Commission had no means of knowing the Republican Government's view as to whether their application should or should not be considered at this time. Merely to suggest a postponement till next session was to repeat the history of the last session.

India suggested that the Executive Secretary of ECAFE should ascertain from the Republican Government whether they wished the matter to be discussed or postponed until the Jogjakarta negotiations were over. Burma supported India's proposal. The U.K. and the Netherlands however, gave strong support to Australia, and emphasised the importance of the Jogjakarta negotiations.

Russian Support

The Russian Delegate wished to know whether Indonesia had requested postponement and whether the Indonesian application was still in force. When informed by the Executive Secretary that no such request had been received from Indonesia and that the application was still in force, the Russian Delegation took the view that there was no need for any fresh communication with the Republic and that the matter should be taken up in the present session.

It was ultimately decided in agreement with India, U.K., Australia and the Netherlands to adjourn the debate for a day or two so as to enable the parties to prepare an agreed draft resolution on the lines that the discussion be postponed till later in the session provided that if no communication is received from the Republic asking for a decision at this session, the matter should be postponed till the next session. If such a communication were received from the Republic, the issue would be considered and decided at this session.

Following is the text of the Resolution on Indonesian Republic's application for membership adopted by ECAFE at its meeting on December 1, 1948. (The Resolution was presented jointly by India, Australia, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands):

"The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, having considered the application by the Netherlands Government on behalf of the whole of Indonesia and the application of the Indonesian Republic for Associate Membership on the Commission, and being desirous that nothing should be done to prejudice the negotiations now taking place between the Governments of the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republic;

"Resolves that consideration of both applications be postponed until December 8, provided that, if no Delegation at the express wish of one of the applicants requests on or before that date, that the application should be considered at this session, consideration of both applications should stand postponed until the next session;

"Resolves further that, in the latter event this matter should be taken up for final decision at the session of the Commission to be held in the first half of 1949."

LEBANON PRESIDENT THANKS RAJAJI

In reply to a telegram from His Excellency the Governor-General of India on the occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Lebanon on November 26, the President of the Republic has sent the following message;

"Much moved by the wishes Your Excellency kindly sent me on the occasion of the National Day. I request you to be kind enough to accept my thanks and my wishes for your personal happiness and for that of your noble people. Bechara Khalil el Khoury."

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RUMANIA

In order to strengthen the friendly relations existing between them, the Governments of India and the Popular Republic of Rumania have decided to establish diplomatic relations at legation level.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY'S EXHIBITS IN CONGRESS SESSION

A number of sections of the Central Ministry of Agriculture held demonstrations, display charts posters, photographs and exhibits dealing with agricultural subjects at the Congress Exhibition which opened at Jaipur on December 14. Only subjects of practical value to the Indian cultivator in the context of existing conditions and his limited economy were included in the exhibition.

Demonstrations under the dairy section included among other items, methods of clean milk production, the handling and care of milk by individual producers and the better utilisation of milk, its products and by-products.

Arrangements were also made to show improved types of fodder suitable for the Jaipur area under irrigated and non-irrigated conditions, balanced rations for different types of cattle, silage and hay making from crops commonly grown under local conditions, and specimens of cattle from local *goshalas* to demonstrate the results of good management.

The All India Cattle Show Committees organised a cattle show, at which in addition to a few specimens of general utility cattle, there were exhibits of sheep, goats and camels.

Palm Gur

The section dealing with the preparation of palm gur had exhibits of palm *gur*, sugar and sugar candy and the tools used for tapping different types of palms, collected from the provinces where palm gur development schemes are in operation. Demonstrations were held to show methods of preserving *neera* (palm juice) the manufacture of different types of palm *gur*, its utility for sweets usually made from sugarcane gur, and the manufacture of sugar in the villages through hand power.

Other subjects included in the exhibition were methods of preparing fruit and vegetable preserves such as jams, squashes and pickles, the analysis of foodgrains, the application of research conducted at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to the needs of the ordinary cultivator; the causes and methods of controlling diseases and pests of plants; models of different types of grain storage; improved methods of compost manufacture from different types of urban and rural wastes and the working of the improved "Wardha" *ghani*.

The Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, supplied 300 transmission poles of treated timber for the power lines at the exhibition.

POONA CATTLE SHOW POSTPONED

Owing to the prevalence of famine conditions in Gujrat, the Western Regional Cattle Show which was to be held in Poona during the first week of January 1949 has been postponed to 1950. All the breeds of cattle and sheep which were to be exhibited at the Poona Cattle Show, will now be exhibited at the All-India Cattle Show to be held at Rajghat, Delhi, from February 28 to March 5, 1949. The entries for this show will close on January 28, 1949.



The pipe band of No. 4 Animal Transport Company, RIASC., marching past during Zoji La day Celebrations on December 7

FIRST ZOJI LA DAY CELEBRATED

The crack Indian Cavalry Regiment, 7 Light Cavalry, which on November 1 made history by breaking through the Zoji La Pass with tanks over an altitude of 12,000 feet, have decided to celebrate its unprecedented achievement on December 7, every year. The first 'Zoji La Day' was celebrated on December 7 last.

The celebrations took the form of a programme of sports and an open-air lunch. Among the sports items were pony races, which hundreds of people witnessed. The guests of honour were Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, Prime Minister of Kashmir, and Major-General K. S. Thimayya, Commander, Indian troops in Kashmir.

Among the trophies given away by Sheikh Abdullah were cups presented by Lt.-Gen. K.M. Cariappa, a memmoth challenge cup by Sheikh Abdullah himself, cups by Lt.-Gen. S.M. Shrinagesh, Maj.-Gen. Thimayya, Major-Gen. J.N. Chaudhuri, Maj.-Gen. Tara Singh Bahl, and the Commandant of the unit, Lt.-Col. Rajendra Singh, all suitably inscribed and commemorating the unit's epic feat at Zoji La.



Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, (second from right) accompanied by his little daughter and Lt.-Col. Rajinder Singh from right) accompanied with the trophies contributed by him and other high ranking photographed officers of the Indian Army during Zoji La Day Celebrations

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The E.F.M. telegraphic service, which was introduced for the benefit of members of the Armed Forces during the war, will be discontinued from January 1, 1949, says a Press Note issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs on December 14, 1948.

LT.-GEN. CARIAPPA TO BE C.-in-C.

THE Government of India have appointed Lt.-General K. M. Cariappa, O. B. E., G.O.C.-in-C. Western Command to succeed General Sir F. R. R. Bucher, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., as Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army. Lt.-General Cariappa will take over his new appointment on January 15, 1949, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Defence.

Life Sketch

Lieutenant General K. M. Cariappa the first Indian Commander-in-Chief is the senior most Indian Officer of the Indian Army.

Born on January 28, 1900, in Mercara, Coorg in South India, he received his education in the Central High School at Mercara and Presidency College, Madras. At College he was an excellent sports man, played hockey, cricket and tennis. Among the first batch of Indian cadets to be commissioned from Daly College, Indore, in December 1919, he was in Mesapotamia from 1920 to 1922 as Adjutant of the 2-125th Napier Rifles and in Waziristan with the 1/17th Dogras and the 1/7th Rajputs from 1922 to 1925. He was the first Indian Officer to enter the Staff College, Quetta in 1933.

In 1935, he visited the Singapore Naval Base after which he spent a period touring the U. P. villages dealing with the welfare of ex-Servicemen. In October 1938, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General, Deccan District, the first Indian Officer to hold a Grade II appointment. In 1939 he was Brigade Major, Khojak Brigade, later known as 20th Indian Infantory Brigade.

Serving with the 10th Indian Division, he saw service in Iraq, Syria, and Iran from April 1941 to March 1942. While in Iraq, he served under Major-General Slim (later General Sir William Slim, 14th Army Commander).

As Lieutenant Colonel, raised to that rank in April 1942, he commanded till March 1943, a machine-gun battalion of the 7th Rajput Regiment, thus becoming the first Indian to command a battalion. In March 1943, he was appointed Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General, Eastern Army, and in July he went to the Arakan as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster General, 26th Indian Division.

In November 1944, he was appointed Member of the Army Reorganisation Committee, in which capacity he toured the United States and Canada and conferred with high-ranking American Officers. On the basis of his study, he submitted his recommendations on the methods of Indian Army training. A Brigadier at that time, he was the first Indian of this rank to visit the United States.

On the conclusion of the Committee's work, he took over command of the Bannu Frontier Group. Early in 1946 he visited England as one of the first two Indian students at the Imperial



Lt.-Gen. K. M. Cariappa

Defence College. He was called back from the U. K. to serve as a Member on the Army Sub-Committee of the Armed Forces Reconstitution Committee. In July 1947, he was promoted to the rank of Major-General. For a brief period he was Chief of the General Staff.

In November 1947 came his appointment as G.O.C.-in-Chief, Eastern Command, General Cariappa succeeded Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Tuker, thus becoming the first Indian Officer to become an Army Commander. He was raised to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

Associated with the Indian Army for over a quarter of a century, General Cariappa has had wide experience of staff work and command. He has travelled widely. As a Subaltern he made a world tour, and also visited Japan, with the object of studying the organisation and training of foreign armies. His hobby is stamp collecting.

Early in 1948, he relinquished his post as G.O.C.-in-Chief, Eastern Command, and succeeded Lieutenant-General Russel as G.O.C.-in-Chief D.E.P. Command, which has since been designated Western Command.

Officially opening the "Cariappa Hall" on December 4, 1948, which houses the Western Command Signals Office in "F" Block in New Delhi, Lt.-Gen. K. M. Cariappa, G.O. C.-in-Chief, Western Command, congratulated the officers and men of the Signals Regiment for the commendable work done by them during the past year.

They deserved high praise, he said, for their achievements in maintaining communications under very difficult conditions in Kashmir. He was confident that they would keep up the high standard of communications as it now existed.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

MORE than 150 Cadets of the Senior Division of the National Cadet Corps paraded for the first time in Delhi on December 7 before Major-General Tara Singh Bahl, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, at Qudsia Gardens near Kashmiri Gate.

In a brief address, General Bahl complimented the staff and the students at the good progress made in a short period of about three months. He was pleased that in addition to their normal studies in colleges, students were devoting their leisure for military training and this sacrifice on their part, General Bahl said, will not only benefit them individually but also the country.

Explaining the aims and objects of the National Cadet Corps, Gen. Bahl said, the training imparted, among other things, is designed to develop character in the youth and provide basic military training. He added that the National Cadet Corps had three divisions—Senior Division (for college students) and two Junior Divisions, one for school boys and the other for girls. It was also proposed to raise shortly the Naval and the Air Force wings of the corps.

Finally, Gen. Bahl appealed to the students to cultivate the spirit of service, tolerance, devotion to duty and comradeship which, the General emphasised, are the essentials of a good citizen. Military training, he said, was the basis of training for the acquisition of these essentials.

At the march-past, Major-General Tara Singh Bahl took the salute.

NEW NAMES FOR R.I.N. DESTROYERS

The three destroyers, ROTHERHAM (Flotilla leader), REDOUBT and RAIDER, whose acquisition by the Government of India was announced earlier, will be renamed RAJPUT (Flotilla leader) RANJIT and RANA respectively, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence. The destroyers will assume their new names at the time of the actual transfer to the Royal Indian Navy early next year.

Rightly termed "Maids of all work" of the Navy, the destroyers have tremendous power and speed and striking potential in the form of the deadly torpedo and other weapons. The modern destroyer not only accompanies the battle fleet to press home attacks on the enemy during action, but also performs such multifarious duties as forming anti-submarine screens for the fleet, submarine hunts, escort of merchant ships in convoy and a great deal of patrol work.

These destroyers were built in 1942 and have each a displacement of over 1,700 tons. Their armament consists of four 4.7 inch guns, four 2 pounder pom-poms, eight 20-mm guns, 8.21-inch torpedo tubes besides the most up-to-date radar equipment and anti-submarine devices. The terrific power of these vessels is derived from Parsons geared turbines capable of a shaft H. P. of 40,000 and a speed of over 36 knots.



Indian Sappers and Miners laying the foundations of one of their major bridge-building achievements in Kashmir

Indian Army Engineers' Achievements in Kashmir

CONSTRUCTION of a motorable road running over cliffs 12,000 feet above sea-level, many well-heated and snow-and-shell proof huts in areas once regarded inaccessible and an up-to-date underground hospital are some of the achievements of Indian Army Engineers in this beautiful land of Kashmir, writes an Army Observer.

Only when the full story of the road to Zoji La is written will the achievements of the Indian Sappers and Miners under difficult conditions, be revealed. Besides the laying and sweeping of mines, the Sappers and Miners had t. build suspension bridges, lay booby traps for the enemy and fill culverts all along the roads. They also built airfields and airstrips in areas hitherto unapproachable.

Work in Different Sectors

The following account of the work done by our Engineers in different sectors of the Kashmir front will give an idea of their contribution to the successes gained by the Indian Army :—

Zoji La Sector: The road here is a standing testimony to the efficiency of our Engineers. In the face of heavy enemy shell-fire the Sappers worked either at night or during snowfall when the raiders could not get a clear view of vulnerable areas. More than a dozen wooden bridges, two of them at a height of 11,200 feet, were put up during heavy shelling from enemy howitzers, light machine-guns and morters. Our Engineers experienced considerable difficulty in this construction work as they did not have compressor machinery and equipment. At one place, the sappers had to cut across a rocky mountain to avoid a huge glacier.

Uri Sector :—A field company put up bridges from 30 to 40 feet long, one such bridge being at night, within two hours, while enemy artillery firing was going on. In forward areas Sappers often operate at heights ranging from 7,000 to 9,000 feet.

A novel feature up here is an underground snow-and-shell proof hospital equipped with a heating system and all possible modern amenities. Work has also been taken in hand here to build winter huts which will be snow-and-splinter proof and have heating equipment.

Tithwal Sector:—Here prefobricated huts are being put up as also 200 snow-and-splinter proof huts. A new motorable road has been built running over 10,200 feet high hills.

RESETTLING DISPLACED CANTONMENT FUND SERVANTS

In order to facilitate quicker resettlement of those displaced Cantonment Fund Servants who, after migration from Pakistan, have not so far been able to secure employment under any Cantonment Board in India, the Government of India have decided to compile a list of such servants in the office of the Director of Military Lands and Cantonment, Ministry of Defence, Kashmir House, New Delhi.

Accordingly each of the persons affected is required to submit to the said officer a statement mentioning full particulars, including age and educational qualifications, the period of service rendered, the designation of the post held substantively and the salary last drawn. Each statement is to be accompanied by a declaration about the correctness of the details furnished.

EXERCISE "SEARCH" FOR TALENT

EXERCISE "SEARCH"—the first exercise to be held by the Indian Army since the partition—opened on December 14, 1948 at Army Headquarters, India, New Delhi. General Sir Roy Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, opened the exercises. Almost all the senior officers of the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force including Lieut.General K.M. Cariappa, the Commander-in-Chief designate, Indian Army, and Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Indian Air Force, Lieut.-General Rajendra Sinhji, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, Lieut.-General S.M. Shrinagesh, five Corps Commanders, Air-Vice-Marshal S. Mukherjee, Deputy Air Commander, RIAF., and Major-General Kalwant Singh, Chief of the General Staff, Indian Army, attended the exercise.

In his opening address, the Commander-in-Chief emphasised that the exercise had no political significance and said that the first exercise held by the new Indian Army had been appropriately called exercise "SEARCH"—as it was a search for knowledge as well as talent for the future.

Interesting Programme

An interesting programme for the day included an opening narrative by Major-General J. H. Wilkinson, Director of Military Training, who briefly explained the course of the exercise, which was supplemented by a review of the Air Force's part in the operations by Group Captain Arjun Singh, Director of Training, Air Headquarters, and a lecture by Professor Rosinski, a Specialist on Military Strategy who is in India on the special invitation of the Government of India.

Later in the afternoon India's Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, addressed the officers attending the exercise.

Exercise "Search" which continued for five days consisted of addresses, playlets and problems. Addresses were given by members of the directing staff on subjects included in the exercises and by Guest Lecturers on subjects dealing with various aspects of the science in war.

Playlets emphasised the salient points in the exercise.

Continuing Exercise "Search" at Army Headquarters, India, at New Delhi, for the second day, an outline plan for an operation was discussed on December 15, 1948. Maintenance and air-support for forces in an operation and the tactical employment of specialised armour were also discussed. A lecture was given by Professor Rosinski, a specialist on Military Strategy.

Earlier the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, addressed the officers attending the conference.

The five-day exercise-"Exercise Search" concluded on December 18.

In his concluding address, Gen. Sir Roy Bucher, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, paid a tribute to Major-General J.H. Wilkinson, Director of Military Training, and his staff for the efficient manner in which the exercise was planned and conducted.

Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst, Commander-in-Chief RIAF also spoke to the officers and offered valuable remarks on the exercise from the Air Force aspect.

Earlier in the day Lt.-Gen. K.M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief designate Indian Army, addressed the officers.

WOOLLEN GARMENTS FOR KASHMIR TROOPS

For the benefit of troops fighting in Jammu and Kashmir, mass knitting of woollen goods has been organised in Delhi Cantonment under the auspices of the Cantonment branch of the Armed Forces Welfare Ladies' Committee. One hundred pieces of woollen goods, including pull-overs, Balaclava Caps, gloves socks and mufflers, were sent in November last for troops serving in Jammu and Kashmir, and 150 more pieces will soon be ready for despatch before the middle of December last.

Every Thursday morning wives of Officers in Delhi Cantonment assemble at the Flag Staff House, residence of the G. O. C. Delhi Area, Under the personal supervision of Mrs. Tara Singh Bahl, wife of the G. O. C. and President of the Branch, the ladies undertake a two-hour knitting of different varieties of woollen garments.

Besides knitting for troops in Kashmir the Members of the Cantonment Branch have a wide range of activities. The ladies go to different Military Hospitals thrice a week and supervise the cooking for patients and assist in nursing. They also distribute sweets to patients, teach them the art of knitting, help them in writing letters to their relatives and give them books and magazines.

The Committee also runs on certain allotted days a canteen in Delhi Railway Station, which is also managed by the armed Forces welfare Ladies Committee.

Numerous airmail letters continue to be received in Pakistan from India insufficiently pre-paid. This practice causes inconvenience and annoyance to the addressee, and in case of non-acceptance by the latter results in the correspondence being returned to the sender, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs on December 11, 1948.

It added: Correspondents are, therefore, requested to ascertain from their local post offices the correct surcharge on airmail letters intended for Pakistan. For information of the public, the airmail surcharge for letters, packets and newspapers is 1½ As. per tola and for post cards 9 pies, in addition to the ordinary inland postage prescribed for such articles. For instance, a letter to Pakistan weighing 1 tola will require stamps of 3 As. value and not 2½ As.

CAMBRAI BATTLE ANNIVERSARY

The heroic exploits of the Indian mounted-soldiers in France in World War I were recalled at Ambala on November 30 and December, when the 2nd Royal Lancers, then a cavalry unit but now a full-fledged armoured regiment, celebrated the "Cambrai' Day.

The Cambrai action in France in World War I resulted in the capture by the Allies of a strategic German position. As a result of a powerful German counter-thrust a wedge was driven into the Allied infantry line into which two Indian cavalry divisions were thrown in to stem the tide of the German column. The Indian cavalrymen penetrating into the German wedge made a charge through the valley strongly held by German troops and infested with their machine-guns. Cambrai was thus added to the already long list of the regiments' battle honours.

Tradition always plays a prominent part in keeping up the morals and pride of the Indian Army, and this was once again honoured by the present inheritors of the distinction won by the regiment at Cambrai 31 years ago. Cambrai is also remembered as the site of one of the greatest tank battles of the last war.

The first day of the celebrations was observed as a holiday by the Lancers, the programme including a sports meet at which Lt.-Gen. K. M. Cariappa, G. O. C.-in-C., Western Command, presided, a tea party and a reception at the Officers' Mess. There was a 'Barra-Khana' of the entire mechanised regiment on the second day.

SETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICE-MEN'S PENSION CLAIMS

Pension claims of over 500 ex-Servicemen were recently examined in Kurukshetra and Jammu Refugee Camp by Liaison Officers of the Defence Services Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation and representatives of the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions).

Pensioners who produced their pension certificates were authorised provisional payment of pensions on the spot. In over 300 cases where individuals were not in possession of pension certificates, they were assisted in completing their application forms for the grant of provisional pension and the forms were sent to the Postmasters concerned for verification and to Regimental Centres for authorising payment after verification.

Widows and children were also contacted and their claims for family pension examined. Steps are being taken to expedite grant of family pension to eligible heirs in such cases.

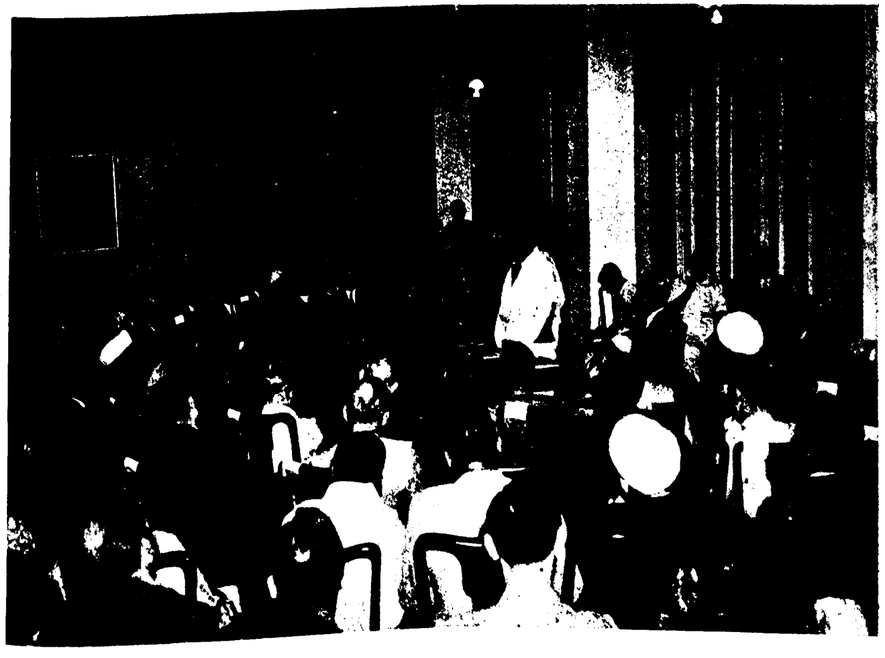
In order to give the maximum possible help to pensioners, similar teams of Audit and Relief and Rehabilitation Liaison Officers will visit other refugee camps to examine the pension claims of ex-servicemen or their dependents.

In the meanwhile displaced pensioners in East Punjab are advised to contact Defence Services Relief and Rehabilitation Officers at Jullundur, Gurdaspur, Ambala, Ferozepore and Hissar.



GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO CALCUTTA

H.E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, receiving the Degree of Doctor of Laws from Dr. Kailash Nath Katju, the Chancellor of Calcutta University and Governor of West Bengal on November 30, during his recent visit to Calcutta. (Below) The Governor-General addressing the West Bengal Chamber of Commerce at Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta





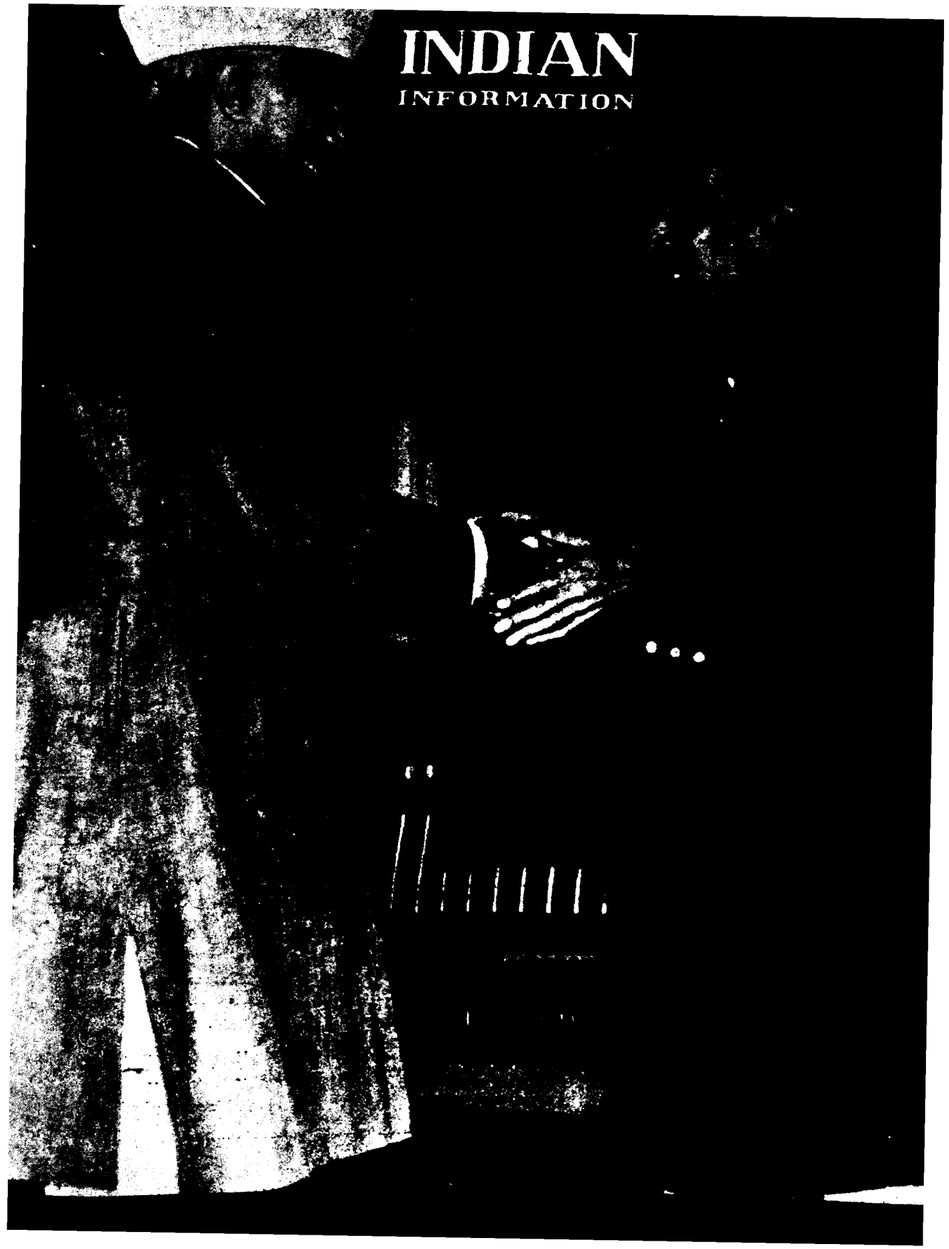
PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, inspecting Cadet Companies at the Passing Out Parade of the Indian Military Academy, during his recent visit to Dehra Dun.

Eighty-two cadets comprising the first batch of University Graduates Course after completion of their training joined the Commissioned ranks of the Indian Army on December 9. The ceremony of the Passing Out Parade was attended among others by Sardar Baldev Singh, India's Defence Minister, Vice Admiral Parry, C.-in-C., R.I.N., Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst; C.-in-C., R.I.A.F., the Maharaja of Patiala and Maj.-Gen. Kalwant Singh. (Left) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru shaking hands with Cadet Ved Prakash after presenting him with a silver medal for being the best cadet of 1948.

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Sardar Baldev Singh, India's Defence Minister, and Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister of East Punjab, inspecting vegetables grown at Birla Farm during their recent visit to Pilani. Mr. G. D. Birla is on Sardar Baldev Singh's left

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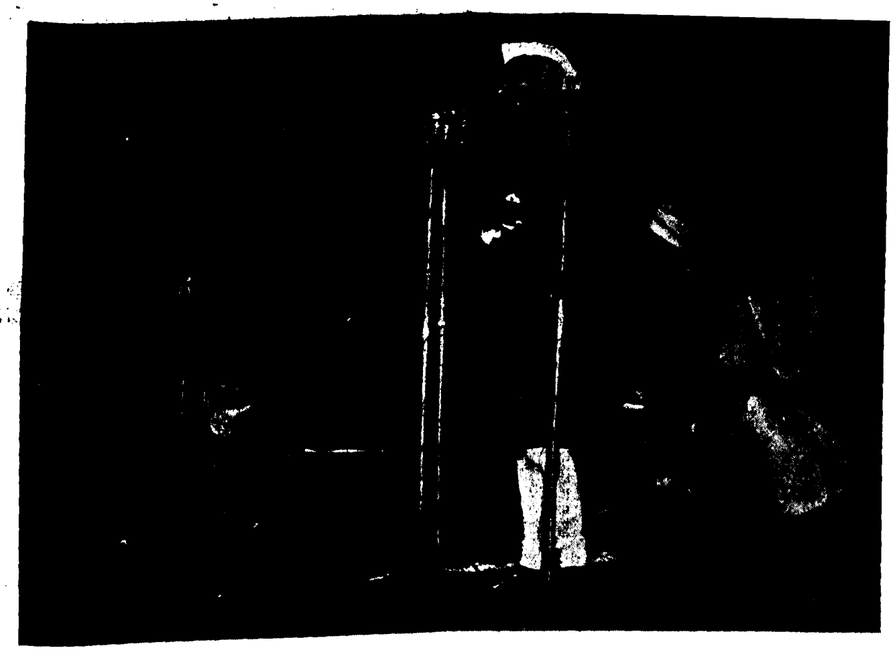
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Cover Picture : H. E. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad welcoming the Prime Minister of India at 'King Kothi' during the latter's visit to Hyderabad.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India inaugurating the Silver Jubilee Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission at Delhi University on December 23

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Pandit Nehru's Inaugural Address At Silver Jubilee Session

"I HOPE that this Historical Records Commission and the eminent historians associated with it who will collect material or write papers and essays and books on it, will always try to think of two things. One is that they should not write always for their brother historians only. There are other people also outside their charmed circle who ought to be approached. I say this, because the average technical or scientific paper is so very much meant, or at any rate it looks as if it was meant for the charmed circle of people who are interested in a specifically narrow aspect of a particular question that it loses all interest for the wider public," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, inaugurating the Silver Jubilee session of the Indian Historical Records Commission at Delhi University on December 23, 1948.

Following is the full text of Pandit Nehru's speech :

I have come here to offer you on behalf of the Government of India a cordial welcome. As a Government we are naturally interested in many activities and as a Prime Minister I have to function on many stages and to say something on a variety of subjects. But I rather doubt if any subject would interest me more to listen to and sometimes even to speak on than the subject of history. I confess that being myself an amateur I feel a little overwhelmed when I meet a multitude of experts. Nevertheless, perhaps, even an amateur has a place in the scheme of things and sometimes perhaps he may see the wood a little more and not be lost in the individual trees which an expert is apt to do.

Now we talk of history. People, I suppose, have numerous ways of thinking and looking at history. But whatever way you may have, whatever approach you may have, whether it is the old and completely out-of-date approach of a record of the doings of kings and battles and the like or of social and economic progress or of cultural progress or the development of humanity as a whole, whether it is the history of a single country or a nation or it is viewed in the context of world history as it naturally must be, inevitably the basis of all that is an accumulation of facts and records and data. Otherwise one simply builds one's idea of history on improvised knowledge without any accurate data. Therefore a Historical Records Commission is most essential for the building up of a proper history. This Historical Records Commission which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year and on this occasion is to be congratulated on the work it has done in the past and on the work which I hope it is going to do with even greater fervour in the future.

Now I do not know what many of you feel when you think about a historical subject. For my part I feel tremendously fascinated and interested in the subject of history and my mind begins to wander a little trying to think of this long sweep and trying to draw not only interest but inspiration or knowledge or understanding or all of them. I do not know if one always succeeds in getting that inspiration from it as a whole; one does sometimes find other aspects of it which are far from inspiring. In any event one has to go back to it to understand the present and to try to understand what the future ought to be. They say that history never repeats itself. I suppose that is true. Nevertheless, to understand anything



Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh, Commanding Indian Army Troops in Jammu Province, congratulates Brig. Yadunath Singh and his staff officers on the successful termination of operations near Mendhar in Kashmir. Brig. Pritam Singh is on extreme right

HEROIC DEFENCE OF POONCH

THE defence of Poonch will go down in history as one of the most outstanding achievements of free India's Army and Air Force. It is a story of courage, endurance and grim tenacity of purpose, shown in the face of what often appeared to be overwhelming odds, writes an Army Observer.

Poonch was held by Jammu and Kashmir State forces when on November 21, 1947, Lt.-Col. (now Brigadier) Pritam Singh led the Kumaonis to Poonch from Uri. Short of equipment and outnumbered, the State forces withdrew, in the face of the enemy, from Muzaffarabad, Rawalkot, Bagh and Palandri. Poonch city then had 40,000 refugees. The only bridge connecting the town had been blown up by the State forces and the Kumaonis had not been able to bring with them all their equipment.

Brig. Pritam Singh's first task was to establish means of communication with our forces on the Jammu front for the maintenance of his battalion. An effort was made to make a diversion near the destroyed bridge 14 miles away, but as hostile pressure had already considerably increased, the attempt had to be given up.

A Besieged City

Poonch was now a besieged city and our garrison there looked to the Air Force as the only hope. But Poonch had no airstrip. Brig. Pritam Singh appealed to the refugees for help and they responded magnificently to his call. Six thousands volunteers, men, women and children, worked feverishly day and night and, within a week, constructed some sort of a landing ground.

Air Vice-Marshal Mukerjee and Air Commodore Mehar Singh landed the first aircraft—a Beechcraft—at Poonch on December 8. Four days later, the first Dakota made a landing there, and as the R. I. A. F. started "Poonching"—bringing in urgently needed supplies and flying back with refugees. Among the first things they brought was a battery of mountain-guns.

Brig. Pritam Singh was placed in charge of the Poonch garrison, and the first task that engaged his attention was to clear the enemy from areas close to the city so that civilians could move about with safety. He put up picquets all round the city. But enemy pressure had now increased enormously and it became clear that he was intent on making an all-out effort to reduce Poonch.

Enemy Offensive

A Gurkha battalion was flown to Poonch in February last year to reinforce the garrison, while Brig. Pritam Singh organised able-bodied local men, including ex servicemen, into militia units. The enemy offensive abated for a while, but obviously the raiders during this period of lull had regrouped themselves to make another bid to annihilate our beleaguered forces. The enemy mounted four or five attacks simultaneously but the stubborn Indians held him back with the help of supplies flown to them by our aircraft. Not a single picquet was overrun.

The Poonch battle took a turn for the worse when the enemy, for the first time since the invasion of the State, used 3.7 Howitzers in March. With the hostiles in possession of mountain guns, the airfield came under heavy shell-fire and the garrisons' aerial link with our forces was snapped. It was then decided to put field-guns into battle for counter-battery work, and the R.I.A.F. running the risk of enemy shell-fire, landed 25 pounders on March 21. Brig. Pritam Singh, who had himself gone to the airfield to meet the pilots, was wounded in the leg by an enemy shell, but he carried on.



Brig. Pritam Singh presenting a rifle captured from a hostile] during the Kashmir operations to Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh after the commemoration parade recently held at Poonch

With the help of 25-pounders, Brig. Pritam Singh decided to push the enemy guns out of range of the airstrip and launched an attack in the third week of April. Kheri Dharamshal village was taken, and with the extension of the perimeter, the Dakotas, which had not been able to land since March 17, started "Poonching" again from the beginning of May.

Meanwhile, thousands of refugees had been evacuated from Poonch by air. Still there was not sufficient food for the rest and raids were made into enemy-held territory with the object of procuring grain for the starving population. Despite its daily encounters with the enemy, the garrison spared no pains in protecting the refugees. Our troops voluntarily gave away part of their own rations to the refugees and handed over their entire milk ration to the 6,000 children that were there. Tinned milk and rations for refugees were also sent by the Western Command and the Government of India, while Army doctors in Poonch worked day and night combating diseases among the civilians.

Position Stabilised

In the month of June, an Indian column from Rajauri and another from Poonch linked up at Potha, which had the effect of demoralising the enemy, who refrained from making any attempts on the coveted city for some time. The lull however, did not last long, and in August the enemy made the most determined attack yet. He had brought up field, mountain and anti-tank guns for use against the garrison, and in the last week of that month attacked 'Tetrinat' ridge in brigade strength. Although the ridge was held by just one company of our troops, the attack was beaten off and a counter-attack stabilised the position.

Since then the enemy has not made any large-scale frontal attack. Putting his field-guns in different positions, he has been occasionally shelling the airfield in the hope of starving the garrison into surrender. Once again, from the beginning of September, the airfield was unsafe for aircraft and except for a few landings by Harvards the Dakotas could only drop supplies. Thanks to the R. I. A. F. the enemy failed again.

It was ultimately decided to establish a permanent land link with Poonch, and this was done by a force under the command of Major-General Atma Singh. The capture of the Salotri ridge has made the airfield safe for transport planes.

SHORT-SERVICE COMMISSIONS IN DENTAL CORPS

The Government of India have decided to give short-service regular commissions in the Indian Army Dental Corps to civilian dental surgeons as also to released emergency commissioned officers of the I. A. D. C.

According to the conditions for eligibility for these commissions, a candidate must not be more than 45 years of age and should possess registrable dental qualifications under Section 10 of the Dentist Act, 1948.

Applications are to be addressed to the Adjutant-General's Branch, Medical Directorate, Army H. Q., New Delhi.

Dras Valley Returns to Normal: Efforts To Overcome Food Scarcity

A log of wood is more precious to Indian troops in the forlorn valley of Matayan than a packet of cigarettes, and any visitor to Mateyan is first confronted with the persistent inquiry, "Have you brought some wood with you," writes an Army Observer, who shared the hard life of the troops in this part of the Ladakh Valley.

Nowhere in Kashmir is wood so scarce and vital for keeping body and soul together as it is at Matayan. From Zoji La to Matayan, a distance of 14 miles, one cannot see a single blade of grass. It is a problem for the Army to maintain regular supplies of fuel through this rugged country to enable the troops to prepare their daily food and keep themselves warm, particularly when they have to spend the night under the open sky at a place where the night temperature falls 20 degrees below the freezing point.

Troops at Matayan have to burn empty ammunition boxes to prepare tea or cook food when the supply of fuel runs short. From Baltal to Machhoi there were very few houses seen with roofs, the enemy having utilised the ceiling beams as fuel.

Fortunately for Indian troops the enemy left behind 3,000 maunds of wood at Dras when he was driven out from there. There are still 225 big trees in the five-mile-long valley, which Indian troops want to preserve.

This beautiful valley, with its tiny hamlets scattered here and there, was ransacked during enemy occupation, but has now returned to normal. The villagers have come back to their respective homes and taken possession of whatever little they were left with but the scars of the raiders' atrocities are writ large on the faces of these famished people.

When they overran the valley, the raiders did not maintain any line of communication with their base for supplies of foodstuffs. Without any regard for the economic condition of the people, they indulged in indiscriminate pillage and plunder and took away everything that they could lay their hands on. When Indian troops entered the valley, about 5,000 villagers had only eight maunds of wheat and a few maunds of pulses left with them. Some of the villagers had not eaten for days together.

Gulam Rasool, 'lambardar' of Dras, led a deputation to the Commander of Indian troops and asked for work. He said he had succeeded in persuading the people to remain in their villages and start life afresh. Many villagers, he said, were willing to serve as porters.

SUPPLIES FOR INDIAN TROOPS IN KASHMIR

Maintaining a regular flow of supplies to our frontline troops in Kashmir has been a tough task for the Indian Army, especially on account of the adverse conditions of weather and the ruggedness of the country, writes an Army Observer.

Every man firing a rifle requires seven men to clothe and feed him. Behind the troops fighting in the forward areas there is a gallant band working ceaselessly to procure all the necessities of life and carry them to the frontline. Essential commodities are carried to forward areas, like Kargil, Gurais, Keren, Tithwal and Pir Panjal, by trucks, jeeps, ponies and porters. With the progress of our troops, supplies are also pushed forward and, owing to limited resources at our Command, it is often hard to keep pace with the fast-moving forces.

Supplies by Air

R. I. A. S. C., the supply organisation of the Army, has not only to secure food for our troops but also to make arrangements for every other conceivable thing intended for their daily use in areas where nothing is available. When our troops marched from Matayan to Dras in November, each soldier tied a log of wood on his back because there is great scarcity of fuel in this region.

Where jeeps cannot go, supplies are carried on mules, but there are also areas where even mules cannot reach. There are pockets between our posts which are sometimes cut off by snow-covered hills, and these have to be supplied entirely by air. Reinforcements, clothings and ammunition to Leh and, until recently, to Tithwal and Poonch have had to be flown. In some cases, supplies have to be sent not only for our troops, but also for the liberated half-starved local population.

To add to the hardships of our troops, severe conditions prevail in some of the semi-Arctic regions of Kashmir, where casualties due to extreme cold are not uncommon. Well-equipped medical posts have therefore to be maintained everywhere.

The Delhi Telephone Advisory Committee at its meeting on December 13 restored 6 telephone connections which were disconnected during the 'Quit India' movement of 1942 and recommended 3 new ones. These, excepting two, will be implemented after the commencement of the working of the Connaught Place Exchange next month.

A number of applications were postponed for consideration till the operation of the new equipment at Connaught Place Exchange.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari addressing the Special Convocation of Muslim University at Aligarh on December 15

"PREACH GOSPEL OF FREE ENQUIRY"

Governor-General's Address to Aligarh University Convocation

A memorable day in the history of Aligarh University was the visit of the Governor-General on December 15. His Excellency who arrived by train from Delhi was received at the station by His Highness the Nawab of Rampur, Pro-Chancellor, the Nawab Saheb of Chatari, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Vice-Chancellor and heads of departments of the University and other officials.

University students in formal black *achkan* stood at road junctions and guided the Governor-General's car as it drove in and out of the University buildings on a tour of inspection. Approaching the main buildings, members of the Riding Squad in their long green tunics and *pugrees* took over and provided a mounted escort. At the Mosque, His Excellency paid homage to the memory of the Founder of the University, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, and the former Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

Then marching in procession with His Highness the Nawab of Rampur, Dr. Zakir Hussain and members of the University Court in their long academic robes of red and blue and red fez, His Excellency reached the steps of the Strachey Hall where a great ovation preceded him.

As the procession moved down the hall, the crowded Convocation packed with students and distinguished visitors and ladies rose and wave after wave of cheer ran from one end of the hall to another until he procession reached the dais. Among the distinguished visitors were the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, Dr. Lo Chia-luen, the Iranian Ambassador, Monsieur Ali Motamedy, and the Turkish Ambassador, Monsieur Ali Turk Geldi.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari who was presented with the Degree of Doctor of Laws at the Special Convocation, then replied to the address of the Court of the Aligarh University. He said :

I thank you for your words of welcome. I thank you for the great honour you have done me by conferring on me the highest gift in your possession.

You have rightly reminded yourselves and the scholars of the University of the share of responsibility that rests on this University of moulding the ideas and shaping the personalities of the citizens of India.

My Government and I will do everything in our power to enable you to perform your functions in a worthy manner. There is no doubt that this University has a very particular and important role to play in the advancement of culture and education in India.

The Aligarh University was born out of the movement which had as its object the turning of the mind of Islam in India towards modern light and culture. You have quoted the words of the founders wherein the hope was expressed that the sons of Aligarh might go forth through out the length and breadth of the land to preach the gospel of free inquiry, large-hearted tolerance and of pure morality. There can be no better platform for united endeavour on the part of all citizens in India than the platform of free inquiry and large-hearted mutual understanding and uprightness of conduct.

The first graduate of the College was a Hindu. From its very start the Aligarh College was open to all classes and creeds. This is a fact which cannot be too often repeated and which should be kept continually before friends as well as detractors.

I welcome your impatience for development. It has become difficult to get money allotted by the Government of India even for the best of causes on account of a number of unavoidable circumstances, but a great deal can be done by men moved by earnestness of purpose much more than is often imagined. In spite of financial difficulties you will, I am sure, achieve a great deal in the immediate future.

you have shown commendable awareness of all difficulties. No one is more conscious than myself that the living sources of culture and enlightenment such as Universities are, form a very important and essential part of the mechanism of democracy. Power from below and inspiration from above are essential for the growing plant of democracy even as good soil for the routes and bright sunlight above are needed for plants to grow well. We see enough already to warn us of the dangers arising out of deterioration of sense of moral and spiritual values. Nowhere can a sense of values be conserved and promoted in modern times except in universities.

I thoroughly agree with you that Islam which is your particular privilege to represent or the Vedanta which it is the privilege of Banaras particularly to represent will not be a disabling factor, but a perennial source of inspiration in maintaining true values in human endeavour as well as in broadening the vision. I go so far in my faih as to believe that each faith will help to glorify the other even as the colours of the spectrum glorify the beauty of each tint in the band.

The retirement of my old friend and colleague Nawab Ismail Khan and the undertaking of responsibility by Dr. Zakir Hussain should not be understood or interpreted as any kind of political or other challenge. I can never forget how helpful Nawab Ismail Khan was at a Unity Conference that was held in Allahabad fifteen years ago at which I played some part along with him. Dr. Zakir Hussain's arrival at Aligarh is a re-union. In 1920 the Khilafat movement joined the Swaraj stream as the Jumna joins the Ganga and my dear old colleagues Maulana Mohammad Ali and Big Brother Shaukat Ali whose memory recalls unforgettable friendship and undying glory of vigorous action, disturbed the calm of Aligarh and raised the old issue of conservation versus revolution. "Let us conserve" said the older authorities. "We shall die if we do not move" said resurgent patriotism. There was a parting of the ways then. Now there is re-union, and the Jamia Millia has through Dr. Zakir Hussain's Vice-Chancellorship rejoined Aligarh.

May the Aligarh University receive the blessings of God along with every assistance from the people and Government of India.

ADDRESS TO UNIVERSITY UNION

In the afternoon, the Governor-General drove to the Aligarh University Union where he was received by the student Vice-President Mr. Shah Hasan Ata. There was prolonged cheering when His Excellency rose and unveiled a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi and signed the Membership Book of the Union, the first page of which had been signed by Mahatma Gandhi years ago.

There was renewed cheering when from the gallery a cascade of flowers fell and spread into a thick carpet on the floor all around His Excellency as he rose to address the Union :



A cascade of flower petals being showered on the Governor-General when he visited the Aligarh University Union

It gave me great pleasure to hear sincere thoughts expressed in such apposite eloquent language on this occasion. You will forgive me if I confess that I did not expect such beautiful language. The perfection of style in a foreign language shown by your President surprised me. I wish that the efforts of all students of this University in manner and expression reach that level of excellence. The pledges to which he gave expression are however much more important than the language in which one cloaks one's thoughts. They will give great satisfaction and joy to all my colleagues in the Government of India. After hearing them, I had no hesitation in unveiling the picture which he asked me to unveil.

I have always felt great hesitation whenever I have been asked to unveil a picture of Gandhiji. If the likeness is close to the original, the greater is the grief that it gives on looking at the picture. If the likeness is bad, the grief is there in equal measure. I do not like a bad picture of a very good man. I do not know what you think of the present picture. It is a good piece of work and I congratulate the artist who has done it.

You asked me to sign my name in your book and you showed me Gandhiji's signature on its first page. That was great joy to me. When I thought of the words you uttered, promising the nation and the Government, your loyal and devoted service, I felt it was a truly good thing to have been asked to unveil the picture of Gandhiji as a token of acceptance of the promise. Remember, Friends, the solemnity of this gesture on your part as well as on mine. The Union has promised on behalf of the University something serious and far-reaching. I have accepted it as Governor-General and Gandhiji has witnessed it in the picture that you have asked me to unveil. It is a completed covenant according to all ideas of jurisprudence, morality and patriotism.

I must congratulate you on having got my old friend Dr. Zakir Hussain as Vice-Chancellor and guide, philosopher and friend of this University. It is not easy to secure one of his stature as Vice-Chancellor for a university. You have in him one who is respected by all in India, irrespective of caste, creed or class. I very much doubted whether he would give up the Jamia Millia which he nursed with so much affection all these years and come here. Some people welcome a big and new responsibility. But some are so much attached to the work that they have been doing, irrespective of public praise or blame, that they hesitate to give it up and go to what may be considered a more eminent position. Dr. Zakir Hussain belongs to the latter class. I therefore felt doubtful whether he would agree to become your Vice-Chancellor. Then I remembered the connection between Jamia Millia and the Aligarh University. It is more like a son-in-law being asked to go and take charge of the mother-in-law or father-in-law's house.

Jamia Millia

The Jamia Millia was born in pain. But the Jamia Millia does not for that reason cease to be the child of the mother. Therefore when Dr. Zakir Hussain was asked whether he would go to the mother-in-law's place or father-in-law's place I could see that he agreed with a whole heart because he keeps the Jamia Millia in one pocket and Aligarh in another. Do not however go away with the impression that personalities and events like this themselves make for great changes. Dr. Zakir Hussain has come here as a result of the changes that have taken place in the country. His coming is an indication of what has happened in India and therefore it was inevitable he should come here. He could not resist it and it was not possible to make any other proposal. That is why he is here with you.

You, members of this Union, are in a way leaders of the student community in Aligarh, and probably of the entire Muslim student body in India. Your Union in its opinions will give a lead to Muslim students all over India. I want you therefore to make the best of this good luck of yours. I hope and pray that you, members of the Aligarh University Union, will make the utmost of Dr. Zakir Hussain's presence here. I know that you love him and respect him and that you have confidence in him from all that I have seen since this morning. That emboldens me to make this appeal to you. A man who trusts in God, who is honest, pious and also considerate and

you have to go back to the roots of the forces and the various other happenings that are taking p'ace today and that is the only possible data which you can have; otherwise you have to trust to your imagination only.

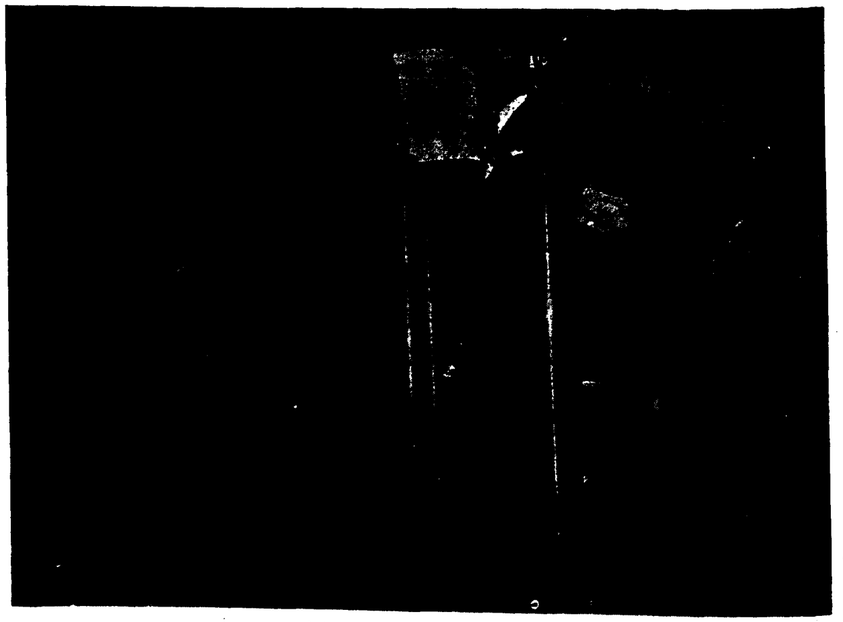
History, as a famous writer has described it, is a record of the martyrdom of man. Perhaps so. It is also a record of repeated resurrections after every crucifixion. So you see this process of martyrdom and crucifixion of man, and resurrection following it, in interminable succession. You may consider history as the onward march of humanity, of the human spirit, and yet sometimes we are pulled back by seeing how that onward march is suddenly arrested and thrown back.

Age of Transition

Now, every age, I suppose, thinks that it is an age of transition. Nevertheless, I suppose there is some element of truth in our thinking that the present age we live in is peculiarly an age of transition and change : at any rate the problems we have to face appear to be far bigger and acuter than any other problems, partly because of the extent of the problems. Because every problem now becomes a world problem. It is quite impossible today to think of current events or of history in the making in terms of any one nation or country or patch of territory; you have inevitably to think in term s of the world as a whole. You may, of course, and you should, think of each of the smaller aspects of that larger picture ; you may examine them more closely. But the whole conception of the history of a particular country and our learning by heart the names of a large number of kings and emperors etc., I suppose, is long dead. I am not quite sure whether in the schools and colleges of India it has ceased to exist or not, but I hope at any rate that it is dead, because anything more futile than a study of the record of kings' reigns and battles by children, I cannot imagine.

The other aspect of history which has come much more to the forefront—the social aspect of history, the development of the social organism—involves much closer research in the daily lives of the common man. Maybe in family budgets a hundred or thousand years ago there were a hundred thousand and one things which make us realise somewhat what the life of humanity was in the past age. It is only then that we can really fill the dry bones of history with some life, flesh and blood. I must confess that even now, in spite of this acknowledged new approach, most of the books on history and papers on history that appear, interesting as they are, appear to me to be quite singularly lifeless and dead. They are just the dry bones; there is no flesh and blood in them. And I suppose the only way really to read, write or understaud history is to evoke in the mind a picture of a living society functioning, thinking and having all the virtues and failings which the human being has possessed, and gradually changing whether it is in the direction of progress or something else. For that too, I suppose, two things are necessary, one, of course, a much more intimate knowledge of detail which this Commission should collect and supply, and the other is a somewhat co-ordinating type of mind which is capable of clothing that detail in proper garb and give it some semblance of life.

I hope that this Historical Records Commission and the eminent historians associated with it who will collect material or write papers and essays and books on it, will always try to think of two things. One is that they should not write always for their brother historians only. There are other people also outside their charmed circle who ought to be approached. I say this because the average technical or scientific paper is so very much meant or at any rate it looks as if it was meant, for the charmed circle of people who are interested in a specifically narrow aspect of a particular question that it loses all interest for the wider public.



Dr. Chia-Luen Lo, Chinese Ambassador in India, reading a paper on Chinese Sources of Indian History at the Silver Jubilee Session

as all other Commissions, should try ot function in a larger atmosphere and try to appeal to the minds of the larger public—the intelligent or semi-intelligent public. It appears to be a different species of approach and a different species of writing to go on with popularisation which means a deviation from scholarship.

I do not think there is any necessary conflict between real scholarship and a popular approach. I find in such papers and others that I sometimes see, rather an attempt at unconsciously forgetting the fact that a larger public has to be or should be addressed. I do not think that is good because you isolate yourself from that larger public. You do not get their backing, and that larger public cannot benefit by your labours. Secondly, any subject that you may investigate—although necessarily you investigate a particular subject—might generally be viewed in relation to a larger whole. Otherwise it has no real meaning except as some odd incident which might interest you. Because, if there is to be an uuderstanding, there must be an understanding of every subject in that relationship. It has no meaning otherwise.

Relationship of Events

Now, once you start on this question of relationship of events, that opens out an enormous field, because everything is related to everything else : nothing is isolated. Every aspect of life is related in some way or the other to another aspect and every aspect of life in one nation is related to other national lives. It was to some extent even in the past. But in the present age that is so obvious because of all kinds of factors which bring nations close to each other even though they might not love each other. So that, it is in relation to that each small item should be viewed; also I would say, though that involves a perhaps much more difficult undertaking, how far this can be related to, shall I say, an integrated view of history. Whether history can be considered in that sense or not I do not know. But the human mind always tries to understand things in an integrated way. Otherwise they lose significance and we have to arrive at the conclusion that things that happen have no connection with each other and happen in an odd, haphazard way. looking at it in that integrated way, one has to think what is history--a record of human progress, a record of, shall I say, the struggle of the advancement of the human mind, of the human spirit, towards some known or unknown objective. It becomes a very fascinating study. Whether it is ultimately true or not, nevertheless it does give some string to connect all the separate incidents. Originally history was taught, I suppose, purely on political lines. And with that were associated, of course, many other aspects, religious, and to some extent cultural also.

Economic Aspect

Then, a great deal of stress was laid on the economic aspect which undoubtedly is exceedingly important. Nobody has ever said that the economic aspect is the sole aspect--that would be absurd--

larger sense that would cover the cultural aspect too. But quite apart from these individual and separate aspects of history, I suppose there is something which I cannot define, some attempt to understand what all this sweep of history means, where possibly it is leading to, whether it has any meaning at all or not. Ultimately, I suppose practically all the problems we have to face in the world can be put in a sentence or two. They are problems of relationships: the relationship of the individual with the individual, the relationship of the individual with the group, and the relationship of group. Almost every political, cultural or personal problem can be brought within that sentence, and it is these gradually changing relationships that give meaning to the social organism and ultimately to the national or international life that we see around us.

I am rather casually throwing out ideas before this very learned audience so that this Historical Records Commission might try to relate their work, in so far as it is possible, to these wider vistas of mind and thought in history because without that it narrows its scope and it cannot evoke very much response from the average mind. All of us in a greater or less measure make history. History ultimately is some kind of a resultant of millions and millions of human lives, but it is true that some individuals perhaps play a greater part in the making of history. It has been given to us in the present age to play some part in the making of history, and for a person who does that it becomes an even more important thing to understand the processes of history so that he might not lose himself in trivial details and forget the main sweep. Because fate and circumstance placed me in a position to be an actor in the saga, or the drama of India if you like, in the last twenty or thirty years in common with many others, my interest in history became not an academic interest in things of the past and of long ago, but an intense personal interest almost, to understand those events in relation to today and to understaud today in relation to what had been, and try to peep into the future, however dimly, with the help of that understanding.

Now, I do not know if that quest helped me very much or not in any real understanding because events have happened, which I can only say are past all understanding, in the last few years--great wars and the like--and all one's conceptions of an ordered progress of humanity have been shaken. Well, whether that has helped in understanding or not, it has been a very fascinating pursuit and I sometimes feel how delightful it must be to carry on that pursuit in a calmer atmosphere of a University or some Institute, cut away from the provocations and disturbances of the type of life that I lead. But that is merely some kind of nostalgia from which I suppose many of us suffer who do not like the particular job they are placed in.

I welcome you all here, and I hope your labours will bear fruit in not only the buildiug up of true history which is something much more than dates and events, but will also I hope help, shall



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, Government of India, delivering his presidential address

I say, in binding together people. History shows us both the binding process and the disrupting process and today in the world as always I suppose--today a little more obviously--the binding or the constructive forces are at work, as also the disruptive or the fissiparous forces, and in any activity that we are indulging in, we have the choice of laying emphasis on the binding and constructive aspect or the other. We must not, of course, give way to wishful thinking and emphasise something which we want to emphasise and which has no relation to fact. Nevertheless, I think it is possible within the terms of scholarship and preciseness and truth to emphasise that binding and constructive aspect rather than the other, and I hope the activities of historians and of this Commission will be directed to that end. I welcome you again.

MAULANA AZAD'S ADDRESS

The following is the text of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's presidential address at the session :

FRIENDS, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this 25th Anniversary of the Indian Historical Records Commission. During these 25 years, the Commission has done valuable work of which you will find a brief record in the Souvenir prepared by our Director of Archives. I would only like to place on record our appreciation of the services rendered by many colleagues who are no more in our midst and also to welcome new members of the fraternity of historians who preserve our past



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, talking to the delegates to the Silver Jubilee session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, and Indian History Congress, at a reception given by him at Government House, New Delhi, on December 25

through their devoted and disinterested work. I am particularly glad that on this occasion we have among us representatives of other countries. The aim of history is to find out the truth about the past. This is a common human quest and the presence of members of different nations is testimony that such tasks can be carried out only through the co-operative efforts of men and women regardless of race, religion or nationality.

Twenty-five years is not a long period judged by the standard of history and yet the Indian Historical Records Commission has done valuable work in creating a new spirit of research and enquiry among our historians. Members of the Commission have contributed much to our knowledge of Indian past. They have also created a spirit of enthusiasm abroad and we have had in consequence many valuable studies by foreign scholars on various aspects of Indian history. The field, however, is vast and in spite of all our efforts we have been able to accomplish only a fraction of our task. It is, therefore, essential that we must renew our endeavour and make continually greater efforts so that the resplendent past of India may be discovered to us and the world.

Valuable Work

The Historical Records Commission has till now surveyed problems of history in a general way. Individual authors have contributed important studies in subjects of their choice. Valuable as such work has been, I feel that it would perhaps be of even greater service to the cause of historical research if we frame a programme of work for filling up the gaps in our knowledge of the history of India. No one can deny that many problems are yet outstanding and demand further enquiry and investigation. By way of example, I would draw special attention of the historians assembled here to periods which, in my opinion, should be studied more carefully : we are to appreciate fully all the implications of our heritage.

Our ancient past dates back to pre-history and presents many periods that are only imperfectly known. The relation of the civilization of Mohenjodaro to that of Southern India or to lands in the Middle East is yet unsolved. The recent excavations in Bahrein and Koet have brought to light numerous small tombs which date back to perhaps the second millennium before Christ or even earlier. Some historians find in them evidence of ancient connections between South India and the regions bordering on the Persian Gulf. Some of these problems are no doubt purely archaeological, but there are others which can be solved only by the co-operation of the archaeologists and the historians. The services of Syriology and Egyptology have not yet been fully utilised in explaining our ancient past. Nor have we yet explored the materials that have come down to us from the civilizations that flourished in Mesopotamia and the neighbouring lands.

Another period in Indian History which deserves and demands fresh and detailed study is the end of the first millennium after Christ. We have some knowledge of the condition of India up to the 7th and 8th century A.D. and again after the establishment of the Sultanate of Delhi. The intervening period saw the rise of the Ghaznavide power and its expansion into the North Western regions of India, but we have no clear picture of the social and political conditions of India during this time. It is unfortunate that we have not yet been able to lay our hands on all the Persian histories of the period whose names have been handed down to us. Abul Fazal Baihaqi, we are told, wrote a history of the Ghaznavides in thirty volumes, but we have so far found only a fragment of this book Perhaps new light would be thrown on Indian history if the lost volumes could be recovered. Some new material has, however, been discovered recently and they are bound to throw further light on our knowledge of this period. It is also somewhat strange that almost all our historical research and studies for even a later period are based on Persian records and entirely overlook material that is hid in the vastness of Arabian history and literature. Our historians should turn to the field and examine Arabic sources for information about the trade, commerce and social and political conditions of India during this period.

The decline and fall of the Moghul Empire is a matter of comparatively recent history and yet even this period has not been fully studied or thoroughly understood. One surprising feature of this age is the lack of historians of note within the country itself. The work of foreign historians gives a picture which is full of confused conception. To take only one example. Most of the foreign historians speak of the anarchy and lawlessness of the period and yet they are full of praise for the administration of individual rulers. While on the one hand it said that India was in turmoil and there was neither law nor order, we are on the other hand told that the administration of Alivardi Khan, Zalim Singh or Ahalya Bai compared favourably with that of European countries of the day.

On the one hand, there is the condemnation of Hyder Ali as a tyrant and on the other, high praise of his achievements in the arts of administration and peace. We are also told that there was free movement of *Hundies* or bills of credit, which held currency from the borders of Bengal up to the limits of Central Asia. How is one to explain the financial stability and credit implied in such transactions against the background of political anarchy painted by political historians ? Without venturing on any hypothesis, I would be content to say that inspite of plenitude of material, the period has not yet been fully studied and will repay the care and attention of scholars.

Another period which we must study afresh is that of British connection with India. The wealth of material for this period is immense and yet it must be admitted that we do not have a fair and balanced study of the period in all its aspects. There have been protagonists of the Empire who have sought to justify everything that the British did and painted the period in golden colours. Political passion has on the other hand sometimes led Indians to condemn the period out right as one of the dark ages of India's history. So long as the political conflict was not resolved, it was difficult to judge the period with the detachment of a true historian. Now, however, the chapter of British domination is closed and the time has come when Indians must study it without prejudice or passion.

National Archives

I would now like to say a few words about our National Archives. They are the store-house of raw materials of history and the Historical Records Commission is the agency which should find the best possible use for them. Today only a fraction of our records are available to us in the National Archives, but scattered throughout the land there are family documents, *sanads, firmans* and ancient manuscripts which will be lost unless they are acquired without delay. The present is also the opportune moment to appeal to the public to hand over such documents to the National Government. Such appeal will meet with a readier response now than perhaps at any other time.

Many things must be done to make our National Archives perform their proper functions. Of these, the collection and preservation of records and manuscripts is perhaps the foremost. Records dispersed throughout the Provinces and States must be brought to one common centre and steps taken to ensure their proper care. The climate of India is an enemy of all types of documents and airconditioning is essential if records and manuscripts are to be maintained in a proper state of preservation. The importance of this task can be judged from the fact that once such manuscripts are lost, there is no way of replacing them.

The second task is that of cataloguing and analysis of such records. It is hardly necessary to emphasise to a gathering of historians and archivists the urgency of such work. Without proper use of the manuscripts, they may as well not exist. And yet we have to admit that even the records which are already in our possession have not all been catalogued.

The Government are alive to the importance of both these tasks and the Ministry of Education has been endeavouring to do everythiug possible for achieving them. You are, however, aware of the financial difficulties through which we are passing at the moment. This may prevent us from carrying out all that we intend, but I may assure you that the Ministry will not spare any effort to achieve whatever is possible in the present difficult conditions and to expand its programme as soon as conditious improve.

The programme of publications has in spite of financial and other difficulties been accelerated. New machinery is being set up and steps are being taken for expanding the capacity and scope of our National Archives. We also intend to go ahead as quickly as possible with the installation of airconditioning plant so that the preservation of the precious heritage of our past may be assured.

I must not however go into greater details. It is for you historians and archivists to prepare a programme of work. Let your labours yield material for writing a full history of India throughout the ages, in which the story of co-operation and common endeavour, the development of civilisation and culture and the growth of arts, philosophy, religion and humanity will be told, in all their wealth. That and not the mere record of wars and conflicts, of dynasties and Kings, is the true history of India.

Once again I extend to you a cordial welcome and hope that our joint labour will give a fresh impetus to the study of history of this land.

RETURN OF HISTORICAL RECORDS FROM U.K.

A resolution asking the Government of India to approach His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the return to India of all the ancient books and documents relating to Indian History which are at present in Britain was passed by the Indian Historical Records Commission on December 24. The Commission also resolved that steps should be taken by the Government of India to procure from the Governments of Holland, France and Portugal copies of their records relating to India.

That the Government of India should arrange for the cataloguing of historical portraits and paintings in the possession of various institutions in India and abroad is recommended in another resolution adopted by the Commission. The Commission has also recommended that arrangements should be made for publication of manuscripts and documents unearthed by its Regional Records Survey Committees. Another proposal adopted by the Commission asks for the listing, cataloguing and indexing of the late Residency records.

The Commission accepted the Orissa Government's invitation to hold its next session at Guttack. The two-day session of the Commission concluded on December 24.

HINDI BOOKS NEEDED IN MAURITIUS

The Commissioner of the Government of India in Mauritius has received numerous appeals for the supply of Hindi books, including text books and magazines, from India for free distribution to Indian schools and libraries in that Colony.

As the Indian community in Mauritius, as well as other remote areas, most of whom have very limited resources, maintain their only contact with India through the medium of books, it would be greatly appreciated if an abundant supply of Hindi books and magazines were made available to them by generous donations from the Indian public. Indian schools in those areas are badly in need of Hindi text books which they find difficult to obtain, and gifts of such books for school-going children would be particularly useful. Used books and magazines will also be welcome, if they are in good condition.

Publications may kindly be forwarded to the Ministry of Education A-I Section, Central Secretariat, New Delhi.

PROVIDENT FUND RULES LIBERALISED

As a measure against inflation, the Government of India have decided to extend the present facilities for subscribing to the General Provident Fund to certain classes of temporary servants until further orders.

All temporary Government servants with one year's continuous service, other than class IV Government servants, are now allowed to subscribe to the Fund in relaxation of the old rule.

The upper limit up to which a Government servant can subscribe to the General Provident Fund, i.e. 15·8% of his emoluments or 22-2 annas in the rupee, is suspended and Government servants are permitted to increase the rate of subscription to the General Provident Fund once at any time during the course of the year. These two relaxations will also apply to those who subscribe to the Contributory Provident Fund (India), but there will be no corresponding increase in the Government's contribution, which will remain at the same rate as before.

not hasty, is eminently fitted to be your guide in the present critical conditions in our country.

This morning the Doctorate of Law was conferred upon me. If I were asked to answer an examination before qualifying for the degree, the examiners would not have let me off. The University has taken other data to come to the conclusion that I should be the recipient of that degree. But degrees such as have been conferred upon me are of no great use. The degrees you are working for are of great use. Do not go away with the impression that examinations are of no use and that something also is important. Whatever may have been the case till now, I want you to think differently henceforth. Hereafter your preparation is a sacred duty.

Service to the State

The patriotism with which you have been familiar up till now is a closed chapter. Hereafter your patriotism is of a new colour. It consists in disinterested joyful service to the State. You must serve faithfully and diligently and you must find joy in service itself. This requires great and careful preparation in the time of youth, and the universities are intended to give that preparation. The slogan is no longer as in 1920, "Give up colleges." The slogan now is 'Hold on to the colleges.' Go to the colleges and do your college work properly.' I have said these times without number and I want to put it to you in this form.

The Government, the Governor-General, the leaders of the people who are in charge of the Government—all of them want you to study carefully and diligently without losing time and equip yourselves properly because we are a great deal lacking in the right type of man-power in this country, and you are preparing yourselves to shoulder the burden of the whole State along with others. You will therefore have to give up all ideas of strikes so far as education goes. Ask any doctor whether in getting something done, like tying up the artery or tying up a vein or a nerve to perform some operation, the heart can be stopped. No. Whatever else you may do, you cannot give a holiday to the heart. So is the education of youth. It cannot be suspended in a living organisation.

Along with the promises you have made to your President, I want you silently to promise me that you will never be guilty of indiscipline or of doing anything against the orders of the Vice-Chancellor or any professors or authorities of the University. This is now a free country with a free government to judge things and there is no reason for students to become judges. If you accept the principle of division between the executive and the judiciary, you must accept the principle of division between youth engaged in studies and the judiciary. You must not become judges

Need for Unity

The discipline that I have so far seen in the course of the day gives me every confidence that there was no need for me to take up so much of your time over this matter. We have two great free countries now. We have our own India here and we have Pakistan over the wall. The whole world is looking on with great expectation. There is a great future before us. The present troubles which are upsetting people's minds will soon be over. There is no conflict between the two countries. Take it for granted. I am supposed to be a wise man and I take credit for it now. I tell you with all the earnestness at my command, there is no conflict of interest between Pakistan and India. We are both destined to be great and help one another. Helping one another, we too will make a great impression on everything in the world. There is no doubt about it. Whether it be politics, economics, literature, morality, religion or any other matter, we two, helping one another, will give something most important and valuable to the rest of the world.

You here in this University should make it your sacred duty to keep this before you in your minds. You are so to say, crusaders for the cause of unity between the two States, of unity between the two faiths, and unity all round in India. This responsibility lies on you in a very particular manner. I hope you will remember it in all your studies.

Teaching of Upanishads

We have a record in the Upanishads of a valedictory exhortation given to students after the completion of their studies. The substance of that address holds good for the present times and for students like you as well as it did at the time of the Upanishads. The sonorous Sanskrit words can be rendered thus in simple English:

"Speak what is true, fulfil your duties; continue your studies.

Now that you have come to the end of your stay with your teachers and will marry and bring forth progeny, Do not swerve from truth and Dharma.

Always do something useful in the social economy.

Do not fail to refresh your memory in respect of what you have learnt. Do not give up the desire to achieve.

Remember God, revere your ancestors, revere your mothers and your fathers.

Honour your teachers, honour your guests.

Ever exercise your understanding and distinguish the good from the bad.

Avoid evil and always do what is right.

Follow all that was good in your teacher's life, not any other.

You will meet with better men than the teachers you have lived with, show them due respect.

If your mind is troubled with any doubt, follow the example of pious elders who are not ungentle whom you may find in your neighbourhood in regard to those matters.

This is the rule and this is the teaching."

This closes the message I wished to quote for you. This exhortation is repeated in the Banaras University at the time of every Convocation in the original Sanskrit.

Students of Aligarh, I know that in spite of what your President had said with so much fervour, there is a considerable amount of doubt in the minds of many people now. I want you to be brave and not downhearted for anything that has happened. It is in my privilege to claim your confidence and to believe that you will not misunderstand me even if on the surface what I say may seem unpleasant.

You know without my having to explain it, that many things have happened in the country which were as unexpected as they were unfortunate. They have left results in the psychology of men and women which must be faced. It is the privilege of cultured Muslims in India to work out this feeling as speedily as possible, but steadily and with patience. We have to bear and forbear. Misunderstandings and suspicion should not make us bitter. I have no doubt that with restraint and patience Muslims in India will see a time arrive when the present difficulties will be recalled with amusement even as differences between the English and Scottish people are now recalled in British social life.

Whether we believe in the Law of Karma as a part of our religion or not it is absolutely true that we have in this world painfully to work out the results of what has been done by us or by others around us. We cannot get over results by agreement but can do so only by courage and good conduct in the face of every discouragement. I have a right to make an appeal to you. You must believe it of me that enlightened leadership in India will not fail you.

Islam was associated with the highest advancement of Science in Europe. Muslim Universities and Muslim Doctors of Science saved Science when otherwise Europe would have completely lost what had been gained for humanity by the Greeks. The Muslims added a vast amount of new knowledge on the firm basis of investigation and observation. If Islam did not hinder but helped the progress of Science in Europe, may it be a bright token to you for endeavour in India. Indeed no religion correctly understood Islam, Christianity Hinduism or other, ever hindered but it always helped the progress of humanity.

It is the duty of University men to work for and spread a true understanding of all religions. The pious in all religions are one brotherhood.

I appeal to you to work for love and brotherhood in India.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcoming His Excellency, the Vice-President of the Union Mr. Shah Hasan Ata, said: "That we the young men of the country over whose destinies you preside today are pledged to the service of the noble ideals which the father of the nation lived and died and which Your Excellency has been working ceaselessly to integrate into the very fabric of our national being. We pledge ourselves to the development of a secular, democratic, progressive society in which we can grow into free personalities and give back to the society what we received from it by endeavouring to make it approach the ideal of a true moral "Samaj"

We pledge ourselves to the creation of a peaceful non-exploitation, co-operative social order based on truth and justice, quest of beauty, hatred for evil, understanding between man and man, tolerance and a sense of supreme respect for the various beautiful cultures and literatures, forms of worship and modes of expression. We pledge ourselves to make of this University a centre of all this, a centre of which our country may well be proud. We pledge ourselves to be assets and not liabilities to this country's welfare. We pledge ourselves to contribute as we have done in the past centuries, something distinct to the progress of our country."

The Nawab of Chhatari entertained the Governor-General at a Garden Party at his residence, Rahat Manzil, in the evening. The Governor-General returned to Delhi by train immediately afterwards.

RAJAJI'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE KING

The following telegrams were exchanged between His Excellency the Governor-General of India and His Majesty the King:—

From H. E. the Governor-General

On behalf of the Government and people of India I send Your Majesty most sincere good wishes for Christmas and the coming year and hope Your Majesty's health will soon be fully restored.

From H. M. the King

Please convey to the Government and people of India my sincere thanks for their kind message of good wishes.

EXPORT OF CLOTH TO HARD CURRENCY AREAS

In pursuance of the Government policy to maximise exports to hard currency countries, a substantial quota of cloth was fixed early this year for export to dollar and other hard currency countries. As a further step in that direction, it has been decided to allow export without restrictions with regard to fine counts and wider widths of cloth.

There will also be no restriction on mills, in the case of exports to hard currency countries, not to sell for export more than 25 per cent of their production of medium and fine counts. Cotton manufactures such as towels, bed covers, napkins etc., will also be allowed for export.

Exports will be allowed not only of mill-made but of handloom piecegoods also.

These measures combined with the reduction of export duty from 25 per cent to 10 per cent will, it is hoped, facilitate exports of cloth to hard currency countries. Firms who are able to effect sales to hard currency countries should apply for a licence to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi.

WORK OF UNIVERSITIES' COMMISSION

THE Universities' Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, has had regular sittings in Delhi recently.

After preliminary discussions regarding terms of reference the Commission visited the Delhi University and its constituent colleges. It had discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, the Treasurer, the Deans and other professors of the University as well as with the principals of the colleges. The discussions embraced many vital problems of university education like the status of teachers, the courses and carricula of universities, the medium of instruction, the relation of colleges to the University, etc.

The Commission concluded its work in Delhi on December 17 and met in Madras from December 19 to January 2, 1949, where it visited, educational institutions and attended meetings of the Inter-University Board and the quinquennial universities' conference.

All the members of the Commission except Dr. A. L. Mudaliar who due to urgent work could not attend, were present at the Delhi deliberations.

Terms of Reference

The Commission will have the power to enquire into the structure and working of all the universities of India and visiting institutions of higher education and research whether official or non-official and consider and make recommendations in regard to:

The aims and objects of university education and research in India;

The changes considered necessary and desirable in the constitution, control, functions and jurisdiction of universities in India and their relations with Governments—Central and Provincial;

The finances of universities;

Maintenance of the highest standards of teaching and examination in the universities and colleges under their control;

Courses of study in the universities with special reference to the maintenance of a sound balance between the Humanities and the Sciences and between pure science and technological training and the duration of such courses;

The standards of admission to university courses of study, with reference to the desirability of an independent University Entrance examination and the avoidance of unfair discriminations which militate against Fundamental Right 23(2) of the Draft Constitution of India;

The medium of instruction in the universities;

Provision for advanced study of Indian culture, history, literatures and languages and philosophy and fine arts,

The need for more universities on a regional or other basis;

The organisation of advanced research in all branches of knowledge in the universities and institutes of higher research in a well co-ordinated fashion avoiding waste of effort and resources;

Religious instruction in the universities;

The special problems of the Benares Hindu University, Aligarh Muslim University, Delhi University and other institutions of an all-India character;

Qualifications, conditions of service, salaries, privileges, and functions of teachers and the encouragement of original research by teachers; and

Discipline of students, hostels and the organisation of tutorial work and any other matter which is germane and essential to a complete and comprehensive enquiry into all aspects of university education and advanced research in India.

GANDHI NATIONAL MEMORIAL FUND ACT AMENDED

The Gandhi National Memorial Fund Donations (Companies) Act, 1948, which has been amended by an Ordinance issued on December 14, 1948 now reads as follows:—

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision for enabling companies to make donations to the Gandhi National Memorial Fund.

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. Short title and extent.-(1) This Act may be called the Gandhi National Memorial Fund Donations (Companies) Act, 1948.

(2). It extends to all the Provinces of India.

2. Power of companies to make donations to the Fund—Any company, as defined in clause (2) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913), may notwithstanding anything contained in that Act, and notwithstanding that the Memorandum of Association or the Articles of Association of the Company do not enable it so to do, and the Imperial Bank of India may, notwithstanding anything contained in the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920 (XLVII of 1920) by special resolution authorise the making of a donation from the assets of the Company or of the Bank, as the case may be to the Fund known as the Gandhi National Memorial Fund and administered by the President of the Indian National Congress.

The amendment consists in the introduction of portions underlined above which relate to the Imperial Bank of India.

"UNINFORMED AND UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM"

Railway Board's Reply to A. I. R. F.

THE following is the statement of the Secretary of the Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) issued on December 17, at New Delhi.

The attention of the Railway Board has been drawn to a statement issued by the General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on the Government's decision relating to the grant of increased pay and allowances to running staff. This is a matter for surprise coming as it does from a person who has been in intimate touch with railway problems. The statement contains a great deal of uninformed and unjustified criticism of the Government's decisions and it is considered necessary to clarify the position in order to remove any misunderstanding which it may have created among railwaymen and the general public.

The Secretary of the Federation has charged the Railway Board with delay in reaching decisions on the report of the Running Staff Pay and Allowances Committee. The report was received on August 15, 1948, and had from that date been continuously under consideration of the Railway Ministry at the highest level. The rationalisation of the pay and allowances of running staff of the various railways—a subject bristling with complexities—had been engaging the attention of the Administration for over a generation and viewed against this background it would be seen that there was no undue delay in reaching the present decisions.

Running Allowance

According to Statutory Rules, only staff incharge of moving trains are eligible for running allowance. This covers drivers, shunters, firemen, "augwallas," guards and breakesmen. The decisions of Government regarding running allowance, therefore, correctly apply to these categories only. Travelling van checkers, van porters, ticket examiners are not runing staff for the purpose of these rules.

The General Secretary of the federation has raised a number of points which according to him have been ignored by the Government. The press communique announcing the decisions of Government was necessarily brief and touched only the main issue of pay and allowances for the main categories of the running staff. The report of the Running Staff Pay and Allowances Committee covered numerous allied subjects on which decision has been taken by the Railway Board and instructions issued to the Railway Administrations. For example:

(1) The Committee recommended a special scale of pay for drivers in charge of electric trains. This recommendation has been accepted by Government and notified to Railways.

(2) Elaborate rules for the calculation of Running Allowance have been framed by the Committee and accepted by Government. These have been notified to Railway Administrations.

(3) The Railway Board have accepted the recommendations of the Committee on the manner of recruitment of running staff. As regards literate staff provision has been made for direct recruitment of matriculates in the highest grade of firemen and for the provision of an adequate avenue of promotion to the highest rank of driver well before the age of retirement.

(4) As a result of another recommendation of the Committee which the Government have accepted, unskilled cleaners will be eligible for progressive promotion as firemen, shunters and drivers which is a substantial improvement on the existing position.

Firemen's Pay

In regard the Augwalas (now to be designated as firemen) the new scales of pay are a considerable improvement upon the previous scales as would be evident from a comparison of the following scales for pre-31, post-31 and the latest prescribed scales.

Pre-31	*Post*-31
13—1—15 (B. A. Rly)	13— 1— 15
15—2—17 (R. I. Rly)	15—1—16
24— 3— 30 (G. I. P. Rly)	22— 3—28
26—2—28 (M. S. M. Rly)	18—1—26
35—2½— 40 (S. I. Rly)	35—2½—40

Latest prescribed scales

40—1—50	firemen Gr. 'C'
50— 2—60 "	" Gr. 'B'.

The suggestion that a fireman will necessarily take 10 years to reach the maximum in his grade is based on the erroneous assumption that every fireman must plod his way up to the maximum of each time-scale. In actual practice, this will not be so as he will have very many opportunities even before reaching the maximum for promotion to the ranks of Shunters and Drivers—posts which must needs go to the men from this category.

Emoluments of Running Staff

The system of payment of running allowance on a mileage basis is not the innovation which the Secretary of the Federation makes it to be: it has been in force on Indian Railways for a long time. The innovation that has been made is to formulate rules that will reduce the existing disparity in the emoluments of the same category of staff on different railways. It would be interesting to the public to know that, whereas the maximum emoluments of a driver in the lowest grade ranged approximately from Rs. 65 to Rs. 204, they will, under the orders issued, range from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250. The minimum emoluments in the highest grade amounted to Rs. 306 while they will in future be round about Rs. 440. The range of variation in emoluments between one driver and another in the same grade has also been very substantially reduced. The earnings of running staff on different railways with varying intensities of traffic and varying operating conditions cannot obviously be uniform, although the Government have tried to bridge the gap between the maximum total emoluments on various railways to as great an extent as possible.

The allegation that the minimum scale for skilled workers continues to be violated in respect of the loco running staff has presumably reference to the oft-repeated demand of the Federation that Firemen are skilled workers, that is, they are comparable to Carpenters and Blacksmiths. While there is a certain amount of skill required for every job, that of a Fireman could hardly be considered to be a job equivalent to that of an artisan. On stationary boilers, a Fireman gets an unskilled labourer's pay i.e., Rs. 30 to Rs. 35. The granting of higher scales of basic pay together with running allowance, is, therefore, a measure of special consideration to Firemen on locomotives.

Copies of detailed instructions issued by the Railway Board to Railway Administrations have, as usual, been issued to the Federation also. It is hoped that a perusal of these instructions will set at rest any unjustified misgiving that the Federation may have on the subject.

RAILWAY PASS RULES REVISED

In a Press Note issued on December 21, 1948, the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) says:

The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) has reviewed the rules for the issue of passes to railway servants in the light of the recent revision of travelling allowance rules for Government servants employed under other Ministries of the Government of India. The following pay limits will determine the class of passes to which railway servants are eligible from January 1, 1949, when the reclassification of passenger accommodation takes effect:—

Class of Accommodation	*Staff eligible*
Class I	(*a*) All Class I officers.
	(*b*) All Class II officers and Class III staff in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 500 per mensem.
Class II	(*a*) Class II officers drawing Rs. 500 or less per mensem.
	(*b*) Class III staff drawing Rs. 500 or less per mensem but above Rs. 130 per mensem.
Class III	All other staff in receipt of pay of Rs. 130 per mensem or less.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS: CHIEF GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR'S REPORT

THE Chief Government Inspector of Railway's Annual Report for the year 1947-48 contains an account of the various accidents that took place on the Railways and suggestions to prevent a similar recurrence in future.

There were 21 accidents into which Government Inspectors were required to hold statutory enquiries. Of these 5 were cases of collisions, 12 of derailment, 2 of fire and 2 of miscellaneous nature—passenger trains being involved in all of them. Five cases of derailment were due to train-wrecking and one was brought about by negligence on the part of the train crew. A similar negligence on the part of the station staff or train crew was responsible for the 5 accidents through collision.

The Railway Inspectorate which is attached to the Ministry of Communications has undergone certain readjustments in consequence of the Partition into two Dominions, and the Bikaner State and the Jodhpur Railways were placed under the direct control of the Chief Government Inspector. The total route mileage under the Railway Inspectorate on March 31, 1948, was approximately 33,600.

During this year, 52 miles of new metre-gauge lines on the Jamnagar and Dwarka Railway, the Nizam's State Railway, and the Mewar State Railway and 28 miles of doubling on the East Indian Railway were inspected before opening for passenger traffic. In addition to this, about 29 miles (restoration) of Kanpur-Khairada Section of the G.I.P. Railway, and about 3 miles of diversions on Howrah-Amta and Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railways were inspected before opening for traffic. In all 19,800 route miles of Railways (59 per cent of the total route mileage) were inspected.

Running of Mac Arthur and X-Dominion types of engines on Mail and Passenger services over Baroda-Mathura section of the B.B. and C.I. and Mathura-Delhi Section of G.I.P. Railways, and running of W.P. type Pacific engines on certain sections of the B.B. and C.I., B. N. and the G. I. P. Railways were sanctioned. Sanction was also accorded to the running of a rail motor coach on the Cutch State Railway.

The Report which contains comparative statistical information relating to accidents is available from the Manager of Publications, Old Delhi, at As. 0-7-0.

Advisory Committee for Delhi Transport Service

In order to associate representative public interest with the management of the Delhi Transport Service, it has been decided to set up an Advisory Committee consisting of the following members:—

The General Manager, Delhi Transport Service, Chairman.
A representative of the Old Delhi Municipal Committee.
A representative of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.
A representative of the Delhi Notified Area Committee.
A representative of the Delhi District Board.
A student representative of the Delhi University.
A representative of the Press.
A representative of the India Secretariat Association.
A representative of the Chambers of Commerce.
The Provincial Motor Transport Controller, Delhi.
A representative of the Police Department, Delhi.
The Planning Officer, Delhi Transport Service, Secretary.

Committee's Functions

The Advisory Committee will meet once a month or more frequently if necessary. Six members will form the quorum. A copy of the minutes of each meeting will be forwarded by the Secretary, Advisory Committee, to the Ministry of Transport for information.

The functions of the Advisory Committee will be to advise the management of the Delhi Transport Service on traffic matters detailed as under:—

Extension of or addition to routes.
Addition or reduction of vehicles on routes.
Alteration of routes.
Revision or improvement of timetables.
Provision of bus stops.
Measures to combat corruption.
Any other matters bearing on the efficient operation of the Delhi Transport Service.

INCREASED PETROL QUOTA

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport on December 21, said:—

The improved petrol supply position has enabled the Government of India to further enhance petrol quotas of various Provinces and States for civil consumption for the quarter January-March 1949. The enhancement is approximately 10 per cent over the allocation for the previous quarter. This increase will enable Rationing Authorities to grant increased petrol rations to passenger and goods vehicles.

Additional quotas have also been sanctioned specifically for the purpose of enabling clearance of congestion at ports and nearby railway stations.

Movement of Salt By Rail

The Government of India have decided to introduce with effect from January 1, 1949, a rational system of distribution of salt by the different railways in accordance with a zonal scheme prepared by the Salt Controller for India, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport on December 27.

It added: The object of this scheme is to avoid transhipment, long haulage and cross movements so as to maximise the utilisation of the available transport capacity.

The country has been divided into nine zones under this scheme, namely, Sambhar, Kharaghoda, Bombay, Dharangdhra (Kuda), Calcutta, Tuticorin, Adirampatnam-cum-Cudhalore-cum-Madras, Pennuguduru and Naupada, and movements of salt from the salt sources within each zone will be regulated as indicated in the scheme.

No booking of Railway wagons will be permissible from one zone to another except under special permission of the Salt Controller for reasons to be recorded in writing in each individual case. The quota of Railway wagons to be allowed to each salt source or to a loading station adjacent to it will be fixed by the Salt Controller in consultation with the Railway authorities in accordance with a half-yearly programme and salt movements will be allowed by the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities concerned for each zone in accordance with such a programme. This movement scheme, however, does not interfere with any transport by road, river or by sea.

RAILWAY PRIORITIES

A Press note issued by the Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Ministry of Transport on December 18, said:—

The Regional Advisory Committee for Railway Priorities, Delhi Region, considered 413 applications for low and non-priority traffic during November 1948 and assisted 270 applications, representing 65 per cent in a moveable class of priority. Some of the commodities assisted were: Raw materials to sugar, paper and oil mills; imported paper, timber and other building materials, medicines, chemicals, cotton, manures and molasses.

Where assistance was declined, this was due to the increasing need for effecting rail economy by eliminating cross traffic or other wasteful types of rail transport.

Due to censorship in force, telegrams to and from Costa Rica must contain the full name and address of the addressee and in the case of the former the full signature of the sender. With the exception of Government telegrams, all others must be written in plain English or Spanish only, says a Press Note issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs on December 17, 1948.

INDO-CEYLONESE AIR AGREEMENT

A BILATERAL Air Transport Agreement between the Governments of India and Ceylon was signed in New Delhi on December 21, 1948 by the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Minister for Communications, on behalf of the Government of India and His Excellency Mr. M. W. H. de Silva, High Commissioner for Ceylon in India, on behalf of the Government of Ceylon. The Agreement is the result of negotiations conducted in New Delhi in October 1948 between a Ceylon delegation headed by the Hon'ble Sir John Kotelawala, Minister for Transport and Works, and representatives of the Government of India led by Shri Khurshed Lal, Deputy Minister for Communications.

Main Features

The Agreemeut generally follows the pattern of the bilateral agreements concluded by the Government of India in the past with other Governments, for example, U. S. A. It consists of 13 articles and an Annex and defines the conditions under which scheduled air services are to be operated between the territories of Ceylon and India. The Agreement provides for the categories of traffic which may be carried, determination of capacity, the use of airports, control of rates for carriage of passengers and cargo between the territories of the two parties and exchange of information and statistics. It also makes provision for settlement of disputes relating to interpretation or application of the Agreement.

The Annex describes the specific routes to be operated by the airlines of the two contracting Parties. An airline designated by the Government of Ceylon is accorded the right to operate air services on the following routes and to make traffic stops in India at the places named :—

Colombo or Kankesanturai to Trichinopoly ;

Colombo or Kankesanturai to Madras ;

Colombo or Kankesanturai to Trivandrum ;

Colombo-Trichinopoly or Madras-Bombay and beyond.

An airline designated by the Government of India is entitled to operate on the following routes :—

Bombay to Colombo and, if desired, beyond ;

Madras to Colombo and, if desired, beyond ;

Trichinopoly to Colombo or Kenkesanturai ;

Trivandrum to Colombo or Kankesanturai.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

A Press Note issued by the Department of Scientific Research on December 20, said :

The Indian Atomic Energy Commission announces that, in pursuance of its policy of encouraging the teaching of mathematics, physics and chemistry in the Indian Universities of such a type as to equip scientific workers for more advanced work and research in the problems of atomic energy, a conference will be called in Delhi in the third week of January at which the Universities and research institutes will be invited to send two representatives each.

For this purpose, suitable draft syllabuses for the teaching of mathematics, physics and chemistry will be put before the conference for its consideration and suggestions so that the representatives of the conference themselves may help to evolve the most suitable syllabuses for Indian conditions. A provisional syllabus in theoretical physics was drawn up recently, and circulated to all the Universities and the response in the way of suggestions and criticisms from the Universities has been most encouraging.



Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Minister for Communications, Government of India, and Mr. M. W. H. de Silva, High Commissioner for Ceylon, signing a bilateral air-transport agreement between India and Ceylon on behalf of their respective Governments at New Delhi on December 21

Progress of Education in Free India

THE Bureau of Education in the Education Ministry of the Government of India has recently published a pamphlet (Pamphlet No. 60) entitled "Education in Free India (August 1947—August 1948)". The Pamphlet gives an informative account of the activities, both of the Ministry at the Centre, and of the progress of development schemes in the Provinces and States, during the year under review.

"The 15th of August, 1947, says Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, in his Foreword, "is significant not only because India on this day attained political freedom, but even more, because she secured on this day the privilege of making the will of her people the corner-stone of the national edifice. Before the people's voice and the people's will can become a force for good, it is obvious that the people be afforded a right and an adequate system of education which will train them to make the right demands and work for the right causes."

Basic Education

To re-examine the entire problem, with a view to providing facilities for giving elementary basic education to all children of school-going age, and establishing a system of education that would train, equip and direct the youth of the country to take their proper share in building a progressive State, India's Minister for Education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, convened an All-India Educational Conference on January 16 and 17, 1948. This Conference, *inter alia*, recommended the appointment of the following three Committees : (*i*) A Medium of Instruction Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Tara Chand. (*ii*) A Secondary Education Committee, also under the Chairmanship of Dr. Tara Chand; and (*iii*) A Finance Committee under the Chairmanship Mr. B. G. Kher, the Bombay Premier, for raising finances for accelerating Basic Education Schemes.

The Pamphlet gives an account of the recommendations made by these Committees.

In his Foreword, the Education Adviser to the Government of India has emphasised that "for the harmonious and even development of a national system of education, in so diverse a country as India, what is essential is co-ordinated planning. Local variations in the component units of the country must, of course, be reckoned with, but the fundamental and basic principles on which a national system must be constructed cannot vary. Some over-all cementing agency appears necessary which could adequately co-ordinate planning and development, not only with a view to maintaining the cultural unity of India, but to prevent waste and overlapping, particularly in the spheres of technical and higher education."

PERMIT SYSTEM FOR ENTRY INTO INDIA FROM WEST PAKISTAN

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on December 20, said :—

Despite the issue of Press Notes from time to time explaining the working of the permit system, a large number of applications are being received by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation every day from the general public making enquiries in this connection. The correct procedure is once again notified for the information of all concerned.

(1) Permit system is in force only for journeys between India and Western Pakistan.

(2) Indian nationals who want to go to Pakistan should apply for necessary permit to the High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, New Delhi, Deputy High Commissioner for Pakistan in India, Jullundur or to the Permit Officer of the Pakistan Government, Bombay. Any other information in this connection should be obtained from these officials.

(3) Permits for entry into India from Western Pakistan are of four types

(*i*) Permits for Temporary Visits :

These are granted by the High Commissioner for India, Karachi or the Deputy High Commissioner for India, Lahore, on application in person by the prospective Visitor.

(*ii*) Permits for re-settlement of permanent return :

These permits are granted by the High Commissioner for India or the Deputy High Commissioner for India only after personal scrutiny of the application and after a reference to the State or the Province where the applicant intends to reside.

(*iii*) Permanent Permits:

Government Officers and businessmen, who have frequently to travel between the two dominions on duty or on business, are given permanent permits signed by the High Commissioner for India or the Deputy High Commissioner for India.

(*iv*) Permits for return to India :

These permits are granted by the High Commissioner for India after he is satisfied that the applicant claiming to be domiciled in India is staying in Pakistan on a temporary visit or after a reference to the State or Province concerned.

Indian nationals visiting Pakistan temporarily are likely to be inconvenienced in obtaining permits for permanent return to India at the close of their temporary visits to Pakistan unless they take a certificate from the Deputy Commissioner or Collector of the district to which they belong, certifying that the applicant is an Indian national and is going to Pakistan only temporarily. These certificates will cover persons going from India.

If any members of the applicant's family, now in Pakistan, are to return with the applicant, a further certificate should be taken to the effect that such persons are Indian national, are not and have not been evacuees from India and there is no objection to their return. The certificate must mention the names, relationship and identification marks of the persons who are to return to India. The 'No Objection' certificate should bear the photographs of the persons who go to Pakistan on short visits. The photographs will be supplied by the applicants at their own expense.

Permit Extensions

(4) Persons on temporary visits to India must return to Pakistan before the expiry of the period stated on their permits. Applications for extension of the period stated in the permit should be addressed to the Superintendents of Police of the districts visited by the permit holders, who have been authorised to grant an extension up to 20 days in really deserving cases.

Applications for any further extension should be addressed to the High Commissioner for India or the Deputy High Commissioner for India, as the case may be.

(5) Applications for permanent permits by persons who came to India on temporary permits before September 10, 1948 should be addressed to the High Commissioner for India or the Deputy High Commissioner through the Collectors or Deputy Commissioners of the districts where the permit holders are staying.

(6) Applications for permanent permits by persons who came to India on temporary permits after September 10, 1948 will not be entertained.

Punishment for Over-stay

(7) In no case the sanction to the required extension should be anticipated and arrangements should be made to return to Pakistan if no reply is received before the expiry of the period stated in the permit. Those overstaying will be liable to be prosecuted under Ordinance and sent back to Pakistan.

(8) All enquiries regarding the issue of permits should be addressed to the Provincial or State authorities concerned.

Facilities for Mullah of Shor Bazar's Visit to Sirhind : Position Clarified

A PRESS NOTE issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on December 29, said:

The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to certain reports in the Pakistan Press alleging that the Government of India have refused facilities to the Hazrat Sahib of Shor Bazar for his proposed visit to Sirhind. These reports are entirely without foundation.

The facts of the matter are as follows:

In November last a request was received on behalf of the Hazrat Sahib for facilities for himself and a party of 16 to visit Sirhind. In view of the Government of India's friendly relations with Afghanistan and their desire to be helpful in every possible way, the Government of India decided to accord the following facilities :—

(1) The number of the Hazrat Sahib's party was increased from 16 to 100 as asked for by him on his arrival at Karachi;

(2) Exemption from the provisions of the Indian Arms Act was granted for the arms which, the Hazrat Sahib and his party originally proposed to bring into India ;

(3) Exemption from customs formalities

The Hazrat Sahib was informed that he would be treated as an honoured State guest and that his party would be accorded all facilities for their comfort and convenience. The Hazrat Sahib was also informed that transportation for himself and his party would be provided and arrangements made for their safety.

On arrival at Lahore the Hazrat Sahib informed the Deputy High Commissioner for India that his party would consist of 500 Afghans, 200 of whom would be armed and that they proposed to stay at Sirhind for a minimum period of seven days.

Transport Difficulties

Despite the fact that it was inconvenient to make arrangements for the stay of the party for more than three or four days at Sirhind, the Government of India agreed to accept the Hazrat Sahib's request for the extension of his stay

As regards the very considerable increase in the number of the party and their arms, it was explained to the Hazrat Sahib that arrangements had already been made for the transportation, accommodation etc., of 100 Afghans and that it was not possible to improvise arrangements for an additional 400 men at such a short notice. It was further explained that the Government of India could not agree to the entry of 200 armed Afghans into India.

These facts clearly indicate that the Government of India did their best to meet the requirements of the Hazrat Sahib and facilitate his pilgrimage to Sirhind.

the Government for everything, Mr. Diwakar said: "In a poor country like India, naturally we look towards business men and towards talented and creative artists for the fullest possible service. I do not like a person who has plenty of money, whether he is a capitalist or a hoarder. I would say that a man who has talent without using it in the spirit of service for the good of people is a bad hoarder."

He implored everyone in the country, every citizen, every talented person, every creative artist and every capitalist to come forward for public service and contribute whatever he could. "Let us shoulder responsibilities in this great task," he concluded, "and see that India is served and its millons come into the forefront and contribute their best towards world culture."

Problems of Film Industry

At an informal conference at Government Guest House, Madras, on December 25, Mr. Diwakar discussed, with representatives of film industry, Provincial Ministers and other local officers concerned, the problems relating to the production, distribution and exhibition of documentary, cultural and general films.

Information Ministers' Conference

The discussions were mostly of an exploratory nature as the intention was to gather points for the agenda of a conference of Information Ministers of all the Provinces and States which is being convened in Delhi towards the end of January next. Mr. Diwakar remarked that films would form one of the main subjects for discussions at the conference.

INAUGURATION OF BARODA RADIO STATION

Mr. R. R. Diwakar's Message

"The importance of the radio is increasing every day. It is not merely a medium for providing recreation but also a powerful instrument for the diffusion of knowledge. I wish this station a long career of public service and utility," said the Hon'ble Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State (Information and Broadcasting) in a message broadcast on the inauguration of the Baroda Radio Station on December 16, 1948. The message was in Hindi.

Mr. Diwakar added: It gives me great pleasure to announce that from today Baroda Radio Station would start working as a unit of All India Radio. This station has so far served the public well. The time has now come when it will be able to serve its listeners better.

Baroda is a big and progressive State. There was a time when the States and the other parts of India were considered two different entities. But today that feeling has disappeared to a great extent and it is disappearing further every day. It is likely that before long in united India unity of the two parts would be fully established.

ORGANISATION OF STATISTICS IN PROVINCES

STATISTICAL organisations in different provinces form the subject of an article in the latest issue of 'Agricultural Situation in India.' There is no uniform system in regard to this in the Provinces. Assam, Bombay, Madras, U. P. and West Bengal have centralised statistical organisations which deal with the compilation of all types of statistics. While the more routine functions of compilation are generally co-ordinated by the Central Statistical Organisation in these Provinces, the technical application of statistics is left to specialised statisticians working in separate departments.

In the other provinces, the collection of statistics is decentralised, a distinction being generally drawn between routine compilation and the application of the statistical technique to specialised fields. In the case of agricultural statistics, *e.g.*, the collection of figures relating to acreage, production etc. is left to the normal administrative agencies, while experiments which involve questions of statistical technique, such as crop cutting, are conducted by separate sections under trained statisticians.

Provincial Organisations

The present position of statistical organisations in the various provinces is briefly as follows:—

ASSAM.—A Central Statistical bureau has been recently established. A Statistical Section attached to the Provincial Department of Agriculture deals with the compilation and publication of all types of statistics relating to agriculture.

BOMBAY—The Bureau of Economics and Statistics co-ordinates statistics collected by various Departments, conducts economic research, and maintains a statistical laboratory. A special branch deals with the collection, compilation and publication of agricultural statistics.

BIHAR.—There is no separate department or bureau of statistics. The work of agricultural statistics is done by two agencies, one under the Director of Agriculture which deals with routine compilation and the other under the Superintendent of Agricultural Statistics which conducts plot-to-plot survey of crops. The establishment of a separate department of Agricultural Statistics and Economics is under consideration.

C. P. AND BERAR.—There is no separate department or bureau of statistics. The work connected with agricultural statistics is done by the Land Records Department.

EAST PUNJAB.—There is no statistical organisation in East Punjab. The establishment of a separate department for dealing with agricultural statistics is under consideration. At present data relating to acreage and agricultural output are collected and compiled by a section in the office of the Director of Land Records.

MADRAS.—All work relating to statistics in different fields is now centralised in the office of the Economic Adviser to the Government. He has taken over the supervision and guidance of the statistical branch attached to the Board of Revenue which deals with the compilation, interpretation and publication of crop forecasts and agricultural statistics.

ORISSA.—A statistical laboratory analyses the data relating to crop-cutting experiments under the random sampling method.

U.P.—A separate department of economics and statistics compiles statistics of all types and conducts economic enquiries. The collection, compilation and publication of Agricultural statistics are jointly carried out by the Board of Revenue and Agriculture Departments.

WEST BENGAL.—A separate bureau deals with labour and industrial statistics. The primary work relating to agricultural statistics is done by the Agriculture Department and the field work by the Statistical Laboratory.

"MONTHLY ABSTRACT OF STATISTICS"

A new statistical series, with the title "Monthly Abstract of Statistics," showing the changing pattern of the economic activity in this country, has been brought out by the Statistician to the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce.

Figures are provided in the "Abstract" on population; employment; agricultural, industrial, mineral and power production; transport including civil aviation; value of contracts, foreign trade, banking, currency and finance; stocks and consumption of food, raw materials and manufactures; postal traffic; prices of precious metals, securities and commodities; cost of living; and industrial profits and disputes. It is stated that the statistics, which have been collected from various sources, are compiled and presented according to international standards.

FREE MOVEMENT OF HAND-LOOM CLOTH FROM MADRAS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on December 23, said:—

The Government of India have decided to permit free movement of handloom cloth from Madras. Any person can, therefore, transport or cause to be transported by rail, road, air, sea or inland navigation any handloom cloth from any place in the Province of Madras to any other place in India without any permit from the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, or from the Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras.

IMPORTANCE OF COMPOST MANURE FOR SOIL FERTILITY

All India Conference Meets in Jaipur

MR. JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM, Food and Agriculture Minister to the Government of India, presided over the second session of the All India Compost Conference which was held at Jaipur on December 16, 1948.

Among those who attended the Conference were Mr. V.T. Krishnamachari, Dewan of Jaipur, Shrimati Mira Behn and members of the Central Manure Compost Development Committee representing different provincial and State Governments.

Mr. Daulatmal Bhandari, Minister for Development, Jaipur State and Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the delegates referred to the food deficiency of Jaipur State and pointed out the urgent need for mobilizing all manurial resources for increasing crop production and for making the State self-sufficient in food.

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram stated that though they were celeberating in Jaipur their victory in the battle of freedom, they had not yet won the victory in the battle for food. The people of Jaipur should forget their old sense of isolation and welcome the new consciousness of being citizens of India as a whole. The good or bad fortune affecting India was sure to affect the citizens of Jaipur as well, especially in the matter of food supply. This matter could not be solved by the Central Government alone trying to obtain food from other Governments, but only by the combined efforts of all.

The food position in India, stated the Food Minister, was becoming more serious from year to year on account of increasing population and the deficiency of the cultivable area. This difficulty had been accentuated by the large influx of refugees from Pakistan. There were other difficulties as well, such as the poor and hilly nature of certain tracts and the absence of sufficient rainfall, but these difficulties had to be overcome by utilising other resources available locally for increasing food production.

Soil Fertility

The productive capacity of the soil was bound to become poorer year by year, unless the soil received back what had been taken out. The best type of manure for maintaining soil fertility was compost manure. Chemical fertilizers, even though they might confer temporary benefits could not keep the soil in good condition. On this point, there was some difference of opinion and there was need for starting experiments in Research Institutes for comparing the nutritive value of crops raised on organic manures and those on chemical fertilisers. This was a problem of great public importance. The increase of compost production in Jaipur should be viewed not as a small matter of merely increasing crop production in the State, but as one affecting the vitality of the people as a whole. The Food Minister therefore urged the formation of a special committee to increase the production of organic manure in all the villages and towns in the State.

Mr. V. T. Krishnamachari, Dewan of Jaipur, referred to the village development work which had been started in the State two years ago, in which compost making had been given a prominent place. Under the desert conditions of Rajputana, where wind erosion led to serious loss of top soil, the application of compost played an important part in preventing the soil from being carried away by the wind. Compost making was therefore a matter of vital importance for the cultivators of Rajputana.

Compost Committee

Mr. Daulatmal Bhandar announced the formation of a special Compost Development Committee consisting of the heads of departments concerned in compost manufacture and distribution with himself as Chairman and Mr. R. N. Dey as Secretary. He also announced that a sum of Rs. 100,000 would be earmarked for financing the schemes of manure production to be prepared by the Committee.

STEPPING UP COMPOST PRODUCTION

The appointment of a Committee of experts with a view to increase substantially the production of composts and town refuse in India, fixation of provincial targets of production, compulsion of municipalities by legislation to ensure proper use of manures and sample surveys of villages to estimate the present level of production were some of the decisions arrived at the second meeting of the Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee held at Jaipur on December 16 and 17.

Besides representatives of the Central Ministry of Agriculture, representatives of the provincial and state Governments, Shrimati Mira Behn and Pandit S. K. Sharma, non-official members, were present. Mr. K. L. Punjabi, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, presided.

Target of Production

At the outset, Mr. Punjabi emphasised the urgent need for increasing food production and observed that one sure method for obtaining this result was by increasing Compost production. This matter would claim the highest priority and maximum support from the Central Government, he declared.

Dr. C. N. Acharya, Secretary of the Central Compost Development Committee, in presenting the report for the half year ending September 30, 1948, urged that under the Town Refuse Composting Scheme the annual production of composts should be raised from its present level of 6,00,000 tons to that of 15,00,000 tons before March 31, 1950 and definite targets of production should be fixed for each area. Under the Village Compost Scheme, he pointed out, it was necessary to obtain estimates of the present level of manure production per head of cattle in villages of each area by sample surveys carried out on a statistical basis.

Shrimati Mira Behn pointed out that there should be proper co-ordination between the scientific aspects, of compost production and the field work of demonstrating to villagers the results of such scientific work; for this purpose, she urged that provinces should pay more attention to the scientific aspects such as the technique to be adopted and the best methods of using compost. Economic considerations and labour involved should also be kept in view, possibly, the best way of varifying the soundness of the technical advice given would be to test how far it was adopted by kisans on the routine basis over a big area, she observed.

Shrimati Mira Behn also urged that alongside the problem of utilizing cattle-shed and farm refuse in the best manner possible, equal attention should be paid to the problem of utilising village night-soil and urine. In fact, she said, the same staff could supervise the operation of both the Schemes and added that if the programme of compost production was to achieve tangible results in a short time, it was necessary that sufficient staff and funds should be provided for the purpose by both the Provincial and Central Governments.

Research Committee

The Committee appointed a Research Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. B.N. Lal (U. P.), Dr. K. G. Joshi (C. P.), Mr. R. B. Gode (Bombay), Mr. Madhok Patnaik (Orissa), and Dr. C.N. Acharya, Secretary, Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee for the purpose of planning out, initiating and co-ordinating research work to be carried out by Provincial Governments and the Centre in relation to different aspects of compost production and utilization.

The Committee also fixed tentative targets of Compost production for different Provinces and States under the Town Refuse Composting Scheme, for the years 1948-49 and 1949-50. Compulsion of municipalities by Legislation has been recommended in order to enable Provinces to reach the targets fixed. Under the Village Compost Scheme, Provinces and States have been requested to initiate Sample Surveys of villages in order to estimate the present level of manure production per head of cattle in each agricultural zone.

Mr. T.P. Bhalla, of the Indian Police Service, who was recently Transport Commissioner of U.P., has been appointed Director-General of Civil Aviation, India, with effect from January 11 to succeed Mr. N.C. Ghosh, who has accepted the appointment of Director-General of Transport, West Bengal Government.

INTER-DOMINION AGREEMENT ON BAGGAGE RULES

THE Governments of India and Pakistan have agreed upon the following Baggage Rules regarding passengers' baggage imported or exported across the land frontiers, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on December 20.

A. Baggage Allowances

1. *Bona fide* baggage is exempt from duty when it accompanies a passenger.

2. (1) *Bona fide* baggage shall include wearing apparel and other personal and household effects, provided that the articles are meant for the personal use of the passenger or for the members of his family travelling with him and that they are not intended for transfer to other persons either by sale or gift. Jewellery (including articles made wholly or mainly of gold) in reasonable quantity according to the status of the passenger will also be passed free as personal effects.

(2) *Bona fide* baggage shall not include the following articles:—

Alcoholic liquor exceeding half a pint; perfumed spirit exceeding two ounces in open or unopened bottles; cigars exceeding 50; cigarettes exceeding 50; biris exceeding 200; tobacco manufactured or unmanufactured exceeding 4 ounces in weight; snuff exceeding ten tolas in weight; piano, radio, carriage, motor car, motor cycle, refrigerator, cotton piecegoods or other textile materials in lengths; and arms and ammunition.

3. *Bona fide* baggage which is produced at any land customs station within one month before or after the date on which the passenger to whom it belongs arrived at the same land customs station may also be passed free at the discretion of the land customs officer.

Instruments

4. Instruments, apparatus and appliances when imported by a passenger as a part of his personal baggage and which are in actual use by him in the exercise of his profession or calling are allowed free entry. Examples of such articles are the tools of a craftsman and the instruments of a physician or a surgeon who is actually travelling.

5. Goods reimported into India by passengers from Pakistan which are proved to have been previously exported by land to Pakistan not more than six months before the date of reimport are exempted from duty. If, therefore, any passenger for Pakistan exports any article (including arms and ammunition which he is legally entitled to possess) liable to duty on import into India, and if before proceeding to Pakistan he declares his intention to reimport it into Indian territory, the Customs Officer on duty at the land Customs station will grant an export certificate giving full particulars of the article to be exported. If this certificate is produced before the Customs Officer at the time of re-import, not being more than six months after the date of export, and if the Customs Officer is satisfied that the article is the one referred to in the certificate, he will grant free entry.

6. Duty on goods including arms and ammunition imported by a passenger for temporary use in India will be refunded if re-exported within a period of six months from the date of import, on the passenger making a written declaration of his intention to re-export to the Land Customs Officer at the time of payment of duty.

7. Where Government officials have by the nature of their duties to travel to and from across the Pakistan land customs lines, on duty or when proceeding on leave, free entry of their effects may be granted on production of a certificate signed by the head of the department to which the officer belongs or if the officer is himself the head of a department, by a Secretary to the Provincial or Central Government.

B. Customs Procedure

8. Passengers travelling from one part of the Dominion of India to another through Pakistan will be exempt from baggage examination in respect of their packages booked with the guard, who will under no circumstances allow delivery of the packages en route even if the passengers break journey in any intermediate station. Packages of such through passengers which are carried with them will also be free from baggage examination en route if they have been sealed with a customs seal at the starting station. Other packages carried with the passengers will not, however, be exempt from examination.

9. (a) At certain land customs stations other than frontier stations, which will be notified for the information of the public, facilities will be provided for customs examination of baggages at the time of booking. A notice will be prominently displayed at these stations showing what goods are dutiable and the rates of duty and what goods are restricted. Passengers wishing to book their baggage will be required to sign a declaration in the prescribed form.

(b) Such baggage, if booked to land customs stations other than frontier stations in India or Pakistan (as the case may be), will then be placed in the custody of the railway or steamer authorities, as the case may be, and will not be reexamined at the frontier stations in India or Pakistan. Any duty payable in India or Pakistan will be collected at the land customs station of destination in India or Pakistan.

(c) Baggage booked to other places in India or Pakistan, whether placed in the custody of the railway or steamer authorities or not, will be subject to examination at the frontier station in India or Pakistan in the same way as unbooked baggage.

10. Unbooked baggage will be liable to examination at the frontier stations in India and Pakistan. The Customs Officer will show the passengers a copy of the notice referred to in paragraph 9 and will ask the passenger to make a declaration as to the contents of his baggage. To avoid delay this declaration will ordinarily be oral. The Customs Officer may however, at his discretion demand a written declaration.

11. Restricted and dutiable articles found in the baggage in excess of the permissible limits will be dealt with as follows :—

(a) Dutiable articles (unrestricted) in excess of the free allowance, provided they are not subject to trade control restrictions, will not ordinarily be detained if duty is paid on them by the passenger. Penal action will however be taken where a deliberate attempt is made to defraud Government of duty. In such cases the articles will be detained pending adjudication and a receipt will be given to the passenger.

(b) Restricted articles in excess of the permissible limits will be detained and a receipt will be given to the passenger. If the restricted articles were declared no penal action will be taken and the articles will be returned to the passenger or his representative when claimed. Undeclared articles will be liable to penal action.

Penal Action

(c) In all cases where goods are detained the owner will be told when and where to claim the goods.

(d) If the land customs Officer intends to take penal action he will record a statement from the owner and will submit a written report to his superintendent or Assistant Collector for orders. The case will then be dealt with in accordance with the normal customs procedure.

12. Only land Customs Officers of the rank of Inspector or above will work on baggage examination. Peons and Jamadars will on no account examine baggage independently.

13. When duty is realised from a passenger a receipt in duplicate will be made out showing the articles assessed to duty and the amount paid. One copy will be given to the Passenger and the other will be retained at the land customs station. Any passengers from whom duty is collected should demand a receipt.

INDIAN ART EXHIBITION EXTENDED UPTO MARCH

The Exhibition of Indian Art being held at Government House, New Delhi since November 6, 1948 continues to draw a large number of visitors every day. Up to December 24, 1948 nearly 68,000 visitors have gone round the galleries.

In view of the great public enthusiasm, the Ministry of Education, with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General, have decided to extend the Exhibition up to the end of March, 1949.



Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State (Information and Broadcasting) Government of India, inaugurating the Documentary Films Festival at Madras on December 26

DOCUMENTARY FILMS FESTIVAL IN MADRAS

Mr. Diwakar's Inaugural Speech

THE need for educating vast millions in this country so as to make them think and decide for themselves how they should be governed and by whom, and the responsibility of the individual and the State in this respect was emphasised by the Hon'ble Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting at the inauguration of the Documentary Films Festival on December 26 at Madras. The Festival was organized by the Tamilnad Congress Committee on Congress Grounds, Madras.

Mr. Diwakar pointed out that mass education is the greatest need of an infant democracy like India. "Education, of our masses," he said, "is the very basis on which we are going to build the new democracy. Within the space of the next year or so the whole of India will be called upon to take part in the general elections on the basis of adult franchise. Fifteen crores of men and women will have to decide who would run the Government in the country. If we want them to think and ruminate and ultimately come to right conclusions as to the persons and the party who should be at the helm of affairs, they will have to be educated. If we do not educate them about a number of things they should know before they elect their own Government, they will not realise their responsibilities and understand what great and big questions are involved in electing proper personnel for the new Government, then I am afraid we might be building on a very flimsy basis." If they are to be educated, if sufficient information is to reach them, if we are to create understanding and a sense of responsibility in the minds of these vast masses, every instrument and every mean of education will have to be utilised.

Mr. Diwakar admitted the view expressed by the organisers that documentary films are possibly more powerful and more far-reaching than any other instrument of education. He regretted that India was almost at the lowest rungs of the ladder in this field. In other countries like Russia, U. K., Canada and U. S. A. this medium is being used for a number of things not only by the Governments but by practically all important corporations and institutions. It is wrong to think that simply because documentary films are restricted to realities and to scenes in common life and scenes in the laboratories, they are not romantic or artistic. The real romance exists not in the realm of fancy but in our everyday life. He appreciated that the Provincial Congress Committee had realised its primary duty and utilised the best and the most modern method of education and had ventured in the field by producing documentary films.

Citizen's Duty to Masses

Explaining the part the Indian Government is expected to play in the field, the Hon'ble Minister gave the assurance that he is prepared to do his best in clearing the difficulties in the way of production and distribution of documentary films. He at the same time, stressed the need for a realisation on the part of every citizen that he has a duty towards masses. The Government today, he pointed out, is not something detached, something different from people. It represented the people and whatever is possible in the interest of the people must be done. It was the duty and the highest responsibility of a popular government to see that they worked in the interest and for the service of the people. But at the same time, he would place as much responsibility on the people themselves. "Today," he said, "I happen to be not only an individual but the representative of all of you. As a part of the mighty administration, I happen to be in the charge of Information and Broadcasting. Both these comprise, between them, all means of publicity, all means of mass education and all means of creating understanding between the Government of the day and the people concerned."

Deprecating the tendency to look to



Mr. R. R. Diwakar talking to officers of the Government of India and Provincial Government who received him on his arrival in Madras on December 24

HOUSING SCHEMES FOR REFUGEES

Details of Progress in Provinces and States

LATEST figures available in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, indicate that roughly 13,00,000 refugees have so far been housed in evacuee houses and in other existing accommodation. The Government of India have, in addition, sanctioned or will shortly accord their sanction to housing schemes in Provinces and States for another 7,50,000 urban refugees.

In October last, the Government of India requested all Provincial and State Governments to forward to them broad particulars of their housing schemes which were necessary to provide accommodation to urban refugees after taking into account the houses left by Muslim evacuees. In response to this request several Provincial and State Governments have forwarded their schemes, and discussions have since been held with representatives of some of these Governments. Broad decisions have been arrived at in regard to the quantum of assistance that the Government of India will be prepared to give to Provincial and State Governments in the shape of finance and procurement of building materials.

Financial Aid from Centre

The housing schemes that have so far received the approval of the Government of India will involve financial assistance by the Government of India to the tune of Rs. 16,58,00,000 distributed as follows:- East Punjab Rs. 7,00,00,000; the United Provinces Rs. 3,00,00,000; the Central Provinces Rs. 2,92,00,000; Rajasthan Rs. 30,00,000; Jaipur Rs. 1,00,00,000; Jodhpur Rs. 26,00,000; Ajmer Rs. 50,00,000; Matsya Union Rs. 45,00,000; Kandla Rs. 1,10,00,000; and Madhya Bharat Union Rs. 5,00,000.

Complete schemes from other Provinces and States are still awaited. Of the scheme for 7,50,000 urban refugees already sanctioned or shortly expected to be sanctioned, many are already in the process of execution. In many of these, shops for refugees have also been provided. Following is briefly the position in each area where large number of refugees have concentrated:—

Delhi.—2,000 houses have been already completed and are ready for occupation while 1,600 are at present under construction.

E. Punjab.—Construction of 4,000 houses has been already completed and have largely been sold to refugees on easy payment, and 6,000 fully developed plots are also being sold. Survey of the site at Faridabad is in progress.

Patiala.—A township at Rajpura in Patiala for accommodating 60,000 refugees who are at present living in Kurukshetra camp, is being set up and the preliminary work has been taken in hand.

U. P.—Construction of four townships at (*a*) Muzaffargarh, (*b*) Dehra Dun, (*c*) Modinagar and (d) Lucknow;

(2) Renovation of 8 Military Camps to provide tenements;

(3) Construction of 12,000 shops-cum-residences in various districts;

(4) 2,000 Kucha houses and

(5) 6 000 stalls.

All the above are under execution.

Rajasthan.—A township namely Partapnagar in Udaipur providing for 3,350 houses, is under construction. About half of the houses are nearing completion.

Jaipur.— 2,500 houses are about to be built 2,000 by Government and 500 by Co-operative Societies.

Matsya Union. -Construction of 1,400 new houses and repairs to 100 evacuee houses have been taken in hand.

Bihar.—A scheme for construction of 300 shops-cum-residences at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.2 lakhs has been taken up.

Plans for Urban Refugees

The various Provincial and State Governments have drawn up their plans after taking into consideration the number of refugees who have been provided any evacuee houses or any other existing accommodation. The following is a statement of the housing plans for urban refugees in the different Provinces and States:—

	Refugees provided for	*Brief particulars of schemes*	
Delhi	1,13,000	Houses	3,648
		Plots	4,750
		Townships	Two (Kalkaji Sheikh-sarai)
		Reconditioned barracks	600
East Punjab ..	1,00,000	Houses	4000
		Plots	6000
		Township	One (Faridabad)
Patiala and E. P. States	60,000	Township	One (Rajpura)
United Provinces ..	1,26,000	Houses	14,000
		Extensions to towns	Four
		Conversion of Military camps	5300 tenements
Central Provinces	56,000	Townships	Two
		Conversion of Military barracks	1,000 tenements
Rajasthan	21,000	Township	One 3,350 tenements
		Houses	300
Jaipur	15,000	Houses	2500
Jodhpur	6,000	Houses	1,000
Ajmer	12,000	Houses	2,000
Matsya Union ..	8,400	Houses	1,400
Kandla	24,000	Houses	4,000
Bombay ..	1,80,000	Township	One (Development of Kalyan Military Camp)
Bihar ..	1,800	Houses	300
Madhya Bharat ..	24,000	Houses	4,000

UNATTACHED PERSONS IN HOMES AND CAMPS

The Search Service Organization of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, have collected data relating to unattached persons who are at present in various Homes and Camps in the East Punjab and certain other parts of the country. Copies of the lists of these persons have been supplied to District Boards and all police stations in the East Punjab as well as to the Red Cross Provincial Branches and commandants of all refugee camps. Those interested in these persons are requested to contact either the Red Cross Welfare Officer, Search Bureau, Gandhi Nagar Camp, or write to the Officer-in-charge, Displaced Persons Enquiries and Search Service, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Room No. 61, P. Block, Raisina Road, New Delhi.

TELEGRAMS TO PALESTINE RESUMED

Telegraphic communication between India and Jewish and Arab controlled areas of Palestine has been resumed, says a Press Note issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs on December 22.

NEW SCALE OF FOOD RATIONS FOR REFUGEES

LIBERAL additions in the scale of food rations in refugee camps in India have been sanctioned by the Government of India. The new scale will involve Government in additional expenditure of Rs. 5.4 crores in a year or Rs. 1.5 lakhs daily.

The scale of rations was revised on medical advice which recommended a higher vitamin content in the food given to refugees. The atta or rice ration of 10 ozs. per day will remain unchanged but each refugee will now receive a total of 12 ozs. per day of vegetables, dals, vegetable ghee or oil, salt or condiments, and gur or sugar in place of the present total of five ozs. per day. The new scale will include 6 ozs. of vegetables and 2 ozs. of dals. In addition, refugees have now been allowed vitamin tablets and calcium lactate. Every child under five years at present receives a small quantity of milk daily. Milk, fruits and other special items are also provided to adults on medical advice.

Total Value of Food Articles

The total value of food articles supplied to refugees in all the camps in India would total up to astronomical figures. In the Kurukshetra Camp alone the value of foodstuffs supplied from September, 1947 to August, 1948 was nearly Rs. 1,00,00,000. Besides foodstuffs indigent refugees in camps are allowed an initial supply of clothes and blankets, etc. The supply of clothes is renewed after a period of six months. Thus, up to September, 1948 supplies sent to refugee camps in various parts of the country included nearly 17,77,000 razais and blankets, 85,000 great coats, 4,22,000 jerseys and bundies, 1,44,000 lbs. of knitting wool, 50,00,000 yards of cloth and 20,00,000 ready made garments. During the current cold season, additional 3,21,000 razais and blankets, 44,500 jerseys and bundies and 81,000 lbs. of knitting wool will be supplied. In addition, large quantities of warm clothing received as gifts from India and abroad are supplied to refugee camps.

The Government have so far satisfied demands for over 2,68,000 tents, 5 millions pounds of soap, 30,000 pairs of shoes and chaplis, 200 tons of fruit juices, 600 tons of powdered milk, 100 cases of eggs powder and 50 cases of brandy, besides smaller quantities of numerous other articles like folding beds, crockery, utensils, combs, screws, wire ropes, trucks and jeeps, motors and motor-cycles, fire extinguishers, radios and loud speakers, pipes, barbed wire, tarpaulines, etc. etc.

The population of refugee camps in the beginning of the current year was nearly 3,67,000. Today it is nearly 8,00,000. The increase is due partly to the disinclination of refugees themselves to go out of the camps. The Government of India have had to issue instructions to Provincial and State Governments that free rations should be provided only to the aged, infirm and children below 12 years, and that food rations to new refugees from Pakistan should be supplied only for one month from the date of their arrival in India.

The Government of India have further instructed the Provinces and States to turn refugee camps into work centres not later than January 31, 1949. The refugee workers will be paid wages. The Ministry of Defence has recently agreed to release permanently a number of camps for the use of refugees. The Provincial and State Governments have been requested to consider the possibility of establishing townships in the areas where these camps are located, where refugees could be settled permanently.

In addition to the unlimited and complex problems of refugees from West Pakistan, the Government of India have in recent months been called upon to face new and equally complicated problems arising from the exodus of non-Muslims from East Pakistan. Again on account of the fighting in Kashmir a large number of refugees have had to be looked after. Three camps with a total population of 35,000 have been opened for them. Supplies of food, clothing and medicines are being arranged for these refugees.

Yet another demand came from the South. Before the Police Action in Hyderabad, refugees from the State trickled into the Provinces of Bombay, C.P. and Madras. The Government of India had to ask these Provincial Governments to provide relief to these refugees on the same basis as in the case of refugees from Western Pakistan. With the changed situation in Hyderabad, however, most of these refugees have returned to their homes.

Producers' Societies

The Government of India have emphasised that producers' co-operative societies should be given encouragement in preference to thrift and credit societies and that ordinarily, not more than fifty per cent of the loan money at the disposal of a Government should be given to thrift and credit societies.

The various Governments have been asked to bear in mind that the object for which loans are given would be secured better if Government Departments could themselves prepare concrete schemes for implementation by co-operative societies. Such societies should be given all possible assistance in securing premises, raw materials, power, transport etc., and technical guidance and supervision should be given wherever necessary. Efforts should also be made to promote the formation of unions or federations of co-operative societies.

Those States or States' Unions who do not at present have separate Co-operative Departments have been requested to set up immediately administrative machinery for promoting, registering and supervising co-operative societies in their areas.

Among other suggestions made by the Government of India are the following: Advisory committees should be appointed to assist the various Governments in the scrutiny of loan applications; financial assistance to refugees should be given only for those activities for which there is scope in the economy of the Province or State concerned; ordinarily, the amount of a loan advanced to a co-operative society should be equivalent to the amount subscribed by the society's members or Rs. 2,500, whichever is greater.

REHABILITATION LOANS TO REFUGEES

THE general principles which should guide Provincial and State Governments in the grant of rehabilitation loans to urban refugees from Pakistan have been laid down by the Government of India.

In a communication addressed to Provincial and State Governments, the Government of India have reiterated their earlier decision that, as a rule, loans should be given only to co-operative societies. This policy, in the Government of India's view, would ensure that the benefit of loans reaches a larger circle of refugees and that the available funds are properly utilized. This policy would also, it is felt, improve the prospects of recovery of loans. The Government of India have, however, permitted exceptions to be made in rare cases where co-operative societies cannot be formed for some reason, in which case loans may be given to groups of refugees with joint and several responsibility for repayment. Also, in exceptional cases, loans in kind may be given to individuals in the shape of materials, tools, machinery or other equipment.

Displaced Lawyers

The Government of India have very carefully considered whether, as a special case, displaced lawyers should be given loans individually. They have decided that relaxation of the general policy in their case will not be desirable. Displaced lawyers are, accordingly, advised to organize common libraries or otherwise combine on the lines of solicitors working together before loans are advanced to them.

MICA MARKETING CONTROL BOARD

The Government of India have decided to appoint a Committee consisting of 15 members to consider and report on the practicability of setting up a Mica Marketing Control Board in India, and, if such a Board is considered feasible to suggest its constitution and functions and also to work out a detailed scheme for the efficient marketing of mica.

Dr. M. S. Krishnan, Director, Indian Bureau of Mines will be Chairman of the Committee. A representative of the Ministry of Commerce, one representative each of the Governments of Bihar, Madras, West Bengal and Rajasthan and eight representatives of the trade will be members of the Committee. The first meeting of the Committee took place at Madras on December 22.



Mr. N. Raghavan, Indian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, presented his credentials to President Clement Gottwald at Prague on December 8. Picture shows President Gottwald reading his address at the ceremony

INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

"THIS day starts a new chapter in the book of friendship which Czechoslovakia and India have commenced to write," said Mr. N.Raghavan, the first Indian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, when he presented his credentials to President Clement Gottwald at Prague, on December 8.

The following is the text of his speech:

I am fully conscious of the solemnity and historic nature of this occasion at which as India's first Ambassador to Czechoslovakia I have been given the opportunity of presenting to you my credentials, and been accorded the privilege of addressing Your Excellency and through you, the people of Czechoslovakia.

Several centuries ago India sent out her envoys and ambassadors abroad to the court of many other countries. Almost from the dawn of history we find Indian envoys crossing the seas or travelling across mountains to distant lands, carrying with them India's message of peace, goodwill, love and service of humanity. Those were the halcyon days of India's glory. Then came an Age during which our foreign intercourse and international relations waned and broke down due to our having lost our own Liberty. On August 15, last year, due to various circumstances which it is hardly necessary for me to go into at present, India could throw away the remaining shackles of foreign rule and regain her freedom. India became free once again—free as of old. It was indeed a red letter day in the annals of my country's history, and let me hope, a day of happy augury to the world at large, a world which India from days immemorial had constantly striven to serve.

The free India that came into being, this new India which once again aspired to revive her century old tradition of service to mankind, is stretching out her hands of friendship to the nations of the world. The great Republic of Czechoslovakia was naturally among the first to which India wished to send out her representatives. India's interest in this land with her noble traditions of culture and freedom, was nothing new. Your sacrifices and struggles, your great achievements, spiritual and material, your accomplishments in the realm of music and literature, of sculpture and architecture in the fields of industry and commerce and of arts and sciences have always thrilled the people of India.

India's Esteem and Affection

When the new Republic came into existence pursuant to the famous Declaration of Independence on October 28, 1918, India was one of the first countries to rejoice. In those dark days commencing from September 1938, India mourned and grieved for Czechoslovakia. The nation-wide campaign that our illustrious Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and his colleagues of the Indian National Congress, conducted in protest of the Munich decisions is still vivid in the minds of Indians throughout my country.

The people of India have always regarded Czechoslovakia with esteem and affection, and spiritually and materially your great country has always had special appeal to India and her people. It was in the fitness of things that new India had, soon after her birth, the pleasure and privilege of receiving Czechoslovakia's Ambassador to India at New Delhi and reciprocating such courteous consideration at the earliest opportunity. It is, therefore, Your Excellency, with sincere joy and pardonable pride that I am addressing you today.



Mr. and Mrs. Raghavan photographed on their arrival at Prague Airport

New Chapter

This day starts a new chapter in the book of Friendship which Czechoslovakia and India have together commenced to write. Indians have always found warm welcome and genuine hospitality in Your Excellency's country; and the people of Czechoslovakia have ever been honoured guests in mine. I see before me a wide vista of concord and co-operation, of mutual regard and assistance, now and in the years and centuries to come.

As I mentioned, I have the honour of being India's first Ambassador to Czechoslovakia. But I am only a forerunner. Many shall come here in the years to come to represent my country at your Court, and it is my conviction that each one of them will endeavour with all his heart, as I have pledged to do with all my heart, to unite India and Czechoslovakia in the silken bonds of eternal friendship.

The world today is in sore need of such friendship and co-operation. In India our leaders are engaged in the onerous task of reconstructing an old but new country. A new Czechoslovakia is also being built up. I have no doubt that mutual assistance, friendship and co-operation between our two peoples will in no measure contribute towards the early achievement of those noble ideals and traditions for which both Czechoslovakia and India have always stood—common ideals and traditions of Peace, Progress and Happiness of mankind.

PRESIDENT GOTTWALD'S SPEECH

The following is the reply of President Clement Gottwald to Mr. N. Raghavan's address:

It is an especial honour for me to be able to receive from the hands of Your Excellency the Credentials appointing you Free India's first Ambassador to our country.

In your address, you mention in a few words the history of your great nation which, indeed, greatly resembles our own history. Your country, too, was free many years ago and used to send out to the other nations its own ambassadors, spokesmen—as you rightly say—for "peace, goodwill, love and service to humanity."

Then came oppression and bondage, from which the fifteenth of August last year has brought you liberation. Our country, too, enjoyed for many centuries complete freedom, and although but small in size and the number of its inhabitants, it always strove to be great in the conception of its tasks and in its struggles for a new outlook on life and a new social order. Our country, too, lost its independence, but fought for and regained it in the first world war.

In this connection, I would like to recall with gratitude the genuine and cordial interest with which your great homeland has greeted the day of our liberation in October 1918, and the deep sympathy which it showed us in the onerous days of Munich, and, later on, during the tragic days of March 1939. That utmost friendly movement which spread through the masses of your peoples was eloquently expressed by your great poet Rabindranath Tagore in his noble message, and another great countryman of yours, Prime Minister, Pandit



The Czech Army Band playing the Indian National Anthem outside the Presidential castle at Prague before Mr. Raghavan presented his credentials

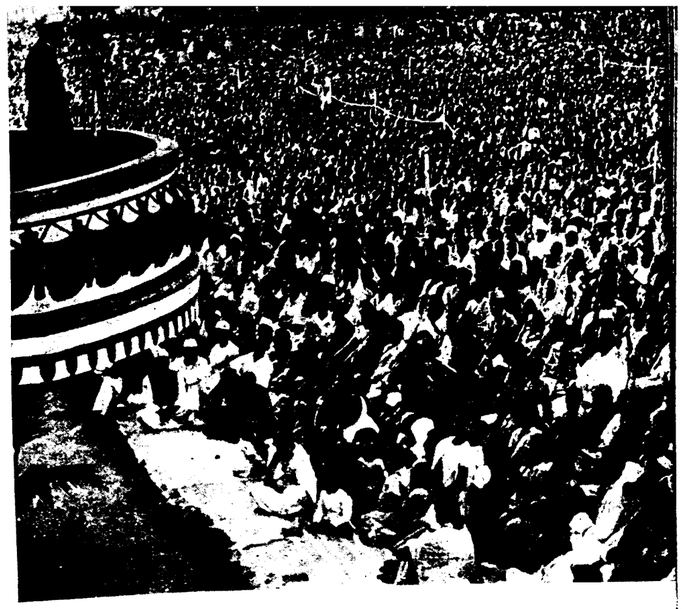
PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO HYDERABAD



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, was accorded a warm welcome by the people of Hyderabad on his arrival there on December 24. Picture shows Pandit Nehru's car surrounded by a big crowd. (Below) Pandit Nehru addressing the Special Convocation of Osmania University at Hyderabad on December 26. The University conferred on the Prime Minister the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.



Pandit Nehru photographed with a deputation of prominent Muslim Leaders of Hyderabad who called on him at Residency on December 25. (Below) India's Prime Minister with representatives of the Gurdwara Hazur Sahib of Abchal Nagar at Nanded, Hyderabad State. On Pandit Nehru's left are Shrimati Vijayalakshmi, India's Ambassador to Russia, and Maj.-Gen. Chowdury, Military Governor of Hyderabad.



Pandit Nehru addressing a mammoth public meeting from the grand stand of Fateh Maidan, Hyderabad, on December 25. (Below) The Prime Minister of India inspecting men of the 1st Indian Armoured Division at a parade in Hyderabad.









manufactures in the period under review were more than double those of the corresponding period last year those of raw cotton and waste declined by about half. From Rs. 32 lakhs in 6 months ended September 1947, the exports of other yarns and textile fabrics shot up to Rs. 4.15 crores in the same period in 1948.

The exports of oils also recorded an increase of Rs. 2.59 crores in the 6 months ended September '48 over the same period in 1947. In the case of Tea, Raw jute & waste and Hides & Skins tanned and leather, while the value of exports was lower in the six months ended September 1948 than in the corresponding period last year by Rs. 83 lakhs in the aggregate, the monthly figures for September 1948 showed an increase of Rs. 16 lakhs over those for September 1947.

Imports of Principal Commodities Into India

	6 months ended September '48	6 months ended September '47	Sept. '48	Sept. '47
Machinery of all kinds	39,06	25,61	5,35	4,96
Grain Pulse and Flour	36,52	10,54	4,04	2,86
Cotton Raw and Waste	26,61	17,15	4,07	2,55
Oils	18,17	18,52	2,70	2,77
Metal and Ores	16,32	12,45	2,91	2,00
Vehicles	14,51	13,09	2,47	2,11
Chemicals, Drugs and Medicines	12,51	10,49	2,75	1,81
Dyes and Colours	9,14	7,72	1 64	1,32
Cutlery Hardware etc.	6,20	11,72	1,25	1,89
Cotton Yarns and Manufactures	5,03	3,62	1,08	59
Other Yarns and Textile Fabrics	5,53	13,28	2,05	94

Imports of Machinery of all sorts increased in value by Rs. 13.45 crores in the period under review as compared with the corresponding period in 1947. From Rs. 10.54 crores in the six months ended September 1947 the imports of Grain Pulse and Flour rose to Rs. 36.52 crores in the same period this year an increase of more than three times. Imports of Cotton Raw & Waste and Metals and Ores also recorded appreciable increases in the period under review over the corresponding period last year. Imports of the first item increased from Rs. 17.15 crores in the six months ended September 1947 to Rs. 26.61 crores in the same period this year. Chemicals, Drugs, and Medicines increased by Rs. 2.02 crores and Dyes and Colours by Rs. 1.42 crores in the period under review as compared with the corresponding period in 1947. Vehicles showed a small increase from Rs. 13.09 crores in the six months ended September 1947 to Rs. 14.51 crores in the same period this year. Imports of cutlery and hardware declined from Rs. 11.72 crores in the six months ended September 1947 to Rs. 6.20 crores in the period under review. Imports of "Other Yarns and textile fabrics" declined by Rs. 7.75 crores in the six months ended September 1948 compared with the corresponding period last year, while the monthly figures for September 1948 showed an increase of Rs. 1.11 crores over the same month last year.

Exports From India

(Value Rs. lakhs)

	6 months ended September '48	6 months ended September '47	Sept. '48	Sept. '47
British Commonwealth :				
U. K.	45,45	54,88	7,08	12,08
Pakistan	15,93	..	5,27	..
Ceylon	5,53	5,68	76	
Canada	4,43	5,72	92	
Straits Settlements	2,08	2,14	17	37
Hongkong	2,00	2,90	26	10
Foreign Countries :				
U. S. A.	35,60	35,56	6,00	5,51
Burma	6,50	6,01	61	24
France	4,76	2,84	14	22
China	4,50	5,33	50	61
Egypt	3,61	..	19	..
Japan	4,52	..	1,47	..
Argentine	3,15	2,21	50	18
Italy	3,14	5,74	27	1,45
Belgium	3,13	..	90	..
Cuba				

Imports Into India

(Value Rs. lakhs)

	6 months ended September '48	6 months ended September '47	Sept. '48	Sept. '47
British Commonwealth :				
U. K.	63,11	59,10	11,06	9,95
Australia	14,18	4,31	2,04	92
Pakistan	9,96	..	40	..
Kenya Colony	6,80	6,44	1,73	2,06
Canada	4,12	5,25	76	76
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	3,32	1,49	59	14
Straits Settlements	3,09	3,88	52	37
Foreign Countries :				
U S A.	53,46	67,44	10,16	9,13
Burma	11,92	6,29	98	1,63
Egypt	10,65	10,37	96	81
Iran	10,36	11,16	1,12	1,56
Italy	8,55	4,43	2,72	47
Belgium	3,42	3,25	62	31
Switzerland	3,07	4,06	47	51
Argentine	2,70	39	3	5

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Food Production Drive in Hyderabad

With the political situation in Hyderabad fast returning to normal, the administration has expressed eagerness to co-ordinate with the Government of India their efforts to increase food production in the State. The State has normally a deficit of 70 to 80 thousand tons of rice and 10 thousand tons of wheat in her food supply and the need for stepping up food production is urgent.

The Additional Agricultural Development Commissioner of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, recently visited the State on the invitation of the Chief Civil Administrator and had discussions on the agricultural problems of the State with the Minister for Rural Reconstruction, Nawab Zain Yar Jung and officials of the various Departments concerned at Hyderabad.

The State has large potentialities for increased production of food crops through the co-operative movement. Already in about 21,000 villages there are about 18,000 co-operatives. Of these, 4,000 are credit societies, the rest are Grain Banks which developed during the scarcity period. As members of these societies are mostly agriculturists, they should form a good nucleus on which to base an overall food production plan and efforts are being made to canalise the activities of these societies in this direction.

The present production of rice in the State is a mere fraction of what it can grow. It is about 4 lakhs of tons with an average of 839 pounds per acre. The use of town compost and other natural manures can increase the yield substantially as the soil appears to be deficient in organic matter. One experiment has shown that land treated with town compost has increased the yield to 4,000 lbs. per acre.

The Government of Hyderabad is now engaged in preparing a plan of increased food production on the lines of the policy laid down by the Agriculture Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi last September.

NEW GOVERNOR OF RESERVE BANK

The Government of India has decided to appoint H.E. Mr. B. Rama Rau, at present Indian Ambassador to the U.S.A., as successor to Mr. Chintaman Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on January 14, 1949.

Mr. Rama Rau is likely to return to India to join the Reserve Bank by the end of March, 1949, and formally take over as Governor from Mr. Chintaman Deshmukh on July 1, 1949.

Nehru, who paid us a visit before the last war and whom we remember most gladly, raised, as did many of his friends, his voice in Parliament to protest against Munich and against the violence that was done to us.

Ties of Friendship

Thus in the course of centuries sprang up between our nations an atmosphere of genuine respect and mutual appreciation; thus took shape as you so beautifully say, silken ties of ever-lasting friendship, silken assuredly because they are firm and durable and are woven from the most valuable of all materials, of spiritual kinship and great moral ideals. It is only thus possible to explain our vital interest in your culture and all your national life, and so also in your political struggles and your ultimate victory.

The hundreds of millions of your people are faced today with the great work of reconstruction, a heavy task, but a task beautiful in its mission and aims. India, the land of age-old culture and most ancient cradle of human language, steps out after its deliverance on new roads, to build up for its people a new life, a life in keeping with present conditions and present requirements.

Our small nation, which once more—as often in its history--has taken up the fight, fearlessly and uncompromisingly, new ideas and, for a new genuinely popular democratic order of things and its achievements.

This nation will follow with profound interest your country's work and, as far as its humble powers will allow it, would like to be useful to you in every way. Not long ago, a numerous economic mission went out to your country from here and laid the first foundations for more intensive, direct economic contacts and for the creation of a permanent technical mission that is intended to put them into practical effect and to multiply them more and more.

Cultural Relations

As far as cultural relations are concerned, we have in this country a well-established Oriental institute, which by now associates a considerable number of tutors and students. The setting up of your Embassy in Prague is bound to bring about a livelier influx of your countrymen in this country, and that in its turn will strengthen closer mutual co-operation. I shall be glad to see, on the other hand, greater numbers of our people travelling to your country and in that way there and with you, deepening and solidifying the bonds of our friendship.

I am happy to be able to welcome you in our country as the first ambassador of a free India, and I wish you from the bottom of my heart that you feel contented amongst us and that your mission here be crowned with the greatest possible success. My Government and I will gladly extend to you our assistance to such ends.

ROUSING RECEPTION

A rousing reception was accorded to Mr. N. Raghavan, India's first Ambassador, and to the members of the Indian Embassy in Prague at the Narodni (National) Club under the joint auspices of the Orient Institute and Society for Cultural Relations with the Orient on December 16. A large number of leading Orientalists and Indologists amongst the Czechoslovak people attended the function and expressed profound jubilation at the resumption of direct relations with a country, which giants like Tagore and Vivekananda had already made matter of deep understanding and appreciation amongst the Czechoslovak people. Mr. N. Raghavan in a moving speech, responded to the love and affection bestowed on India.

Led by Prof. Lesney, one of the leading international authorities on Sanskrit and the Orient, former Czech Diplomats, businessmen and officials who had been in India, and students of the Oriental Institute, joined in the reception. Prof. Lesney in his speech recalled the glory of Indian civilisation and culture, and expressed the hope that with the opening of direct diplomatic relations between India and Czechoslovakia, a greater understanding of India's rich culture would now be made possible for the Czechoslovak people. Welcoming the Ambassador, he said that the Indian Embassy in Prague would come to be looked upon as a light-house of Indian culture.

Thanking Prof. Lesney and others for the touching reception, Mr. Raghawan dwelt on the historic parallels in the freedom struggles of India and Czechoslovakia.

MR. RAGHAVAN LAYS WREATH AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER

A crowd of several hundred strong defied a chilly drizzle to witness India's Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Mr, N. Raghavan laying a wreath at the Unknown Soldier's grave at Prague Town Square on December 15. The Mayor of Prague earlier warmly welcomed the Ambassador, who was accompanied by Embassy Officers, at the new Town Hall on beha of million of Prague citizens.

The Ambassador describing himself as a messenger of the Indian people and paying moving tributes to Prague as a "power-house of inspiration," as a city which symbolised the traditions aud genius of a great people, where "every stone had a story to tell" and which epitomised the struggles and success of the Czechoslovak people, prayed that Prague may still rise to unprecedented heights,

Later, to the tunes of solemn music, the Ambassador accompanied by the Mayor and the Military Commander of Prague, laid a wreath decked with the Indian tricolour at the grave of the Unknown Soldier who, he said was a "symbol of faith, courage and sacrifice, and symbolic of the eternal flame that burns in every human breast." Both the Indian and Czech anthems were played by the Military Guard of Honour.

Dr. Rauf Visits Maymyo and Mandalay

DR. M.A. Rauf, Indian Ambassador to Burma recently made a tour of Maymyo and Mandalay, two important cities of Upper Burma. He was enthusiastically welcomed by Indian and leading and representative Burmese, both official and non-official. He was presented with addresses of welcome which contained personal tributes.

"We are sure that during your term of appointment as Indian Ambassador, you will succeed in creating between the people of Burma and the Indians in Burma a feeling of goodwill and sympathy and lay the foundations of lasting unity between the two great peoples. We are sure, too, that under your guidance the Indians in Burma and the people of Burma will begin to feel and realise their cultural unity which dates back to about 2,500 years," stated the address of welcome which was presented at a public meeting in Maymyo attended by a thousand Indians.

Assurance by Mandalay Indians

Dr. Rauf was assured by Mandalay Indians that even in the midst of turbulence in other parts of the country, peace, unity and goodwill prevailed among the inhabitants of the ancient Burmese capital. Dr. Rauf was told "To us Indians here you are the symbol not only of a government that enjoys our fullest confidence and affection but also a representative of a cause common to all mankind, the cause of universal brotherhood."

Replying to the addresses of welcome, the Indian Ambassador, who spoke both in English and Hindustani said that, although privileged to enjoy a special distinction as Ambassador of India, he was there to serve the best interests of all Indians, poor or rich.

Appeal for Unity

He appealed for unity and co-operation not only between Indians but also with those in whose midst they were living. Dr. Rauf urged his listeners to realise the causes underlying the centuries-old ties of friendship between India and Burma. He wanted them to be men and women of vision and understanding, and be far-sighted and not be swayed by what was happening at present, as in his opinion, it was to a great extent, a legacy of the war. He wanted Indians to reflect the complete friendship and understanding that prevailed at higher levels in the two countries.

Finally, the Ambassador exhorted his fellow countrymen and women in Burma to remember that they were representatives of a country which had produced great men who were respected all over the world. He urged them to conduct themselves as men and women of free India which was striving its utmost for the promotion of peace and goodwill in the world.

DR. M. A. RAUF ON STATUS OF INDIANS IN BURMA

DR. M.A. Rauf, the Indian Ambassador to Burma, was accorded a rousing reception on December 14 on the occasion of his first visit to Bassein by the Bassein Branch of the All-Burma Indian Congress. He was presented with an address of welcome at a public meeting where over 2,000 Indians were present.

The address recorded, among other matters, that the Indian community in Burma was faced with the task of taking "momentous decisions with far-reaching consequences." The guidance and advice of the Ambassador on the solution of the question of citizenship was sought, and anxiety was expressed on the question of land nationalization. The address, however, also pointed out that the Indian community is maintaining the most cordial relations with all other communities of Bassein and associating itself closely with their aims and aspirations. It is thus playing a fitting role in the social, economic and political uplift of the people of this town and will ever continue to do so."

Replying to the address, Dr. Rauf spoke first in English and then in Hindustani.

He referred to the good relations existing at present between India and Burma, and pointed out that it was the dearest wish of the Prime Minister of India that all Asian nations should achieve independence and march together towards greater prosperity. The Indian leaders had the greatest goodwill towards Burma. He pointed to the assistance India had been giving to the various Asian nations in their struggle

Speaking in Hindustani, the Ambassador told Indians that they must reorientate themselves as within the last two years there had been an almost revolutionary change in the East. He reminded them that they were citizens of a great nation which was respected all over the world, and whose leaders particularly Mahatma Gandhi had earned universal admiration. They were at present living in the territory of a foreign independent Republic which maintained friendly relations with their own country. It was up to all Indians in Burma to see that these relations continued to be friendly. Indians must maintain their self-respect as citizens of India, irrespective of their station in life.

He pleaded for unity between Indians. The Indian Embassy, he said, was there to serve their legitimate interests, and it had always taken a very keen interest in the position of Indians in the district. Owing to the present state of order in Burma, and the economic difficulties, eyeryone living in Burma was handicapped but it was impossible for the Indian Government or Embassy to intervene in the internal affairs of the country. Naturally, all matters of interest to Indians are constantly presented to the Government of Burma who have been sympathetic.

On the question of citizenship, the Ambassador said that the problem was essentially one for each individual to decide for himself. The Embassy would give advice to persons who approached it but, generally speaking, all persons who intend to make Burma their home and find the future of their activities here might elect to become Burma nationals. On the other hand, other Indians who have to maintain their touch with India and do not desire to oust themselves off from India, would not decide to give up their present status. He reminded them that in either case the national status carried with t obligations as well as privileges.

On the question of land nationlization there had been talks between the two Governments and he had no doubt that, with mutual goodwill and understanding, it might not be difficult to find a solution acceptable to both parties.

Regarding the difficulties of business and commercial men, he pointed out that in the general economic difficulties of Burma Indian merchants had also been affected. He had no doubt that with better conditions their position would also improve.

Brigadier San Po Thin, who presided over the meeting thanked Dr. Rauf on behalf of the citizens of Bassein for visiting the city and appealed to everyone for the promotion of a spirit of co-operation and trust between the peoples of South-East Asia in order that they might be able to fulfil the desire of the late Bogyoke Aung San for the formation of a Federation of South East Asian countries. He stressed that with love one could get over fear, which seemed to be the chief enemy of peace today.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 24 said :

The Government of India have considered the question of affording relief to ex-Government servants and ex-Government pensioners who were penalised for their patriotic activities in connection with the national movement designed to secure the independence of the country. Government are glad to announce the following decisions :—

(i) Persons who were dismissed or removed from service because of their association with the national movement will be eligible, to a grant, with retrospective effect from the date of the termination of such appointments, of such pension or gratuity as would have been admissible to them on those dates had they been retired from service on grounds of ill-health. Persons who were granted a compassionate allowance less than that admissible on the above basis, will be eligible for a corresponding increase of such allowance.

(ii) Civil pensioners whose pensions were forfeited because of their association with the national movement shall have their pensions restored with retrospective effect from the respective dates of their forfeiture.

The benefit of the relief specified under (i) above will also be extended to ex-Government servants who resigned their appointments--whether such resignation was voluntary or forced—provided it is proved that such resignation was preceded or followed by actual participation in the national movement, was attributed to such participation and was not dictated by any oth consideration.

Claims from the heirs and successors of those ex-Government servants or ex-Government pensioners who are no longer alive, for the grant to them of the relief which would have been admissible to the deceased had they been alive, will not be entertained. This restriction would not, however, apply to the outstanding claims, if any, in respect of ex-Government servants or ex-Government pensioners who themselves represented their cases but who died before these orders could be issued. These latter claims may be dealt with in accordance with these instructions.

Applications for the grant of relief in accordance with these instructions should be accompanied by adequate documentary evidence in proof of applicants' claims and addressed to the Ministries administratively concerned with the applicants.

RELAXATION OF NEWSPRINT CONTROL TO CONTINUE

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on December 24 said :—

In the Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on September 24, 1948, certain relaxation of newsprint control was announced whereby the Government of India allowed free use of newsprint for purposes other than printing of newspapers for a period of three months in the first instance. It has now been decided by the Government of India to continue the relaxation already allowed until further notice.



Dr. Syud Hossain, India's First Minister to Lebanon, photographed with Sheikh Bishara El Khoury (left), President of the Lebanese Republic, and Mr. Hamid Frangie (Centre), Lebanese Foreign Minister

INDIA'S FIRST MINISTER TO LEBANON PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

DR. Syud Hossain presented his credentials as the first Indian Minister to Lebanon to President Sheikh Bishara el Khoury at a simple and impressive ceremony at Beirut on December 1. The Minister was received at the Presidential palace by a full guard of honour, with the band giving an excellent rendering of "Jana Gana Mana".

Dr Syud Hossain said, "I deem it an honour to be chosen as the first Indian Minister to Lebanon. It gives me deep personal pleasure because I have known Lebanese well for many years and have many friends among them. I convey to you personal greetings from H. E. the Governor-General, Shri C. Rajagopalachari, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We in India have great goodwill towards Lebanon because of the well-known and distinguished traditions of your great little country as well as the enlightened ideals animating your government and people. I am confident that Lebanon is destined to play a vital role in the renaissance of the Arab world which is part of the whole movement of regeneration of the East. It will be my duty and privilege to foster friendly relations between India and Lebanon."

Welcoming Dr. Syud Hossain, the President said that India was a country for which the Lebanese had great admiration. He added, "I look forward to the growth of the most sincere friendship and co-operation between the two countries and you can count upon myself and my Government in that behalf. Please convey my greetings and regards to your Governor-General and the Prime Minister."

Dr. Syud Hossain and members of the Legation party including their wives subsequently had lunch with President el Khoury at the Presidential Palace.

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on December 20, said :—

The Government of India have decided that High Commissioners in New Delhi will rank with Ambassadors according to the dates of the presentation of letters of credence of Ambassadors and the dates of arrival of High Commissioners at New Delhi. The position of the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps will continue, however, to be held by the senior foreign Ambassador.

Accordingly High Commissioners will take precedence as if they had had the rank of Ambassador when they first arrived in New Delhi.

DUTCH AIRLINE SUSPENDED

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on December 23, said:—

In view of the military action taken by the Dutch Government against the Republic of Indonesia, the Government of India have decided to suspend the rights of operation of K. L. M. in or in transit across India. Necessary instructions are being issued to the Aerodrome Authorities not to clear K.L.M. aircraft to any Indian airport or flights in transit over Indian territory. No fuel will be issued to K.L.M. aircraft at Indian airports with effect from 1 a.m. (Indian Standard Time), December 24, 1948.

EASTERN FORESTRY CONFERENCE

India is expected to be the venue of another international conference next summer. It is understood that the Director General, F.A.O. of United Nations has accepted the Government of India's invitation to act as the host country for the next session of the Timber and Forest Utilisation Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Among the participants of the Conference, India is probably the largest timber producing country.

The conference which is likely to be held in Mysore City will be attended by about 200 delegates.

One of the main objects of the Conference will be to discover means of bridging the wide gap between the supply and demand of timber by better methods of timber utilisation. It will also consider methods of bringing closer the producer of the raw materials of forests and the consumer.

COMPENSATION FOR RESERVE BANK SHARES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on December 17, 1948, said :

Under a Notification issued on December 18, 1948 in pursuance of Section 3 (1) (b) of the Reserve Bank (Transfer to Public Ownership) Act, 1948, the promissory notes to be issued as compensation for Reserve Bank shares will be of the 3 per cent. First Development loan 1970-75 bearing interst at the rate of 3 per cent per annum and repayable at par on October 15, 1975 or, by three months' prior notice, at any earlier date on or after October 15, 1970. The half yearly interest payment dates of this Loan are April 15, and the October 15, but as compensation becomes payable only on the January 1, 1949, the interest payable on these notes on the April 15, 1949 will be for the period January 1, to April 14, 1949."

Postal service of all correspondence excepting parcels to certain places in Palestine has been resumed by the surface route, says a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on December 19.

INDIA'S SEA-BORNE TRADE DURING APRIL TO SEPTEMBER

Adverse Balance of Over 17 Crores

INDIA'S adverse balance in sea-borne trade amounted to Rs. 17.94 crores during the half year ended September, 1948. During the same period last year, the adverse balance of undivided India was Rs. 18.72 crores.

India's total exports during the half year ended September, 1948 amounted to Rs. 209.75 crores and re-exports 4.77 crores, while India's imports were of the value of Rs. 232.46 crores.

The principal commodities of export were jute (yarns, manufactures; raw and waste), tea, cotton (yarns, manufactures, raw and waste), oils and hides and skins. The principal commodities imported were machinery, grain, pulses and flour, cotton (raw and waste), oils, metals and ores, vehicles, chemicals, drugs and dyes.

The United Kingdom reduced her offtake of Indian goods in the period under review as compared with the corresponding period last year by Rs. 9.43 crores, while the U.S.A.'s share remained practically at the same figure. Pakistan was the second largest importer of goods from India in the six months ended September 1948—her share being Rs. 25.93 crores. Egypt increased her imports form India by more than four times in the six months ended September '48 as compared with the same period last year, although the monthly figures for September 1948 do not show much divergence as compared with the same month last year. Burma, France and Italy also increased their shares in the period under review as compared with the same period last year while the shares of Belgium and China declined.

Imports

Imports from the United Kingdom increased by Rs. 4.01 crores in the period under review as compared with the same period last year and those from Italy by Rs. 4.12 crores. Imports from the U.S.A. on the other hand declined by Rs. 13.98 crores. Imports from Australia were valued at Rs. 14.18 crores in the six months ended September '48 against only Rs. 4.31 crores in the same period last year. Burma increased her share in Indian imports by Rs. 5.63 crores. Pakistan exported Rs. 9.86 crores worth of goods to India in the period under review.

Comparison with last year has to be made by referring to figures relating to undivided India, as it has not yet been possible to compile figures for last year for the territories of the Indian Dominion.

Statistics for 1947 exclude the direct foreign trade of the Pakistan Provinces of Sind and East Bengal with effect from August 1, and August 15, '47, respectively. They do not also include the Sea-borne Trade of India with Pakistan.

In spite of a considerable increase in exports and re-exports taken together, which amounted to Rs. 214.52 crores in the six months ended September 1948 against Rs. 190.90 crores for the corresponding period in 1947, the balance of trade position showed no marked improvement because of a corresponding increase in imports stood at Rs. 232.46 crores as compared with Rs. 209.62 crores last year. Table I below gives details.

The increase (Table II below) in total exports in the half year ended September 1948 was due mainly to an increase in the exports of Jute manufactures and Cotton manufactures. From Rs. 54.99 crores in the six months ended September 1947, exports of jute manufactures rose to Rs. 73.62 crores in the corresponding period this year. While the exports of cotton

TABLE I

(VALUE RS. LAKHS)

	6 months ended Sept. '48	6 months ended Sept. '47	Sept. '48	Sept. '47
Imports	232,46	209,62	39,24	32,61
Exports	209,75	187,68	34,79	33,56
Re-exports	4,77	3,22	36	54
Balance of Trade	—17,94	—18,72	—4,09	+1,49

TABLE II

Exports of Principal Commodities From India

(VALUE RS. LAKHS)

	6 months ended 30th Sept. '48	6 months ended 30th Sept. '47	Sept. '48	Sept. '47
Jute Yarns and Manufactures	73,62	54,99	13,43	10,93
Tea	23,70	25,34	5,18	4,56
Cotton Yarns and Manufactures	22,82	11,25	5,01	1,64
Jute Raw and Waste	13,50	11,05	39	1,25
Cotton Raw and Waste	11,59	22,58	43	2,10
Oils	7,42	4,83	97	87
Hides and Skins tanned and leather	6,35	7,99	1,20	80
Gums, Resins and Lac	4,82	4,25	49	38
Other Yarns and Textile fabrics	4,15	32	24	4
Seeds	3,90	2,30	47	31

THE WEALTH OF INDIA

New Encyclopaedia of India's Economic Products and Industrial Resources

THE WEALTH OF INDIA is an encyclopaedia of all the Economic Products and Industrial Resources of India. More than 50 years have elapsed since Watt completed his monumental work on the economic products of India. Watt's six volumes were compiled from 1889-99, and in 1908 he brought out 'The Commercial Products of India,' a brief summary of his bigger work.

The period since the publication of Watt's work has been one of rapid changes in India. From a purely agricultural country, India has suddenly become a semi-industrialised state. The tempo of this change has suddenly quickened of late. World War II has given an added impetus to her indigenous industries. Moreover, scientific advance has been responsible for the acquisition of a lot of new knowledge about many of the resources of India. Quite a volume of data has been accumulated and published in journals, memoirs and proceedings scattered all over the country. This body of information is not easily accessible to an ordinary student. Moreover, systematic planning is necessary for the further advance of the country, and a regular presentation of all data, scientific and economic, is the *sine qua non* of all planning.

Critical Compendium

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, therefore, has undertaken this immense task of revising Watt's work. But THE WEALTH OF INDIA cannot be described merely as a revision of Watt's work. This work will cover not only the subjects dealt with by Watt, but will include an up-to-date survey of the country's industrial potential. In Watt's work the opinions cited are often conflicting. He had merely collected together the opinions of many authorities and had made no attempt at critical analysis of the same. Later research has proved or disproved the validity of many of his views. Moreover, the scientific and vernacular names used in his work are not often dependable. The library and laboratory facilities have also increased since Watt's time. The present work, therefore, is a critical compendium of all available data regarding the present and potential wealth of India.

The whole work was entrusted by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to the Chief Editor, Dr. B. L. Manjunath, B.A., M. Sc. (Lond.), D. Phil. (Oxon). He has been assisted all along by a number of Assistant Editors and Technical Assistants working on the different subjects. The compilation is guided by an expert Advisory Body, an Editorial Committee and various sub-committees.

The work will run into six volumes and, in all, about 4,000 topics will be dealt with in the alphabetical order. Of these, 90 per cent will deal with plants. The rest will be about the animal products, the mineral resources and the industries of India. The Volumes are divided into two Parts, one dealing with raw materials and the other dealing with Industrial products. Everywhere the latest available information about the uses, potentialities and economic data of production, import and export, is given. The work is mainly addressed to the ordinary intelligent reader. All detailed scientific descriptions have been carefully avoided as they are unnecessary for the specialist and confusing to the layman. The sources of information have been carefully indicated everywhere. While compiling the information from various sources every attempt has been made to evaluate the authenticity of the information. Numerous references are given to stimulate the interest of the reader in further work on the various topics.

The total number of articles in the first Part (Raw Materials) of Vol. I, as well as a list of topics of major importance, are given below :—

Botany	..	219
Minerals	..	13
Animal products	..	8

In the case of botanical subjects, the scientific name of the genus forms the title of each article, and is followed by a brief account of the genus. The important economic species are described in the alphabetical order of their scientific names. Where the name given in the FLORA OF BRITISH INDIA, or Watt's Dictionary, remains unchanged, no synonyms are added. A new name, if it has not yet come into general use, is given as the equivalent of the one employed in the text. When new names are used, the names used by Hooker or Watt are given as synonyms.

Minerals

After the title, the common English name, if any, and the standard references are given. Names in Indian languages are from regional floras, and published lists of Indian names. No attempt is made to give a botanical description of either the genus or the species. The parts of economic importance, however, are described adequately. The medicinal and other uses of the plant and its products are given. Where the species are of minor importance, a short generic note is considered sufficient. The distribution given is according to standard Indian floras. Purely ornamental or horticultural plants are not included.

For minerals and animal products, their common names have been found more convenient. Articles on minerals have been scrutinised by the Geological Survey of India, and occurrences have been listed in greater detail, owing to absence of much information regarding reserves.

The First Part of Vol. I, dealing with Raw Materials, contains articles beginning with A and B. It will cover about 400 pages of printed matter. The text is printed on American art paper and the illustrations on real English art paper. There are as many as 39 plates consisting of 32 mono-colour plates and 7 multi-colour plates. The size of the book is 11"X8½". The book is beautifully bound in deep blue rexine (art leather).

Industrial Products

The Editorial Committee felt that in the present fluctuating state of Indian Industry it is necessary to treat the Industrial products as a separate, but integral part of the Encyclopaedia. The First Part dealing with the Indian Industries beginning with letters A and B, is 11"X8½" in size, and consists of about 200 pages with eight mono-colour plates. A careful attempt has been made in these articles on industries to give as true a picture as possible of the present condition of the various industries. Statistical material, wherever available, has been given.

Part I and Part II together constitute Vol. I to which the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, has contributed a short preface. Both Parts will be ready for publication in January 1949.

Compiled as it is, by a body of experts, availing themselves of all the facilities of libraries, laboratories and recent research work, THE WEALTH OF INDIA, is bound to be a standard encyclopaedia for several years to come. It will be useful alike to the practical industrialist, and the academic economist, the Government administrator and the savant of science.

The First Part (Raw Materials) is priced Rs. 15 and the First Part (Industrial Products) is priced Rs. 8. Those who are interested in these publications are requested to contact the Assistant Secretary, Office of the Dictionary of Economic Products and Industrial Resources of India, 20 Pusa Road, Karolbagh, New Delhi.

Advisory Board

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Sub-Committee for Economics and Statistics.

Dr. John Matthai, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, Mr. M. V. Divatia, New Delhi, Industrial Economist, C. S. I. R. and Mr. B. P. Adarkar, New Delhi.

Of the many attractions in Gandhinagar, Jaipur, was the Employment Service stall set up by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour, Government of India. The working of the Employment Exchange was vividly illustrated by wooden models and the stall contained a wide range of products made by the trainees at over 200 Training Centres where technical and vocational trades are taught. These articles reflected the standard of skill and proficiency acquired by the trainees and gave an idea of the syllabus of the Training Centres organised by the Ministry of Labour.

In addition, the Directorate had set up a Camp Employment Exchange, which registered employment seekers and accepted vacancy notifications.

PROTECTION FOR INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY TO CONTINUE

"THERE is no denying the fact that the Indian Sugar Industry is a high-cost industry, and if free competition of imports of Sugar were possible or permitted, it would be severely undercut by foreign manufacturers. In view, however, of its vital importance in the national economy, there can never be any question of allowing the stability of the second largest industry in the country to be jeopardised by unequal foreign competition. At the same time, the sacrifice made by the consumer on account of protection must be taken into account, and efforts should be made to reduce the cost of production through improvement in the yield and quality of sugar cane, better organisation and research as well as by the proper utilisation of by-products, so that the internal price of sugar could be brought much nearer to the World price than at present." This statement was made by Mr. G.L. Mehta, President, Indian Tariff Board, when he opened a Conference of Sugar Manufacturers Technical Experts, Sugar Merchants and Consumers and representatives of Central and Provincial Governments in Bombay on December 22.

Mr. Mehta stated that the sugar Industry was one of those old-established industries which had been enjoying protection since before the war and in whose case the protective duties had been extended from year to year by continuation acts. The last such extension was agreed to by the Constituent Assembly in March, 1948. The present period of protection would expire at the end of the current financial year ; and the Conference was convened by the Tariff Board for having a summary discussion with the interests and the authorities concerned, with a view to recommending to the Government what protective measures, if any, were required after March 31, 1949.

Scope for Progress

Reviewing the progress of the Indian Sugar Industry since it first received proptection, Mr. Mehta said that the production in 1947-48 amounted to 10,77,000 tons as compared to the peak production of 12,49,000 tons in 1939-40 and the lowest in 1946-47 when it was 9,21,000 tons. There was considerable room for improvement not only in the average yield of sugarcane per acre, but also in the percentage of recovery of sugar and the technical efficiency of sugar factories, which had remained static during the last decade.

Stressing the significance of the fundamental change that had occurred in the position of the industry, both at home and abroad, since the case was reviewed by the Interim Tariff Board in January 1947, Mr. Mehta made the following points : first, the size of the domestic demand for sugar had been reduced by two and a half lakh tons due to the partition of the country and, consequently, the industry was faced with a surplus of two lakh tons for the next season. Secondly, the statutory control over the price of Sugar was withdrawn in December 1947, when the industry raised the price from Rs. 20-14-0 to Rs. 35-7-0 per maund, although early this month the price had been reduced to Rs. 28-8-0 per maund which still remained high. Thirdly, although the World position of sugar had changed during the last 12 months, no serious competition was anticipated from the chief exporting countries.

The reasons for the improbability of foreign competition, at least, for some years to come, were, firstly, the difficulties of finding sufficient dollars to buy the production in Cuba; and, secondly, the unsettled conditions in Java. Mr. Mehta also hinted at the possibility of a new international sugar agreement being mooted next year as a result of the fuller study of the implications of commodity agreements under the Havana Charter, in relation to the problem of production and export quotas of sugar

Cost of Production

Proceeding, Mr. Mehta reminded Indian Sugar Manufacturers that the incidence of the protective duy had increased from 130 per cent in 1932-33 to 189 per cent in 1939, indicating that the gap between the *C.I.F.* price of foreign sugar and the fair selling price of indigenous sugar had actually become wider; the continuous increase in the cost of production of sugar made the gaps wider still. Since the cost of cane constituted a very large proportion of the cost of production of sugar in India, Mr. Mehta maintained, a reduction in the total cost should be achieved mainly by the improvement in cane cultivation. He concluded by saying that, in view of the public criticism of price policy of the industry especially after de-control, the burden rested on the industry of proving the necessity of protection after having enjoyed it for 16 years with the added advantage of a closed market during the last 8 years.

The Conference was attended among others by Sir Shankarlal (Indian Central Sugarcane Committee); Mr. N.T. Mone, (Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India); and representatives of the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology, Kanpur, the Governments of West Bengal, Bombay and East Punjab.

IMPORT OF POTATO SEEDS

The Government have been informed that there seems to be some doubt in the minds of the importers that potatoes are distinct from potato seeds and the latter are some seeds as distinguished from potatoes, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India on December 24.

The Press Note continues: Intending importers of potatoseeds are hereby informed that there is no such distinction between potatoes and potato seeds and that they are one and the same type of vegetable. Importers can arrange for their imports from sterling and soft currency countries without any import licences as these are articles covered by Open General Licence No. XI.

RAW JUTE SHIPMENTS FROM INDIA

Low Stock Position of Indian Mills

In spite of the acute difficulty felt by India in obtaining her requirements of raw jute from Pakistan, over 94,655 bales of raw jute have been shipped from India between November 18 and December 14, 1948. Of this 41,890 bales were Indian-grown raw jute and 52,765 bales were Pakistan jute in transit.

No embargo has been placed by the Government of India on the movement of Pakistan jute as transit cargo for export to overseas countries through the port of Calcutta. Indian jute mill Industry depends on supplies from Pakistan for the major portion of its requirements of raw jute. Arrivals from Pakistan up to date for consumption by Indian mills have, however, been extremely disappointing. Not more than 16,00,000 bales which are just about one-third of 50 lakhs bales promised by Pakistan under the Karachi Agreement have been received.

The present flow of raw jute from East Pakistan is below normal, especially as the last quarter of the year is associated with the peak crop movement. Pakistan's crop, according to her spokesmen at the Inter-Dominion Conference, is estimated at 60,00,000 bales, excluding the carry-over at the end of the previous season. The prospect of increasing the stock position of Indian jute mills and of maintaining the current production of jute goods depends entirely on Pakistan's fulfilling her obligations in time.

While the delivery of raw jute to Indian mills is relatively tardy, a considerable number of wagon-loads of raw jute are arriving daily in Calcutta and passing through without any hindrance by the Indian authorities. This transit on an appreciable scale is not only adding to the difficulties of India in securing an adequate supply of raw jute but is accentuating Government's transport difficulties.

Special Quotas

Notwithstanding the dangerously low stock position of the Indian mills and the tardy arrivals of raw jute into India from Pakistan for the use of the Indian mill industry the embargo on the export of Indian grown raw jute, which was imposed by Government of India, was recently lifted in favour of U. K., Germany and Australia. The Government of India allotted in October 1948 a special quota of 50,000 bales to the United Kingdom, 2,000 tons (11,200 bales) to Bizonia in Germany and 500 tons (2,800 bales) to Australia. The mills are having stocks only for less than three months while in normal conditions they used to carry stocks for seven to eight months. The output of raw jute in the Indian Union estimated at about 20,00,000 bales is totally inadequate to meet the aggregate requirements of the mills, which are now estimated at 63,00,000 bales. In the circumstances, India's capacity to export raw jute to overseas has become extremely limited.

EXPORT OF MANGANESE ORE

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on December 29, said:

The procedure for the export of manganese ore has now been finalised by the Government of India in consultation with the various associations representing the trade.

It has been decided that export licences will only be issued in favour of parties who have exported ore in the past and in favour of mines. All parties who consider themselves to be eligible for export licences under either category and are desirous of participating in the export of manganese ore are requested to address the Chief Controller of Exports immediately giving particulars of their actual export destination-wise in the year 1938, 1939, 1947, and 1948.

In addition, mine-owners should indicate the actual stocks held by them and their production in 1948, specifying the quality of the ore held in stock or produced. Past exporters as well as mine-owners who belong to any association, may, if possible, send up these statements through the association rather than direct. The issue of licences to eligible parties will be in accordance with the contracts entered into by them with buyers in importing countries. Quotas for each importing country will be announced by the Government from time to time and all contracts must be within the quotas fixed by Government.

Out of a quota of 25,000 tons for Germany there is a balance of 13,000 tons available for immediate licensing. Licences will be issued to parties who produce evidence of a contract with the Joint Export and Import Agency, Frankfurt.

Allotment of Wagons

It has been arranged that with effect from February 1, 1949 priority allotment of wagons by the railway administrations will be confined only to parties who hold export licences. It is hoped that during 1949 a substantially higher quantity of ore will be moved to the ports than in 1948. The priority assistance in respect of transport will however be confined to countries in whose favour quotas are allotted by the Government. Wagons will continue to be distributed among shippers in accordance with the registration at the booking stations on a pro-rata basis, but only shippers holding export licences will be able to register for the allotment of wagons from the 1st February 1949.

PAKISTAN COTTON FOR INDIA

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on December 22, said :

An Agreement was reached at Karachi in October 1948 under which the Government of Pakistan agreed to fix an export quota of 3,60,000 bales of their cotton for India for the period ending January 31, 1949. This was subject to the proviso that if Indian purchases during the period fell below 3,25,000 bales such short-fall would be liable to lapse.

Shortly after this Agreement, a Press Communique was issued by the Government of Pakistan on October 28, announcing their Cotton Export Policy for the current year's crop. In that Communique it was stated, however, that if "exports" to India, as distinguished from purchases, up to January 31, 1949 fell below 3,25,000 bales the difference between this and the actual quantity exported would be liable to lapse.

At the recent Inter-Dominion Conference held in Delhi, Pakistan's export of cotton to India was specifically discussed and the Government of India are glad, to announce that Pakistan Delegation has confirmed, that India is required only to "purchase" 3,25,000 bales of cotton by the end of January 1949 and that there is no objection to the physical export taking place later. Advices have also been received from Karachi that the Government of Pakistan are issuing a Press Communique amending their earlier Communique of October 28, 1948 to this effect.

RAW JUTE MOVEMENTS COMMITTEE SET UP

The Government of India have decided to appoint a Raw Jute Movements Committee to study the arrivals of raw jute in Calcutta, to keep the Government informed of the progress of such arrivals, to ensure co-ordination between Railway and Steamer authorities and generally to take steps necessary to ensure that jute is received in Calcutta, so as to meet the requirements of the country's overall economy.

The Committee will have Mr. S. K. Chattarjee, Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Commerce and Industries, as Ex-Officio Chairman and Mr. B. B. Das Gupta, Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Finance Department (ex-officio), Mr. K. D. Jalan (representing the Jute Mill Industry), Mr. I. G. Kennedy (representing the Indian Jute Mills' Association, Calcutta), Mr. J. N. Goenka (representing the Calcutta Jute Fabric Shippers' Association), the Chief Operating Superintendent, E. I. Ry., Calcutta (ex-officio), the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (ex-officio) and the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, Calcutta (ex-officio) as members. The Committee will have powers to co-opt, as and when necessary, representatives of other interests to attend its meetings.

The Committee, whose headquarters will be Calcutta, will generally meet once a week.



SARDAR PATEL'S VISIT TO PILANI

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, photographed on his arrival at Loharu aerodrome on December 23 during his recent visit to Pilani. (Below, left) Sardar Patel watching a map of India to examine the boundary of Rajputana. (Below, right) India's Deputy Prime Minister met some Muslims of Pilani during his visit.





DEATH OF SIR AKBAR HYDARI

The following notification was published in a Government of India Gazette Extraordinary issued on December 29, 1948 on the death of His Excellency Sir Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam :—

The Governor-General has heard with the deepest regret of the death last night at Imphal of Sir Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam. By his passing, the Governmnet of India have lost an administrator who was distinguished not merely for his sustained high quality as an official but also for the exceptional warmth of his friendship which extended over a wide circle and included men of all creeds and communities.

Early Career

Sir Akbar Hydari joined the Indian Civil Service in 1919. He came to the Government of India in the year 1924 and since that year held a variety of posts. He was Agent to the Government of India in Ceylon, Secretary to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Joint Secretary to the Indian States Delegation to the Indian Round Table Conference, London, Adviser to the Delegation from Hyderabad to the Round Table Conference, Secretary to the Government of India in the Departments of Labour and Industries and Civil Supplies, Leader of the Supply Mission to the United Kingdom during the war, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and lastly Governor of Assam.

In all these posts, he distinguished himself by a notable combination of talents—capacity for hard work, sound judgment and great personal charm. His loss is a particularly serious one coming at a time when India is pressed by administrative problems of great complexity.

Sir Akbar will be remembered above all for the remarkable catholicity of his religious outlook and his genius for friendship. In this he maintained the distinguished record of his illustrious father.

All offices under the control of the Government of India in Delhi and Simla and in Assam were closed on December 29, and flags were flown at half mast on all Government buildings as a mark of respect to the late Sir Akbar Hydari.



The late Sir Akbar Hydari

ACTING GOVERNOR

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on December 29, 1948 said:

Pending the appointment of a successor to the late Sir Akbar Hydari, Mr. Justice Lodge, Chief Justice of the Assam High Court has been appointed temporarily as Governor of Assam.

FOOD PRODUCTION IN MADRAS

SALE of manure and seeds, production of short-term food crops and promotion of seed farms for growing improved strains of crops were some of the special features of the food production activities of the Government of Madras during September 1948.

During September alone 1,589 tons of chemical fertilisers, 1,142 tons of groundnut oil cakes and 70 tons of other oil cakes were sold by the Government to agriculturists. Seed farms for production of improved strains of paddy, millets and groundnuts were raised in an area of about 11,000 acres. In addition, the following areas under cultivation were sown with improved strains of seeds : Paddy: 4,03,478 acres; Millets, 1,14,122 acres; and Pulses: 2,077 acres.

In view of the adverse seasonal conditions, the raising of short-term food crops like sweet potatoes and cassava, which form substitute for rice, was encouraged. Thirteen tons of seed-tubers and 1,74,800 cuttings of vines of sweet potatoes and 20 tons of cassava sets were distributed.

Mechanised cultivation of 1,837 acres of land was undertaken. Steps were also taken towards soil and water conservation. Contour bunding was done over an area of 1,472 acres to prevent soil erosion and conserve moisture. Other measures to control erosion were carried out on 2,660 acres.

One major scheme of irrigation was sanctioned by the Provincial Government during the period under review bringing the total number of major schemes sanctioned up to September 1948 to 50, costing about Rs. 84.5 lakhs.

Under the Wells Subsidy Scheme of the Government of Madras, 47,846 new wells were constructed and 25,618 old ones repaired during the last four years beginning 1944. The total subsidy paid till August, 1948, was Rs. 3,87,96,354 for new wells and Rs. 48,70,492 for repairing old wells. The Government of India's share in the subsidy paid was 20 per cent of the actual expenses during the first three years which was subsequently raised to 50 per cent.

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

THE aims and objects of the National Cadet Corps to the common man are explained in a booklet issued by the National Cadet Corps Directorate. Briefly tracing the difficulties that India had to face when war suddenly came to her doors, the booklet emphasises the need of properly-qualified Indians to work as Officers in the Armed Forces. To meet this, the Government of India constituted a National Cadet Corps Committee in 1946 and have now implemented its recommendations. It is hoped that before long this Corps will provide suitable officers and cadets for the defence forces of the country.

The N.C.C. consists of three divisions, junior, senior and girls, the senior division being composed of three wings—Naval, Army and Air Force. Cadet Corps Units will first be raised in educational institutions; where facilities for armoured corps, artillery, infantry; engineers, signals, electrical and mechanical engineers and medical corps will be provided. When the movement gathers momentum, it will be extended to other spheres and "open" units, as is the practice in the United Kingdom, will be started.

A national undertaking of the highest importance, the Cadet Corps will be a permanent organisation always at the service of the country. Besides imparting military training, which is so necessary for us all, it will inculcate in our youth the spirit of discipline and comradeship.

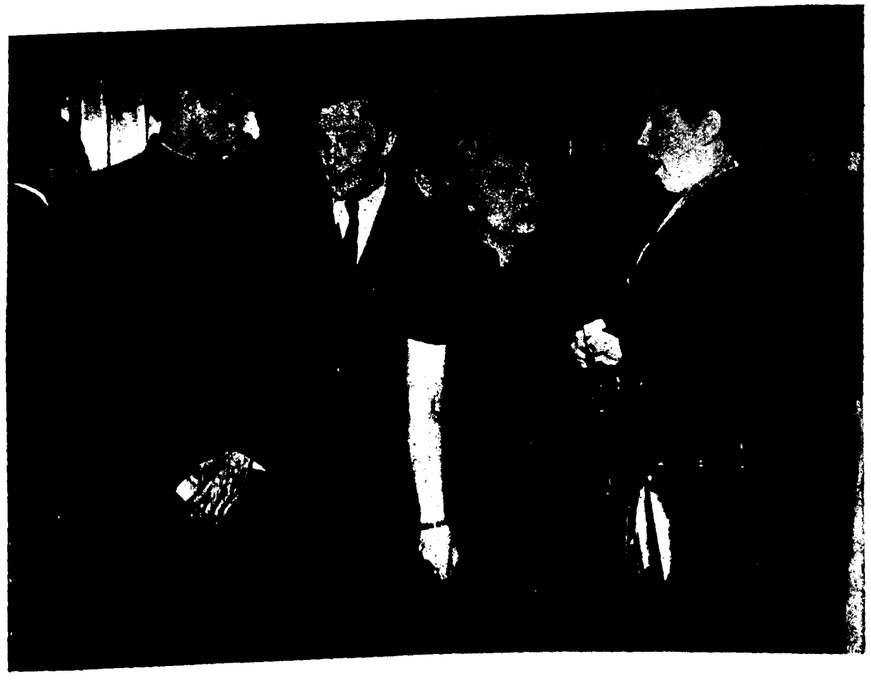
Profusely illustrated and in an attractive get-up, the booklet makes interesting reading. Very informative and instructive, it is bound to be a valuable possession for those who have ambitions for a military career.

MANUFACTURE OF IMITATION COINS AN OFFENCE

A Press Note was issued on November 15, 1948, warning the public against production, transfer or use of photoprints or other documents resembling Currency or Bank Notes as it is an offence punishable under Section 489E of the Indian Penal Code, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on December 16, 1948.

It added: It has also been brought to Government's notice that imitation coins having such designs as national flag on one side and the map of India on the other with inscriptions such as 'Jai Hind' and 'Azad Hind' are being sold and circulated in different places in India. These coins are counterfeit coins and since they generally resemble genuine coins in colour, shape, size and weight, they are apt to deceive the illiterate, the unwary and the ignorant.

In this connection attention of the public is drawn to Sections 231 to 243 of the Indian Penal Code under which the manufacture and fraudulent possession or transfer of counterfeit coins are offences punishable with heavy imprisonment and fine. The public are, therefore, warned against dealing with these imitation coins in any manner.





Shrimati Vijayalakshmi Entertained At India House

Shrimati Vijayalakshmi, India's Ambassador to Russia, talking to Madame Zaroubin, wife of the Soviet Ambassador in London, at a tea party given in her honour by Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon, Indian High Commissioner.

(Left) Shrimati Vijayalakshmi and Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon receiving guests invited to the party.

ADDITIONAL 14 MILLION KILOWATTS OF POWER IN INDIA

Estimated Yield from Hydro-Electric Projects

THE total installed capacity of hydro-electric works in India today is about 0.5 million kilowatts. This represents roughly 1.5 per cent of the country's power potential. It has been estimated that the major hydro-electric projects now actually under execution or in advanced stages of planning will, when completed, add more than 14 million kilowatts of power to the present meagre supply.

These and other useful facts have been brought out in the Central Board of Irrigation's Popular Series Leaflet No. 5 entitled, "Hydro-Electric Development in India," which explains how India has been left far behind other countries since the race for hydro-electric development started at the beginning of the present century.

The first hydro-electric plant installed in India was a small municipal town lighting plant at Darjeeling, in 1897-98. The first plant installed in U. S. A., it is believed, was in 1882 and in Canada in 1900. The combined capacity of hydro-electric installations throughout the world at the beginning of the present century was only about 1.5 lakh kilowatts. Since then the race for hydro-electric development has started.

Canada, where the first hydro-electric installation was erected three years after the first plant went up in India, has today 7.7 million kilowatts of installed capacity or more than 15 times that of India. The total capacity in the United States and U. S. S. R. is 29 times and 45 times respectively of that in India. Even comparatively small countries like France, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and Japan have each anything from five to ten times the installed capacity in India. New Zealand, with a total population of only one million has an installed capacity equal to that of India with her population of 330 millions. The per capita consumption of 1,660 kilowatts-hours in U. S. A., 1,944 kwh in Switzerland, 2,100 kwh in Sweden, 3,090 kwh in Norway and 4,000 kwh in Canada compare with a paltry 9.2 kwh in India.

Unknown to Common Man

An unwholesome feature of the scanty progress made in India is that most of the existing installations have been planned to satisfy the demands of urban areas. This is best illustrated by the fact that Calcutta and Bombay with a total population of one per cent of the whole country between them consume 50 per cent of the total electric energy produced in India, leaving the other 50 per cent for the remaining 99 per cent of the population. Except in a few villages in Madras and Mysore, the blessings of electricity are unknown to the common man in India.

When the hydro-electric projects now under construction are awaiting construction—some of these are described in the pamphlet—are completed, India's resources of developed waterpower will probably rank as the third largest in the world, next only to those of the United States and U. S. S. R. What revolution this will bring about in the life of the average person in India can best be imagined.

Some idea of India's potential of hydro-electric power can be had from the fact that the entire power now utilized on the Railways in India can be generated from a single p oject like the Kosi. The Railways consume about seven million tons of coal annually or just one third of the country's total consumption.

Two Important Suggestions

A point commended for attention in the pamphlet is that before large blocks of power proposed to be created in India can be utilized in the service of the people, it will be necessary to establish in India factories for the manufacture of equipment and appliances for the utilization of this energy. The country will require by the thousand and the hundred thousand articles like poles, wires, transformers, insulators, switch gears, motors, heaters accumulators, pumps, household appliances, meters etc., and it cannot depend upon imports for such large quantities of these articles.

Another suggestion made in the pamphlet is that research on hydro-electric machinery, electrical transmission and distribution, and on electrical devices and appliances should be taken up in India at a number of centres without delay.

A chart given at the end of the pamphlet traces the development of electric energy in India year by year since 1897.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RURAL AREAS

In order to electrify the entire rural area in India, 4,00,000 miles of secondary and low voltage lines and education and training of two to three thousand engineers besides a large force of technical and skilled labour would be necessary and capital would be required to the extent of Rs. 600 to 700 crores is the conclusion reached in a pamphlet entitled "some aspects of Rural Electrification in India," issued recently by the Central Electricity Commission.

As it is obviously impossible to have an all-India plan of this magnitude, it has been suggested that, for the present, rural schemes should be considered only in a few selected areas. For the success of these schemes economy in construction and operation through the use of local materials, manufacture on a mass scale of commonly required equipment, simple construction and standardisation have been suggested. Emphasis has been laid on the use of wood poles of which it is estimated a quantity, sufficient for the construction of about 5,000 miles of line can be made available every year.

Government loans and subsidies are considered essential for any rural electrification schemes, but at the same time continuous research in the matter of construction and standardisation and pooling of Provincial experience has been suggested to minimise the total cost involved.

A point stressed in the pamphlet is that the problem of rural electrification in other countries is simpler than in India. For instance, in England 80 per cent of the population is urban and rural electrification means extending the benefits of electricity to only 20 per cent of the population. Similarly, in America, only 44 per cent of the population have to be reached in rural areas.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN C.P

Financial and other aspects of a five-year scheme for the electrification of selected rural areas in three districts of the Central Provinces were discussed at a meeting of Central and Provincial Government representatives at Nagpur recently. The Hon'ble Mr. N.V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, Government of India, Mr. D. L. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary of the W. M. and P Ministry and experts of the Central Electricity Commission, Simla, were present.

As a result of these discussions, the C. P. and Berar Government have agreed to undertake the responsibility for the execution of the scheme which was originally drawn up by the Central Electricity Commission. The Central Provinces Government have been requested to draw up formal proposals for the financial assistance which they would require from the Centre in this connection.

The present scheme will ultimately be dove-tailed with the urban electrification plans of the Provincial Government. It will cover certain areas in the Amraoti, Chandvara and Nagpur Districts of C. P. and will carry the blessings of electricity to 800 villages with a total population of about 3,90,000.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. K. Mehta, Finance Minister, C. P. and Berar Government, represented the Provincial Government at the discussions.

Of late the actual off-take of furnace oil is falling below the availability due probably to consumers having oil-fired equipment, not being aware of the present improved supply position. Owing to improvement in the furnace oil supply position the requirements of all existing oil consuming plants can now be met in full subject to transport limitations.

It has now been decided that export quotas of crushed bones and bonegrist against sale of bonemeal to the Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture) will be granted for all permissible destinations in hard currency countries and soft currency countries in the proportion of 3-4th to hard currency countries and 1-4th to soft currency countries.

HALF A MILLION SECURE JOBS

Work of Employment Exchanges

Nineteen thousand five hundred and sixty-eight employment-seekers, of whom 663 were women, found jobs through the 54 Employment Exchanges in India, as against 18,535 in October 1948, and 15,797 in November 1947, bringing the total number of placings effected since the inception of the Employment Service Organisation to 5,12,928. Included in the number placed during November last were 4,149 displaced persons from Pakistan, which brings the total number of such persons who have been employed by the Employment Service to 78,172. Of those placed during the month, ex-Servicemen, refugees and others constituted 15, 21 and 64 per cent, respectively.

In addition to the above, Employment Exchanges in the Indian States had found employment for 18,872 applicants up to the end of November 1948.

Increases in placings were reported from many Regions. In Madras and West Bengal, the placings during the month were higher by 627 and 501 respectively over the figures of the previous month. Substantial increases were also reported from Assam and Bihar.

Skilled Technicians

The country-wide shortage of skilled technicians such as machinists, turners, mechanical draftsmen, moulders, fitters, mechanical engineers etc. continued to exist. Shortage of stenographers was also reported from almost all Exchanges. Howrah reported an acute shortage of skilled cotton mill and jute mill workers. Shortage of qualified teachers were reported from Ajmer, Anantapur, Calicut, Cuttack, Ferozepore, Kanpur and Vellore.

Bombay (Dockyard) reported that demands for boiler-makers and planters had increased considerably although suitably qualified men were not available. Dhanbad reported that demands for Creche nurses could not be met in several cases as suitable applicants were not available. Vacancies for women in the police could not also be met, as women were unwilling to accept this employment.

5,985 persons (3,825 ex-Servicemen and 2,160 refugees) were selected and posted for technical and vocational training during the month. This brings the total number of ex-Service personnel and refugees selected and posted to Training Centres up to the end of the month to 71,569 and 13,889 respectively. 17,408 persons were undergoing training at the end of the month. This includes 8,698 ex-Servicemen and 8,710 displaced persons of whom 310 were displaced girls and women.

Resettlement of Refugees

During November 1948, 15,544 displaced persons, of whom 757 were women, were registered by the Employment Exchanges of the Ministry of Labour in India, bringing the total number of persons so far registered to 3,19,078. 4,189 displaced persons, including 334 women, and involving 14,380 dependents, were placed in employment during the month. This brings the total number of displaced persons placed up to the end of November 1948 to 78,530, involving 2,88,042 dependents. Of those registered and placed during the month about 46 and 72 per cent. respectively were in the East Punjab.

Included in the above are registrations of 127 highly qualified refugees by the Special Employment Bureau, up to the end of November 1948, bringing the total number of such registrations to 2,236. 44 were placed during the month bringing the total number of highly qualified refugees placed during the same period to 358.

Shortage of accommodation continues to be a great handicap in the re-settlement of refugees. Other difficulties are the failure of refugees to renew their registrations and to inform the Exchanges about the change of address.

In Ferozepore district new camps had been started for those refugees who had been shifted from Kurukshetra Camp.

At Allahabad 87 persons were selected and granted free land under the Land Colonisation Scheme. In Asansol, special efforts were being made by the Exchanges to persuade refugees to accept employment in coal mines.

6,744 adult male refugees were undergoing training at the Technical and Vocational Training Centre. at the end of November 1948. In addition, 1,656 refugees were undergoing Apprenticeship Training in industrial undertakings. 310 refugee girls and women were undergoing training at the Training Centre, Curzon Road, New Delhi, during the same period.

C. P. Government's Support

In recognition of the usefulness of the National Employment Service, the Government of C. P. and Berar have issued a directive to all Municipal Committees and Janapada Sabhas in the province to notify all vacancies, temporary or permanent, occurring in their offices, to the Employment Exchange having jurisdiction over the areas concerned.

With regard to posts under the Provincial Government, orders have already been issued to the appointing authorities to draw upon the Exchanges for filling of all such vacancies as are not required to be filled on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, or, on the result of competitive examinations.

I. L. O.'S INTEREST IN ASIAN COUNTRIES

AMONG the important decisions arrived at by the I.L.O. Governing Body at its last meeting in Geneva was the inclusion of the welfare of agricultural workers in its activities. So far the I.L.O. has primarily concerned itself with the welfare of industrial workers in spite of the conventions and recommendations dealing with certain aspects of labour problems in agriculture adopted at the General Conferences of 1921, 1927 and 1933. From time to time agricultural questions have also been discussed in conjunction with industrial labour problems and more particularly at the time of the Preparatory Asian Regional Conference (October-November, 1947). It is contemplated that the forthcoming Asian Regional Conference in 1950 will also introduce measures to enhance earnings of the primary producer.

The I.L.O. maintains contacts with agricultural workers through the Permanent Agricultural Committee constituted in 1946. At its session in Geneva in August 1947 this Committee adopted resolutions concerning the provision of a minimum wage for agricultural workers and for holidays with pay. It was suggested that in the interest of agriculture itself a basic minimum wage should be assured to provide for the vital need of the farm worker and his family. These questions will be placed for consideration at the 33rd session of the International Labour Conference.

At its meeting in December, the I.L.O. decided to set up a Committee on Work in Plantations to examine and report to the Governing Body on the basic questions common to workers on plantations as a whole, suggesting proper methods of action by the I.L.O. on these matters and also to report on the methods for securing consideration of the special problems of plantation workers employed in different branches. The Committee will be a tripartite body consisting of representatives of Government, Employers and Workers. Further proposals in regard to this Committee will be submitted to the Governing Body at its next quarterly meeting.

Fellowship Programme

The I.L.O.'s increasing interest in Asian countries is evidenced from the Fellowship Programme which it has decided to initiate. This programme will consist of giving training to workers in different countries covering the general field of action of the organisation and more particularly employment organisation, vocational training and guidance, social insurance administration, industrial relations, labour inspection and industrial health, safety and welfare. In addition to this Fellowship Programme, the Governing Body will also examine whether arrangements for special grants to nominees of Governments, Trade Unions and employers' associations to study the work of the I.L.O. and any related aspects of the work of the U.N. should be made. This scheme will be along the steps that have been taken by the U.N. in organising an 'interne programme' to bring a certain number of junior officers of the International trade unions and international non-Governmental organisations to the Assembly in Paris in order to study the working of the Assembly.

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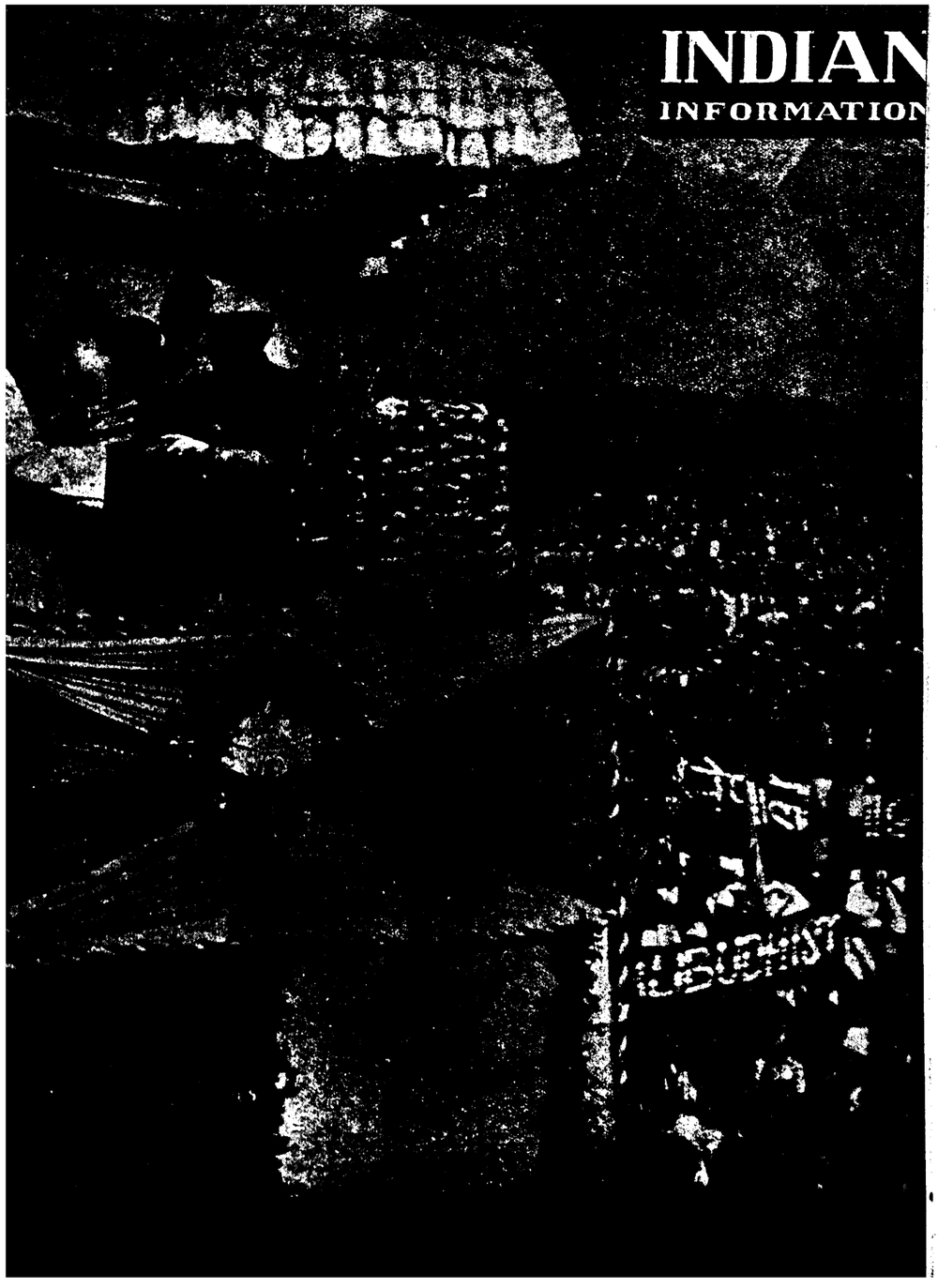


INDIAN BADMINTON TEAM ENTERTAINED

Members of the Indian Badminton Team who recently visited Canada were entertained to tea by Sardar H. S. Malik, Indian High Commissioner, and Sardarni Malik at Montreal. (Above) Indian players photographed with their host. (Right) Sardarni Malik offering sandwiches to two Indian players



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of which all the instalments were not paid by evacuee owners prior to the date of evacuation."

SECTION II

1. Pakistan had suggested the discussion of the following items :—

Item 1. Violation of 'Most Favoured Nation' treatment clause by India affecting Pakistan.

(a) Refusal to grant to Pakistan rebates of excise duty connected with importation and exportation of goods.

The Indian representatives stated that in their view the "Most Favoured Nation" clause of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade does not apply to rebates of excise duties and they could not agree to consider this question in isolation. They could consider it only as part of a comprehensive arrangement between the two Dominions. This proposal had been made by India to Pakistan at the Conference in Delhi in December last and at the request of the Leader of Pakistan Delegation a copy of the Statement made by the Leader of Indian Delegation on the subject was furnished to him. The Pakistan representatives could not accept India's interpretation of the "Most Favoured Nation" clause and considered that since there is a dispute regarding the rights and obligations on each side the question should be settled independently without reference to any comprehensive arrangement which might ultimately be reached. In view of this difference of opinion the question could not be further discussed.

(b) Grant of better treatment than 'Most Favoured Nation' treatment to a country which is not a contracting party.

The Indian representatives explained that Pakistan's information, that while duty was levied on dried fruit imported from Pakistan into India, no duty was levied on such fruit imported from Afghanistan is not correct. It was explained that duty is charged at the same rate in both cases.

Item 2. Interim arrangements regarding duty on tobacco and Item 3. India's export duty on mustard oil.

The Indian representatives stated that the view which they had expressed with regard to item I (*a*) applied also to these items, and they were not prepared to consider them separately. In the circumstances these items also could not be discussed.

Item 4. Violation of Baggage rules.

This item was referred to the Economic Committee whose report (which is at Appendix II) was accepted.

Item 5. Condition of Mosques, tombs and shrines.

This item could not be discussed in full for lack of time. Each side agreed to look into specific cases brought to its notice, of places of religious worship used for purposes not consistent with their use as places of worship.

Item 6. Objectionable public utterances by leaders.

It was agreed that this item should be discussed informally between the leaders of the two delegations.

Item 7. Division of Survey of India Assets.

This item was referred to a committee, whose report (which is at Appendix III) was accepted. It was agreed, however, that if, on the reconsideration referred to in para. 6 of the recommendations of the report, India desired to hold back any of the items, the matter would be placed again before the next Inter-Dominion Conference.

Item 8. Return of exhibits belonging to Pakistan Museums.

The item was postponed for consideration at the next Conference.

2. The following items were suggested by India :—

Item 9. Supply of raw cotton from Pakistan.

This item was referred to the Economic Committee, whose report, which is at Appendix II, was accepted.

Item 10. The five outstanding financial issues between India and Pakistan.

This item was postponed.

Item 11. Movement of petrol from Karachi to India.

The item was referred to a committee, whose report, which is at Appendix IV, was accepted.

(Sd.) ZAFRULLAH KHAN,
January 13, 1949.
(Sd.) N. GOPALASWAMI,
January 13, 1949.

APPENDIX I

Decisions on the draft scheme for Inter-Dominion Evacuee Property Agreement.

PART I-GENERAL

Evacuee Property Agreement

1. Areas to which applicable.

(*a*) In regard to agricultural property, the areas in Pakistan would be West Punjab, Sind, N. W.F. P. and Baluchistan, and the States of Bahawalpur and Khairpur (N. W. F. P. and Baluchistan should be taken to include States which have acceded to Pakistan and to exclude un-Administered Agency Areas). In India, the areas would be the Provinces of East Punjab and Delhi, Province of Himachal Pradesh, the Patiala and the East Punjab States Union, and the States of Bharatpur, Alwar and Bikaner.

(*b*) In regard to Urban immovable property the areas in Pakistan would be the same as for agricultural property but in regard to India, the areas would be extended to include Ajmer Merwara, Dholpur and Karauli States (now included in the Matsya Union), the Rajasthan Union, Saurashtra (as both these Unions stood on 2.7.48,) and the States of Jaipur and Jodhpur, and the districts of Saharanpur, Dehra Dun, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar in the United Provinces.

N.B.—Pakistan further suggested that while it was not agreeable to the area in India being extended to the whole of the country, it was prepared to agree to the area being so extended in regard to Government servants and persons holding office under the Crown in either Dominion, India thought it would not be justifiable to make this distinction and suggested that the areas might well be extended to cover the whole of the Dominion. India further suggested that in addition to the 4 districts of the U. P. mentioned above, namely, Saharanpur, Dehra Dun, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar, 8 more districts should be added, namely, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Mainpuri, Etah, Bareilly Moradabad and Budaun, all of which are ordinarily described as Western Districts of the U. P. Pakistan after consideration stated that it was not prepared to accept the extension to these 8 districts.

2. General Principles.

(1) Except in accordance with the terms of this agreement the evacuee's rights in his immovable property shall not be affected by reason of the vesting of his property in the Custodian.

(2) In the evacuee's absence, the duty of preserving his property and safeguarding his rights and interests therein shall devolve upon the Government concerned.

(3) "Evacuee Property" shall be so defined as to exclude from its operation property belonging to Joint Stock Companies with Head Offices in India, maintaining branches in Pakistan and *vice versa*.

Provided that where the Custodian or the Rehabilitation Authorities have already taken over the property, which owing to the disturbances was wholly or partially abandoned, such occupation shall continue, if so desired by the Government concerned for the following periods :—

(*a*) agricultural, commercial and residential property, 3 years and (*b*) industrial property, 5 years.

Note.—The position of Joint Stock Companies which claim to have transferred their head offices from one Dominion to the other after August 15, 1947, may have to be examined separately.

(4) Throughout this agreement whatever has been laid down as applicable to a Dominion or to its Government shall be applicable to any States or to the Government of any such States as have acceded to the Dominion and are included in the area to which this agreement now becomes or hereafter becomes applicable.

3. Administration of Evacuee Property.

(1) There shall be appointed one or more Custodians of Evacuee Property in each Dominion.

(2) Evacuee property situated within the jurisdiction of a Custodian shall, for purposes of management, be vested in him.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Government concerned to take all necessary action for the preservation of evacuee property and for safeguarding all the evacuee's rights and interests therein. In particular the Government concerned shall require its Custodian or Custodians of Evacuee Property to :—

(*a*) compile and maintain full and complete record of all evacuee immovable property, separately for each town and village ;

(*b*) make arrangements to be in a position as soon as possible to furnish to the evacuee (on demand by him) information in respect of administration of his property ;

(*c*) take into consideration such information as the evacuee may give him regarding his property while dealing with matters connected with the administration of the property concerned ;

(*d*) keep the interests of the evacuees paramount save in accordance with the provision of any law for the time being in force ;

(*e*) provide full facilities to the other Dominion or its representatives to represent to the Custodian the viewpoint and interests of any evacuee.

4. (*a*) A Liaison Officer of the one Dominion should be appointed to be in close touch with the Custodian of the Evacuee Property of the other Dominion for the purpose of:—

(*i*) obtaining information on general principles being followed with regard to management of evacuee property ;

(*ii*) making representations——general or in respect of cases of particular evacuees or properties—for the consideration of the Custodian ;

(*iii*) obtaining information regarding demand statements and account statements regarding properties of evacuees, and generally to expedite by references to the Custodian the implementation of sections (8) and (9) of Part III.

(*b*) The Liaison Officer will be attached to the High or Deputy High Commissioner of the Dominion to which he belongs, but will have office accommodation in the office of the Custodian to which he is attached ;

(*c*) Pakistan agreed to the above on the condition that the office of the Custodian of Evacuee Property, East Punjab, was and would remain at Jullundur.

PART II
AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

1. Definitions. (*1*) "Agricultural Property" means :—

(*a*) all land not included within the limits of a Corporation, Municipal Committee, Notified Area Committee, Town Area, Small Town Committee and Cantonment as those limits stood on August 15, 1947 ;

(*b*) buildings and other structures (including wells) erected on such land (excluding industrial and commercial buildings, such as factories, workshops and the sites thereof) ;

(*c*) other rights and interests in lands, buildings and structures referred to in (*a*) and (*b*) above, *e.g.*, rights of a lessee, grantee, mortgagee etc., but not including assignments of land revenue.

NOTE.—The problem of substantial houses and shops in rural areas has been dealt with in Part IV.

(2) "Evacuee owner" in this Part means an owner of evacuee agricultural property or a holder of any rights or interests therein.

2. The consideration of sections 1(3), 2,3,4,5,6,7 and 8 of the Draft Scheme was deferred with a view however, to collecting data which would enable an early decision to be reached regarding the disposal agricultural property,it was agreed to exchange copies of revenue records and of existing records bearing on the question of land prices. It was also agreed that for expediting this work, three joint committees should be appointed. One of these three committees will be composed of the Deputy High Commissioner (Pakistan) at Jullundur, and the Deputy High Commissioner (India) at Lahore, who will be concerned with the agreed areas of Western Pakistan less Sind, Baluchistan and Khairpur and with the agreed areas in India less Delhi and the States of Bharatpur, Alwar and Bikaner. The second committee will be composed of the High Commissioner for Pakistan in Delhi or an officer nominated by him and an officer of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation (India) for areas Delhi and the States of Bharatpur, Alwar and Bikaner ; and the third committee will be composed of the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan at Karachi or an officer nominated by him and an officer of the Ministry of Refugees and Rehabilitation (Pakistan) for Sind and Baluchistan and the State of Khairpur.

3. Section 9.—Applicability of certain provisions of Part III to this Part :—Until a scheme is agreed to for the disposal of agricultural property, the following provisions shall apply to such property :—

(*a*) Section 2 of Part IIII (*mutatis mutandis*), provided that the maximum period for which agricultural property may be requisitioned shall be three years ;

(*b*) Clause (*a*) of sub-section (1) of of section 7 of Part III ;

(*c*) Sections 8 and 9 of Part III (*mutatis mutandis*).

PART III
URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Definitions.—(1) "Urban Immovable Property" means :—

(*a*) all immovable property situated within the limits of a Corporation, a Municipal Committee, a Notified Area Committee, a Town Area, a Small Town Committee and a Cantonment as those limits existed on Augut 15, 1947 ;

(*b*) other rights or interests in such property, *e.g.*, rights of a lessee or a mortgagee ;

(*c*) commercial and industrial structures, such as factories, workshops outside the limits referred to in (*a*) above and sites thereof ;

(*d*) commercial and industrial undertakings including goodwill of such undertakings.

NOTE.—1. The township known as Model Town in the vicinity of Lahore is an urban area and shall be deemed to be included within the municipal limits of Lahore.

NOTE 2.—The question of including "substantial" houses and shops in rural areas as urban immovable property was deferred.

(2) "Evacuee Owner" means an owner of evacuee urban immovable property or a holder of any rights and interests therein.

(*N.B.*—Pakistan suggested that 'evacuee' should be defined as a person who has moved over from one Dominion to the other before September 30, 1948, and the property belonging to such a person should be defined as "evacuee property." India was of the view that the fixation of a date in this way, particularly one which would have to be given effect to retrospectively, would be unfair to persons who will have left one or the other Dominion after the fixed date ; the position would be different if some suitable date in the future were to be fixed. Pakistan stated that they would consider this point further and see what action on their own side would be feasible).

2. Rights of Provincial Government :—
(*a*) The Government of the Province in which evacuee urban immovable property is situated shall have the right to acquire such property as it may need for a public purpose, which may include the rehabilitation of refugees or the economic rehabilitation of the Province, on payment of fair compensation to be determined in accordance with the principles laid down in the Land Acquisition Act or any other law which is applicable as it stood on August 15, 1947. The amount of compensation would be determined in the following way:—

The Administrative Officer who would ordinarily be charged with the duty of making an award for the acquired land would instead of making an award himself submit a report to the Court of the District Judge which for this purpose will consist of two members, one from each Dominion. If the two members are agreed they will make an award which will be final. If they disagree, a reference shall be made to the High Court of the Dominion in which the property in question is situated. The decision of the High Court shall be final.

(*b*) The Government of the Province in which evacuee urban immovable property is situated shall have the right to requisition such property as it may need for a public purpose which may include rehabilitation of refugees or the economic rehabilitation of the Province on payment of a fair compensation. The maximum period for which the Provincial Government is entitled to requisition shall be limited in the case of :—



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, with convalescent wounded soldiers from the Kashmir Front at a tea party given in their honour at Government House, New Delhi, recently

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

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

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Cover Picture : Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, handing over the casket containing the relics of Sariputta and Moggallana Arahans, Buddha's leading disciples, to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, President of the Mahabodhi Society of India, on January 14, at Calcutta.

EXCHANGE AND SALE OF URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Agreement Reached at Inter-Dominion Conference

THE Inter-Dominion Conference between India and Pakistan held at Karachi concluded its work on January 13, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

It added : The main items of its agenda related to the very difficult and complex problem of Evacuee Property. Practically every aspect of this problem was examined during the prolonged discussions extending over the last three days. As will be seen from the succeeding paragraph agreement has been reached, on a great many very important matters, and ground has been cleared for further fruitful discussion in regard to the remaining problems at the next conference.

The two Dominion Governments have agreed upon the definitions of "Agricultural Land" and "Urban Immovable Property." In regard to Urban Immovable Property, a fairly complete scheme has been agreed upon. Private exchange and sale of Urban immovable property will be allowed, and while in the main the property owners will arrange such exchanges and sales themselves, or through private agencies, which may come into being for this purpose, each Government through its custodians and the liaison officers of the other Dominion Government attached to them shall make available all relevent information which may facilitate such exchanges and sales.

This arrangement will apply to the urban immovable property situated on the Pakistan side in West Punjab, Sind, North-West Frontier, Baluchistan and the States of Bahawalpur and Khairpur including other acceding States, but excluding unadministered agency areas. On the Indian side it will apply to urban immovable property situated in the provinces of East Punjab, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Ajmer-Merwara and the States Unions of Matsya, Rajasthan and Saurashtra as they stood on July 22, 1948, Patiala and East Punjab States and the States of Bharatpur, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner and the districts of Saharanpur, Dehra Dun, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar in the United Provinces.

Agreement has also been reached on the principles to be adopted for the determination of fair compensation when evacuee property is acquired or requisitioned and the procedure to be followed for the assessment and payment of compensation for the property acquired and rent for the property requisitioned or leased out.

For want of complete relevent data as to the acreage, area and prices of lands involved, Pakistan felt that no useful discussion could be held at this stage for evolving a scheme for the disposal of agricultural property. Agreement was, however, reached as to the areas to which any scheme that may eventually be made applicable. These areas will on the Pakistan side comprise of West Punjab, Sind, N. W. F. P., and Baluchistan (including States which have acceded to Pakistan but excluding un-Administered Agency areas) and on the side of India, the Provinces of East Punjab, Delhi, and Himachal Pradesh, and the Patiala and the East Punjab States Union, and the States of Bharatpur, Alwar and Bikaner.

In regard to movable property agreement has been reached on the facilities that the two Governments should provide for their removal from one Dominion to the other.

Finally, it was agreed that a permanent Inter-Dominion Commission should be set up at Secretariat level which will meet at regular intervals, or earlier if necessary, according to the urgency of the work in each Dominion in turn, to review and supervise the working of the agreed arrangements in regard to the administration, sale and transfer of evacuee property in the two Dominions and the payment and remittance of moneys etc., connected therwith and to consider such other matters as may be referred to it by the two Dominions. This Commission will consist of Secretaries of the Ministries of Relief and Rehabilitation in the two Dominions and such other officers as may be necessary to include for the purpose of any meeting.

Refugee Council

In addition an Inter-Dominion Refugees and Evacuees Council shall be set up, composed ordinarily of the Ministers each from India and Pakistan. This Council will meet, whenever necessary to resolve matters on which the Inter-Dominion Commission is unable to agree or to consider questions of policy which require settlement at Ministerial level.

The Conference also considered the question of Trust Property and appreciating the necessity of very careful prior examination, decided to set up a committee of six members. It has been agreed that this committee should be constituted before the end of January and should submit its recommendations before the end of April 1949.

Among the other matters considered by the Conference were :

(*a*) The question of the export of raw cotton from Pakistan to India.

It was agreed that Pakistan Government should give necessary licences to cover the bulk of the hitherto uncovered portion of purchases already made and would extend the present licensing period to the end of February 1949. The maximum and minimum purchase figures for this extended period are 434467 bales and 399467 bales respectively.

(*b*) The question of movement of petrol *via* Karachi to India.

It was agreed that both Governments will prepare a regular programme to ensure uninterrupted flow of petrol and other oil traffic from Karachi to stations on the East Punjab Railway. For this purpose, Pakistan has agreed to provide the necessary number of tank-wagons and India agreed to ensure that empty tank-wagons are returned quickly and the normal turn-round is maintained.

DETAILS OF KARACHI DECISIONS

The following are the details of the decisions reached at the Inter-Dominion Conference between India and Pakistan held in Karachi from January 10 to 13, 1949. These decisions are subject to formal ratification by the two Governments, but action, wherever necessary on any decision will proceed.

SECTION I

Minutes of Inter-Dominion Conference

1. Items 1; 2, 3, 4, 5, & 8 :—

The Conference examined the draft scheme for Inter-Dominion Evacuee Property Agreement prepared by the Joint Official Committee at Lahore, March 22-25, 1948, as well as the decisions reached at the Inter-Dominion Conferences held in Lahore on July 22, 1948, and in Delhi in December 1948, and reached decisions which are set out in Appendix I.

2. Item 6 :—Consideration of the question of Trust Property.

The Conference considered the question of Trust Property and, in view of the complexity of the problems involved, agreed that a committee consisting of three members from each Dominion should be appointed to consider :

(*a*) the report of the Inter-Dominion Committee on Trusts submitted on April 6, 1948 and

(*b*) any other suggestion that may be received in this connection

and to make recommendations.

The Conference suggested that the committee should be constituted by January 31, 1949 and should submit its report within three months thereafter.

3. Item 7 :—Consideration of the question of Jagirs and Maufis.

This item did not come up for consideration.

4. It was also agreed that the following problem should be referred to the Inter-Dominion Commission for consideration: "The problem of the treatment to be accorded to sites and lands allotted on instalment basis in respect

(i) residential property to 3 years;
(ii) commercial property to 3 years; and
(iii) industrial establishments to 5 years.

The fair compensation shall be assessed in accordance with the principles laid down in the law in force at the time of requisitioning, or in accordance with any modification or amendment of that law or any substitution of it, or promulgation of a new law. The draft of any law, or any new rule shall, however, be communicated to the Inter-Dominion Commission (Part VII) and any recommendation made by that Commission shall be taken into consideration.

NOTE 1.—The term "requisition" shall include taking over and assuming control of evacuee property for the purpose of rehabilitation under any law for the time being in force.

NOTE 2.—Property owned by institutions and trusts will also be governed by this paragraph unless and until a separate agreement is arrived at regarding such property.

NOTE 3.—Copies of all orders passed requisitioning any property and fixing compensation therefore shall be furnished by the officer requisitioning the property to the Liaison Officer attached to the Custodian.

3. Conditions of Leases.

(1) The conditions on which such requisitioned property is leased out shall be such as to cast upon the lessee an obligation to:—

(a) safeguard and preserve the leased property;

(b) give full facilities to the proprietor or his duly authorised agent to arrange for inspection and to take all such action as may be necessary for canvassing buyers and for effecting sales or exchanges.

(2) In the case of industrial and commercial undertaking the lease conditions may also provide for depositing security against loss or damage.

(3) The conditions shall provide for the imposition of a penalty for any breach thereof.

4. Responsibility of Dominion Government.

(1) The Government of the Dominion in which the evacuee immovable property is situated shall provide facilities (i) to evacuees (as also to private agencies working on their behalf) to enable transfers to be affected by sale, exchange, or otherwise, (ii) for the registration of the exchanges and sales of evacuee property, as well as for special concessions relating to registration fees and stamp duties. It was agreed that the details of these concessions and facilities should be worked out by the Inter-Dominion Commission.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Custodian plus the Liaison Officer attached to him to give property owners such infomation as might assist them in the disposal of their property. Such staff as the Custodian and the Liaison Officer may require for this purpose shall be provided.

5. Rights of Evacue

(1) The evacuee owner shall have the right to transfer his property by sale, exchange or otherwise, subject to such right as may have been acquired by the Provincial or the Dominion Government as the case may be (or by other persons claiming through the Provincial or the Dominion Government as the case may be) as a result of the exercise of powers referred to in section (2) above.

(2) All such transfers shall be registered with the Custodian of the area concerned, who shall register the transfer unless:

(a) the transferer fails to produce a certificate signed by the prescribed income tax authority certifying that the transferer has paid all taxes due from him to the Income Tax Department in respect of his property, business or undertaking or has made satisfactory arrangements for the payment thereof; or

(b) he has failed to pay any other dues outstanding against him in the Custodians registers in respect of (i) his own property; (ii) third party claims recognised ex-party by the Custodian:

Provided that provision is made for review by the Custodian of third party claims thus recognised.

NOTE.- Taxes due from him in (a) means 'taxes assessed but not paid' and also 'taxes not yet assessed,' provided that in the latter case the transferer shall be permitted to obtain registeration of his transfer if he deposits with the Custodian in respect of each year for which assessment is pending an amount equal to the average of the tax assessed for the last three years for which assessment has been made.

In considering the question of satisfactory arrangements for payment as in clause (a) the income-tax authorities shall consider the value of other immovable property owned by the transferer in that Dominion.

6. Responsibility of Governments.

(1) The Government shall manage, through the Custodian appointed by it for the purpose, such evacuee urban immovable property as has not been acquired or requisitioned by it.

(2) The Custodian shall be free to take such action as he may deem fit in the interest of efficient management of such property.

(3) The provisions of Section (2) and (3) of this Part shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the leases given by the Custodian.

7. Deductions from lease money.

(1) From the lease money, assessed and realised in accordance with the provisions of this part, the Custodian will be entitled to make the following deductions:—

(a) 10 per cent of the realised rents for management, and

(b) 10 per cent of the assessed rents for normal repairs.

(2) In the case of special repairs, the Custodian will be entitled to incur expenditure against the capital value of the property.

8. Returns of rental collection information.

The Custodian shall prepare for the six monthly periods ending June 30 and December 31, each year, lists in duplicate for each locality, giving particulars of evacuee urban immovable property situated therein, the names of evacuee owners, and the lease money assessed, with additional columns showing the rents collected, deductions made therefrom and the balance payable to each evacuee owner.

9. Inter-Dominion Adjustment.

The Custodians in each Dominion will send the lists thus prepared in duplicate to the Auditor General of their Dominion Governments. That officer will forthwith forward one copy of each list to the Auditor General of the other Dominion and proceed to consolidate the amounts in these lists. The two Auditors General will adjust the net amount payable by one Dominion to the other through the Exchange Accounts of the two Dominions. If all the lists are not received within two months of the prescribed dates, namely, June 30 and December 31, by the Auditor General of the other Dominion, adjustment shall be made to the extent of 50 percent of the total amounts in the lists received at the expiry of the said two months, the balance being credited to the account of the Dominion to which it is due as soon as the outstanding lists from that Dominion are received.

NOTE.—This procedure is provisional and will be reviewed as soon as after the 1st adjustment.

10. Restoration.

Where the owner of any evacuee urban immovable property produces a certificate from the Rehabilitation Commissioner or an authority empowered by the Rehabilitation Department in this behalf that the property is not required for the purpose of rehabilitation of refugees or the economic rehabilitation of the Province, restore the property to the owner or his agent for management or disposal. Where the management has not been taken over by the Custodian, and the owner produces the above certificate, the Custodian may, on the owner's request, allow him to retain or assume management of such property.

11. Prevention of Attempts to prevent unfair fall of prices.

The Dominion and the Provincial Governments in whose area the property is situated will do everything in their power to see that no organised attempts are made to keep the prices of evacuee property below the market level by forming rings, syndicates, boycotting or otherwise.

PART IV
HOUSES AND SUBSTANTIAL SHOPS IN RURAL AREAS

The question of whether Substantial Houses and Substantial Shops in rural areas should be treated as urban immovable property or otherwise should be examined by the Inter-Dominion Commission.

PART V
MOVABLE PROPERTY

1. General Provisions.

(1) Except in accordance with the terms of this agreement, the evacuee's right in his movable property shall not be affected by reason of the vesting of his property in the Custodian.

(2) In the evacuee's absence, the duty of preserving his property and safeguarding his rights and interests therein shall be entrusted by the Government concerned to the Custodian of the Province in which the property is situated.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Custodian:

(a) to take all possible precautions for the proper and safe keeping of evacuee movable property;

(b) to ensure that full compensation is secured for movables requisitioned by the Provincial Government or their officers for a public purpose, which may include the rehabilitation of refugees or of the economic life of the Province;

EXPLANATION.- The term "requisitioning" includes taking over for purposes of the rehabilitation of refugees or the economic life of the Province.

(c) to make arrangements for the disposal of such movables as cannot be preserved to the best advantage of the evacuee owners;

(d) to restore on application to the evacuee owners their movables and to give facilities to them to dispose of or remove the movables so restored;

(e) on application by an evacuee owner, to arrange for the disposal of his movables at the best possible price.

2. Rights of Government.

(1) PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.- The Government of the Province in which evacuee movable property is situated shall have the right to acquire or requisition such movable property as it may need for a public purpose, which may include rehabilitation of refugees or the economic life of the Province, on payment of a fair compensation to be determined in accordance with Sub-Section (6) of Section 4.

(2) DOMINION GOVERNMENT. The Government of one Dominion shall have the right to prohibit or restrict the export of items of evacuee movable property which may be essential for the life of the community after giving notice to the other Dominion of their intention to do so.

3. Procedures for Acquisition or Requisition or sale.

(1) A record will be kept of the goods acquired, requisitioned or sold by the Provincial Government or its officers, including the Custodian and officers subordinate to him. The record shall include separately for each evacuee owner an inventory of the items and quantities acquired, requisitioned or sold, the name and designation of the officers making the order and the price payable or paid.

(2) Reasonable facilities shall be given to evacuee owners and their representatives to inspect the entries concerning them in this record.

(3) The general procedure for preparation of inventories and fixation of prices shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of this Part.

(4) A nominal roll giving the names of the each evacuee owner and the total amount due to him on account of goods acquired, requisitioned or sold, shall be compiled and furnished every six monthes by the Custodian to the Auditor-General of his Dominion. The Inter Dominion settlement will be made in the manner prescribed in Section 10 of Part III.

(5) Opportunity shall be given to evacuee owners or their authorised agents to bring to the notice of the Provincial Government concerned instances of

(i) deliberate [illegible] of goods sold;

(ii) gross undervaluation.

(6) The Custodian may dispose of sale of evacuee movable property:

(i) On application by the owner himself;

(ii) after adequate notice (not less than a month) to the evacuee owner individually or to a general class of evacuee owners.

N.B.—If in response to the notice the evacuee owner desires to make arrangements to dispose of his property himself or through his agent, the Custodian will normally accord permission to do so.

(iii) without notice, in cases in which, for reasons to be recorded in writing he holds:

(a) the interest of the evacuee owner is best served by the sale, or

(b) the sale is necessitated by requirements of rehabilitation.

N.B.—The sale of movable property shall, as far as possible, be by auction. The evacuee owner or the representative of the Dominion to which he has evacuated will be given an opportunity to be present at the sale.

(7) Abandoned movables which cannot be assigned to any particular evacuee shall be disposed of according to the law for the time being in force for the disposal of unclaimed property.

4. Procedure for Preparation of Inventories and Valuation.

Evacuee owners of movables, especially those forming assets of commercial or industrial undertakings, will be given the following facilities in respect of inventories and valuation:—

(1) Each Government will have the right to appoint representatives acceptable to the other Dominion in such local areas of the other Dominion as they deem fit. The rehabilitation authorities will inform those representatives whenever possession of a commercial or industrial undertaking is to be taken over by them giving not less than a week's notice. The representatives will have the right to be present either personally or by an authorised agent at the time of the preparation of the inventory.

(2) If the owner wishes to be present either personally or by an authorised agent at the time of the preparation of the inventory, his presence will not be objected to, provided that the preparation of the inventory shall not be delayed merely to ensure his presence.

(3) After the preparation of the inventory a date shall be fixed for the valuation of the property and the representative or owner or agent who has been present at the preparation of the inventory shall be informed of that date by the officer preparing the inventory. On the date fixed, the representative of the Dominion, the owner or his agent shall have the right to be heard.

(4) Where an order of valuation has been passed by an authority subordinate to the Custodian and the order requires confirmation by the Custodian, the representative of the Dominion or the owner may signify his desire to be heard before the order is confirmed, and the Custodian will give him an opportunity to be so heard.

The Custodian shall not pass an order of confirmation until 10 days have elapsed from the decision of the subordinate officer.

(5) Where an order of valuation has been passed by an authority subordinate to the Custodian himself, and the order does not require confirmation by the Custodian, the owner shall have the right to appeal to the Custodian within 10 days of the passing of the order by the subordinate officer. It shall not be necessary to give any notice to the representatives of the Dominion or the owner regarding the fixation of value by the subordinate authority.

(6) The rate of compensation will be on the basis of fair value, that is, the price which the property would fetch in the open market under the present conditions provided that no organised attempt is made to keep it low by forming a ring or syndicate, or by boycott or otherwise.

5. Rights of Evacuees.

(1) The evacuee owner shall have the right to apply for restoration of his movable property. This application shall be normally granted except in cases in which the property in question has been acquired or requisitioned by the Provincial Government or taken over by the Rehabilitation authorities.

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(2) The evacuee shall have the right to apply to the Custodian requesting him to sell or dispose of his movable property in accordance with the procedure outlined in sections 3 and 4.

(3) On restoration, the evacuee shall have the right to manage or dispose of his movable property by himself or through his agent, which term may include Liaison Officers appointed by the Dominion to which he has been compelled to migrate, in any manner he deems fit, including export to any destination in the other Dominion, subject to any export restrictions that may be imposed under sub-section (2) of section 2 of this Part.

(4) The evacuee shall on application be given permission and facilities to inspect his movables held in the charge of the Custodian or persons claiming through him or any other person.

(5) Evacuee owners who before the evacuation were engaged in organised trades, such as timber, grain, cotton, sugar, iron and steel non-ferrous metals, etc., shall have the right to form syndicates and to depute small representative committees, on behalf of the owners to various localities to arrange for the restoration and, subject to the permission of the Custodian, for the disposal or management of the stock in trade belonging to the members of such syndicates.

6. Responsibility of Governments.

(1) The Government concerned shall be responsible for taking all steps necessary to ensure the safety of the evacuee owners and thier agents engaged in managing, disposing of or removing their movables.

(2) The Government concerned shall also give to evacuee owners and their agents all possible assistance, including, wherever necessary, police protection, to dispose of their movables or to dispatch them by rail or road to any destination in the other Dominion.

(3) The Dominion Governments shall also give all possible transport facilities, including provision of petrol on payment and grant, wherever necessary, a sufficiently high priority for transport by rail.

(4) There should be set up joint committees as for the exchange of revenue and other records in para. 3 of Part II, for the purpose of removal and disposal of evacuee property. It will be the function of these committees:

(a) to supervise the working of the agreed arrangements in regard to evacuee movable property and in particular, to assist evacuee owners in the expeditious disposal of their requests for help for police protection or special transport facilities,

(b) to set up an organisation for facilitating movement by rail or road (This Committee will run its own trucks and secure special booking facilities and, whenever possible and necessary, run special goods trains for the movement of evacuee movable property);

(c) receive complaints and arrange for the redress of grievances of evacuees in the disposal or transport of their movables.

NOTE. The two Dominion Governments shall make available all reasonable facilities to these joint committees to enable them to discharge their functions effectively.

(5) The Committees will pay particular attention to facilities being provided for the disposal, recovery, restoration and movement of:

(a) goods lying pledged with banks;

(b) goods lying at railway stations;

(c) goods lying at docks;

(d) parcels and money orders lying undelivered or unremitted at the post offices.

(6) The Committees will also pay special attention to assisting evacuee owners in the recovery and removal of movables and buried underground.

7. Special Categories of Movable Property.

(1) The previous sections of this Part will apply generally to all movable property.

(2). Without prejudice to this generality, both Dominions recognise that certain special categories or special articles may require special additional treatment and each Dominion will, if requested by the other Dominion, refer to the Inter-Dominion Secretariat Level Commission proposed in Section I of Part VII of this Scheme or, if necessary, to an *ad hoc* meeting, any case requiring such treatment.

(3). The following special additional treatment is hereby agreed upon in respect of the special categories hereinunder specified:—

(a) HOUSE-HOLD GOODS. (i) The evacuee owner shall be given permission and facilities to remove all items of sentimental, literary and professional value and such personal effects as beddings, personal clothing, radio sets, gramophones, musical instruments, sewing machines, refrigerators, carpets and rugs etc.

(ii) Refugees at present residing in the houses vacated by evacuees will have the first claim for the purchase or hiring of all items which are not covered by (a) above, on payment of fair price.

(iii) A list of the items required by the refugees at present residing in the evacuee's house shall be prepared. This list shall so far as is possible be prepared in the presence of the evacuee or his authorised representative and as far as possible in the manner laid down in Section 4 of this part.

(iv) For the items required by him, the refugee shall pay to the evacuee fair compensation calculated in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (6) of Section 4 of this part.

(v) The evacuee shall be given permission and facilities to remove all items which are not required by the refugee or for which he is not prepared to pay or does not pay fair compensation.

(vi) Facilities will be made available to the evacuee or the representative of the Dominion to which he has evacuated, to represent to the Custodian cases of misappropriation of the evacuee's household goods.

(b) GOODS BURIED UNDERGROUND- (i) The evacuee owner wishing to recover buried valuables shall apply for facilities to the Liaison Officer of the Dominion to which he has evacuated.

(ii) It will be the duty of Liaison Officer to arrange in consultation with the local Custodian and Police Officers for the search of buried valuables being conducted under conditions of secrecy and security.

(iii) Police protection will be provided by the local authorities.

(iv) Supervision of the arrangements in this connection will be a special responsibility of the Joint Committees set up under sub-section (4) of Section 6 of this Part.

(c) MOTOR VEHICLES. As soon as possible after this agreement is concluded, the Governments concerned on both sides must implement the provisions of Sections 2 and 3, sub-section (4), (5) and (6) of Section 4 and Section 6 of this Part in regard to acquisition, requisitioning, sale, valuation, payment of compensation and release of motor vehicles. If either Dominion considers any further special arrangements to be necessary, it shall without delay refer its proposals to the Inter-Dominion Secretariate Level Commission mentioned in Section I of Part VII.

PART VI
REMITTANCE FACILITIES CUSTOMS AND EXPORT AND IMPORT CONTROLS

Both Dominions will provide reasonable exchange facilities for remittances arising out of this agreement if and when foreign exchange control between India and Pakistan is instituted.

2. The Pakistan representatives expressed the view that such facilities would be governed by the separate agreement which is at present under negotiations between the two Dominions regarding the terminating of the Reserve Bank of India's functions as the exchange and currency authority in Pakistan.

3. The representatives of India, however, were of the view that some special provision would have to be made whether in the agreement referred to by the Pakistan representatives or in an agreement ancillary thereto, in view of the special character and magnitude of remittances arising out of this agreement.

4. In regard to Customs and Export and Import Controls, arrangements should be made in accordance with the agreement set out in Annexure A.

ANNEXURE A

Agreement Regarding Customs and Export and Import Controls in Respect of Evacuee Property and Government Stores and Vehicles.

1. It is agreed that goods which are allowed to be moved by evacuees from one Dominion to the other in pursuance of the arrangements arrived at between the two Dominions shall be exempt from export and import trade regulations as well as from export and import duties. Such goods will cover the following:—

(i) Goods carried in evacuee special trains;

(ii) persons and household effects intended for personal and household use, including articles like motor cars, cycles, gramophones, radios and radiograms, electrical goods, musical instruments, sewing machines, typewriters private libraries, professional instruments, apparatus and equipment, cattle and other animals, jewellery, currency notes, shares, bond securities, and licensed arms and ammunition. This exemption will cover accompanied as well as unaccompanied goods, provided that such goods shall be covered by a permit granted by an authority to be designated in this behalf by each Dominion;

(iii) goods carried by evacuees proceeding by motor convoys straight from district camps in one Dominion to the other. This exemption will also cover vehicles forming such convoys; and

(iv) trade goods and merchandise including stock in trade belonging to an evacuee excluding gold and silver bullion provided that they are covered by a permit granted by an authority to be designed in this behalf by each Dominion.

2. Evacuees travelling by evacuee special trains or road convoys should be made to declare whether they have with them any bullion. Searches should be restricted to suspicious cases and should be conducted by Customs officials only in the presence of a responsible officer.

3. It is agreed that military stores consigned by one Dominion Government to the other, or carried by the M.E.O. or vehicles under the command of the M.E.O. whether carrying such stores or not, shall be exempt from export and import trade regulations as well as from export and import trade duties if any, on production of a certificate from the Ministry of Defence of the Dominion from which they are being exported, or from an officer authorised by such Ministry in this behalf that they are such stores or vehicles.

4. It is agreed that all Government stores other than those covered by paragraph 3 above, *e.g.*, Railway and P.&T. stores, allocated to each of the two Dominions as a result of partition shall be exempt from export and import trade regulations as well as from export and import duties, if any, on production of a certificate from the Ministry concerned of the Dominion from which they are being exported, or from an officer authorised by such Ministry in this behalf that they are such stores. This exemption will also cover vehicles carrying such stores.

5. It is agreed that all vehicles crossing the border if covered by Movement Orders issued by the Joint M.E.O. shall be exempt from export and import trade regulations as well as from export and import duties. This exemption does not apply to the goods carried in such vehicles.

6. It is agreed that all vehicles used by officers of either Dominion in the discharge of their duties and crossing the border shall be exempt from export and import trade regulations as well as from export and import duties on production of a certificate from the High Commissioner or the Deputy High Commissioner of the Dominion to which the officer belongs, or from an officer authorised by them in this behalf that the vehicle is so employed.

7. Subject to the conditions specified in paragraph 2 above, it is agreed that the Customs authorities will conduct a search on the border only in cases where the import or export of goods is, under the aforesaid provisions, required to be covered by a certificate or permit from an appropriate authority. No searches will however be undertaken in cases covered by paragraphs 3 and 4 above.

8. It is agreed that if, for any reason, any articles are detained by the Customs authorities, a receipt giving details of the articles detained shall be furnished by these authorities to the owner of the articles.

9. It is agreed that adequate publicity should be given to the arrangements in both Dominions and machinery set up for receiving complaints of alleged violations and their investigation.

PART VII

Inter Dominion Commission:—

(1) A permanent inter-Dominion Commission shall be set up at Secretariat level, which will meet at regular intervals, or according to the urgency of the work before it, in each Dominion in turn,

(2) The functions of the Commission will, inter alia, include:—

(*a*) Review and supervision of the working of the agreed arrangements in regard to:—

(*i*) the administration, sale and transfer of evacuee property in both Dominions, and

(*ii*) the payment and remission of moneys etc., connected therewith.

(*b*) Consideration of matters other than important questions of policy, that may arise in regard to refugees and evacuees between the two Dominions.

(*c*) Consideration of other matters referred to it by the Government of either Dominion.

(3) The Commission shall consist of the Secretary and one other officer of the two Dominion Ministries dealing with refugees, with the addition of such officers as it may be necessary to include for the purpose of any meeting.

2. Inter-Dominion Refugees and Evacuees Council:—

In addition an Inter-Dominion Refugees and Evacuees Council shall be set up, composed ordinarily of two Ministers each from India and Pakistan. This Council will meet, whenever necessary, to resolve matters on which the Inter-Dominion Commission is unable to agree or to consider questions of policy which require settlement at Ministerial level.

(Sd.) E. de. V. Moss 13-1-49 (Sd.) H.M. PATEL 13-1-49.

APPENDIX II

Report of the committee appointed to consider items 4 and 9 in section II. of the agenda for the Inter-Dominion Conference.

Members

REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIA.

1. Mr. K. N. P. Aiyangar.
2. ,, M. V. Rangachari.
3. ,, B. N. Banerjee.
4. ,, L. R. Singh.

REPRESENTATIVES OF PAKISTAN.

1. Mr. J. B. Shearer.
2. ,, S. A. Hasnie.
3. ,, G. Faruque.
4. Dr. Nazir Ahmed.

The Committee met on the 10th, 11th and 12th of January, 1949, On the 11th and 12th Mr. MacFarquhar, Commerce Secretary, and Mr. Karamatullah, Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Pakistan, also attended by invitation.

Item 4—Violation of Baggage Rules.

The Pakistan representatives drew attention to a report that certain gold ornaments belonging to passengers returning to Pakistan had been detained by the Indian customs authorities. The Indian representatives said that enquiries had been made about this case and that the incident had in fact occurred before the revised baggage rules had been published and that the ornaments had since been returned to the owners.

The Pakistan representatives also stated that complaints were still being received regarding harassment of passengers entering Pakistan from Jodhpur State, and they considered it essential that, in accordance with the decisions reached at the Delhi Conference, Jodhpur officers should be

appointed on that frontier without further delay. It had also been agreed at Delhi that the Collectors of Customs should have regular meetings with their opposite numbers in the other Dominion, but the Karachi Collector had so far been unable to obtain any response to his proposals for a meeting with the Jodhpur Collector. The Indian representatives agreed to look into these points immediately on their return to Delhi and to take steps to secure expeditious action by the Jodhpur authorities.

Item 9—Supply of raw cotton from Pakistan.

It was agreed that: -

(1) The validity for the first period of cotton licences to India is extended to February 28, 1949.

(2) Pakistan will license an additional 74,467 bales already purchased by India (subject in the case of 4,650 bales to proof of exporter's qualifications).

(3) The maximum quantity that has to be purchased by India up to the end of February 1949 is 4,34,467 bales, and a minimum of 3,99,467 bales shall be purchased. Any quantity unbought below 3,99,467 bales will be liable to lapse.

(4) The Government of Pakistan will be free to issue additional licences in the period ending February 28, 1949, to other countries for a number of bales equal to the additional quantity licensed for India, thereby raising the total for internal consumption and foreign export (other than to India) to 4,34,467 bales.

(Sd.) J. B. SHEARER.
(Sd.) K. R. P. AIYANGAR, 12-1-49.
12-1-49.

APPENDIX III

INTER-DOMINION CONFERENCE HELD AT KARACHI ON JANUARY 10 to 12, 1949.

Subject: Division of Survey of India assets between Pakistan and India.

The Conference appointed a sub-committee consisting of the following to go into the question:

(1) Mr. K. L. Panjabi, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (India);

(2) Mr. H. S. M. Ishaque, Joint-Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Health (Pakistan); and

(3) Major S. C. A. Edge, Director-General, Survey of Pakistan.

The sub-committee met on January 11 and 12, 1949. Mr. S. S. Haider, Under Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture & Health (Pakistan) was also present.

The facts of the case may briefly be stated as follows:

(1) The Departmental Partition Sub-Committee recommended that stores and equipment shall be divided in accordance with the following formula:

"Pakistan will be given the stores & equipment required by it provided

(*i*) that the Indian Survey Department is not embarrassed in respect of any particular item; and

(*ii*) that the overall share of Pakistan does not exceed 4/15th of the total stores and equipment now owned by the Survey of India; the area of British India to be surveyed in Pakistan being 4/15th of that in the rest of India.

Col. G. W. Gemmell will prepare a detailed list of all stores and equipment. In doing so, he will be assisted by one Hindu and one Muslim officer. When this list is ready, the Surveyors General of Pakistan and India will jointly frame proposals for the division of the stores and equipment as between India and Pakistan in accordance with the above formula. Actual division will take place as soon as these proposals are approved by the two Governments.

The preparation of the detailed list may make up to two or three months. Meantime should any stores and equipment now lying in India or Pakistan be urgently required by either Government for carrying on its survey work, the Surveyor General concerned will permit the transfer of such stores or equipment, but the stores and equipment so moved will be debited against the share of the Government receiving them, as determined by the above formula. It is also agreed that pending the removal to Pakistan of Pakistan's share of stores and equipment, such stores and equipment may be stored in Survey Department godowns in India, custody of which will remain with the Pakistan Government."

(2) Preparation of lists of assets by the representatives of the two Governments continued till October, 1947, whereafter the Muslim member (Pakistan's representative) due to communal disturbances had to be withdrawn from Dehra Dun. About the same time, the neutral chairman, Col. G. W. Gemmell, also proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement. In consequence, lists and recommendations prepared fall under two categories, viz:

(*a*) lists of assets and recommendations prepared and agreed to jointly by the representatives of the two Governments and by Col. Gemmell; and

(*b*) lists and recommendations which were prepared by Survey of India officers but not finally scrutinised nor agreed to by a Pakistani representative.

(3) Pending the completion and examination of the lists of assets and in accordance with the provision in the Partition Sub-Committee's decision above mentioned, the Director-General, Survey of Pakistan sent a list of immediate requirements to the Surveyor General of India on May 21, 1948, and Government of India agreed to the dispatch of these with minor modifications. These were estimated to constitute about 26 wagon-loads, out of which only 4 wagons have so far been received. The movement of the balance is held up. The total number of wagon-loads due for transfer from India to Pakistan is estimated by both India and Pakistan to be 49. The total number of wagon-loads due for transfer from Pakistan to India is estimated by Pakistan as about 3 and by India as about 10. Out of this, Pakistan has already sent one wagon.

Agreement

1. That the two Governments should take immediate steps to scrutinise and approve the lists of assets and recommendations contained in partition appendices with a view to their finalisation, acceptance and implementation by both sides.

2. That a fresh committee, consisting of representatives of the Survey Departments of India and Pakistan, be constituted for further consideration of partition appendices mentioned in para (2) (*b*) above.

3. That points on which India and Pakistan representatives fail to agree, be referred to the Surveyor General of India and the Director General, Survey of Pakistan, to resolve by mutual consultation, and that if they also fail to arrive at an agreed recommendation, the matter be referred to the two Governments for settlement provided that such differences shall not be allowed to hold up progress of scrutiny and of making of recommendations regarding other items not in dispute.

4. That India would forthwith send the appendices which have not so far been received by Pakistan.

5. That the Pakistan and Indian representatives in the proposed committee should be empowered to recommend suitable adjustments in physical transfers of expendable items and other items of which physical transfer for any reason is not in the best mutual interest of India and Pakistan, *e.g.*, bulky items of furniture, and record the book values of the assets so adjusted.

6. That both sides will do their best to meet forthwith each other's immediate requirements, in the case of Pakistan, these requirements having been already stated and accepted by India with minor modifications on May 21, 1948. According to representation of Pakistan the bulk of these assets have already been packed for transfer at the expense of the Government of Pakistan. However, in view of the lapse of time, India desired to re-examine the above list of requirements in the light of the recommendations of the Partition Sub-Committee mentioned in (*i*) above and agree to communicate their decision to Pakistan by January 31, 1949. In the meantime, four additional wagon loads of stores have already been permitted to be moved from India to Pakistan.

7. That reciprocity, both in the qualitative and quantitative sense, in the movement of assets between the two Dominions shall be maintained as far as possible in proportion to the total assets due to be transferred by either side.

8. That in the event of any dispute arising out of this agreement regarding the application of any of its provisions or of the recommendations of the Departmental Partition Sub-Committee, the matter should be referred for decision to the next Inter-Dominion Conference.

APPENDIX IV

A committee comprising of Mr. H. M. Patel and Mr. Nizamud Din arrived at the following decision:

Item 11. Movement of petrol from Karachi to India.

1. It is agreed that there should be an uninterrupted flow and other traffic from Karachi to stations on the East Punjab Railway, and to ensure this;

(*a*) the East Punjab Railway should see that all N. W. Railway oil tank wagons are returned back to the N. W. R. immediately after being emptied and normal turn round is maintained,

(*b*) the N. W. Railway will continue to provide tank wagons for loading this traffic as hitherto;

(*c*) the N. W. Railway in consultation with the E. P. Railway should work out the total number of tank wagons required for this service on the basis of the normal turn round, and the number of tank wagons which would ordinarily remain in the E. P. area at any one time. This would facilitate a check at short notice as to where there is hold up, if such a hold up occurs.

(Sd.) H. M. PATEL. (Sd.) NIZAMUD DIN
11-1-49. 11-1-49.

TEXTILE STORES FOR REFUGEES

Textile stores of 24 varieties from Disposals valued at about Rs. 2 million have been reserved for sale to refugee co-operative societies by the Ministry of Industry and Supply at the request of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India.

Quotas will be fixed for Provinces and States who will then make allotments to deserving refugee co-operative societies within their jurisdiction. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, in a communication addressed to various Provinces and States, have requested them to encourage the formation of co-operative societies of refugees to enable them to participate in this and other schemes which may be sanctioned in future.

The stores are in serviceable condition, but they will be given on "as are and where are" basis. No society can get stores valued at more than Rs. 25,000.

The stores include five lakh yards of cotton canvas. Other stores are: Linen, Valvet, Towelling, cotton fabric mercerised, sewing thread, grey, white and black, mosquito netting, sheeting, long cloth, cut pieces for lining, muslin, cellular shirting, drill, cambric, cotton bleached, calico, mazri, twill, dasuti, buff, flannel, calico and twill elastic.

DIVISION OF RAILWAY STORES

Progress of Inter-Dominion Sub-Committee's Work

A PRESS NOTE issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on December 30, 1948 said:

A Railway Partition Sub-Committee was appointed at the recent Inter-Dominion Conference in New Delhi to finalise the division of Railway stores and set up machinery for implementing the decisions reached.

The Sub-Committee, consisting of three representatives from each Dominion, met at Karachi on the 20th, 21st and 22nd December, 1948.

Complete agreement was reached regarding:

(*i*) the division between the two Dominions of supplies against pre-partition purchase orders of carriage underframes and carriages bodies;

(*ii*) the division of B. A. Railway.
Marine flotilla.
B. G. Goods stock.
B. G. and M. G. Tank wagons.
N. G. Locomotives.
N. G. goods stock.

(*iii*) the distribution of B. A. Railway.
Coaching stock.
M. G. goods stock (other than War Deptt. Goods stock and Tank wagons, the ownership of which has to be determined).

(*iv*) the division of N. W. Railway.
B. G. locomotives.
Spare stationary boilers.
B. G. coaching stock.
Departmental tank wagons.
Saloons, including Railway Board Saloons.

(*v*) the distribution of N. W. Railway.
B. G. goods stock.
Ticket Printing machines.

On certain other matters it was agreed that further data should be collected before the division could be finalised.

It was agreed that there should be no further movement between the two Dominions of partitioned general stores (including India's share from reserve stock of food in Lahore). Similarly, no further supplies are to be made of loco and carriage and wagon duplicates for running maintenance of rolling stock by either side.

Implementation of Decisions

Regarding the machinery for implementation of decisions reached, the following arrangements were agreed upon:—

(*i*) The scope of the Inter-Dominion railway operating meetings may, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee (Railways), be extended to the settlement of details of matters other than purely operational.

(*ii*) The division and programme for the transfer of Railway Board (India's) reserve of girders, permanent way materials, and construction plant should be undertaken by a Committee consisting of representatives of the Railway Board (India) and the Railway Division (Pakistan), after the Railway Sub-committee had accepted the basis.

(*iii*) A Committee of two officers—one from each Dominion—should review the position in respect of transfer of tools and plant and other miscellaneous equipments to determine the various items transferable from one Dominion to the other.

(*iv*) For divisible items not covered by directives from the Departmental Sub-Committee, General Managers of railways should appoint *ad hoc* Balancing Committees whose recommendations should be submitted to the Railway Sub-Committee.

(*v*) Two Committees should be appointed—one for the N. W. Railway and the other for the E. B. Railway—each consisting of two Accounts Officers nominated respectively by India and Pakistan to look into the question of payment of various amounts due by one Dominion to the other.

No agreement could be reached on the interpretation of the decision given by the Partition Council regarding the division of MAWD locomotives on the B. A. Railway. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Steering Committee of the Inter-Dominion Conference.

Another important matter on which a decision is still pending is the proposal made by India some months ago regarding the revised regulations in connection with Inter-Dominion traffic in supersession of the existing I. R. C. A. regulations. The Pakistan representatives promised to send in a reply to the Railway Board (India) within a few days.

The next meeting of the Sub-Committee will be held at Calcutta on February 7, 1949 when consideration of outstanding points will be taken up.

The above agreements are subject to ratification by both the Governments.

INDIAN TEA FOR U.K.

It has been decided in consultation with H. M. G. in the U. K. that the existing arrangements for purchase of tea by the U. K. from India in bulk under contract with gardens will continue for 1949. The quantity of tea to be supplied in this manner and the prices at which supplies are to be made will be decided later, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on January 11, 1949.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN ACCEPT U. N. COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON KASHMIR

RECENTLY, Dr. Alfredo Lozano, a member of the U. N. Commission for India and Pakistan, accompanied by M. Samper, an alternate member, and Dr. Erik Colban, Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, visited New Delhi and Karachi to discuss with the two Governments certain proposals to supplement Part III of the Commission's resolution of August 13, 1948. These proposals dealt with certain principles to govern the holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir after normal condition had been restored. The Commission felt that the acceptance of these proposals by both Governments would enable the implementation, without delay, of Parts I and II of the Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948. Dr. Lozano's mission succeeded and he returned to New York on December 26 to report to the Commission, which met again on January 3.

Cease-Fire in Kashmir

In view, however, of the fact that, with the acceptance of these proposals, there remained no reason for a continuation of hostilities until the Commission's formal announcement, the Government of India authorised their Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Roy Bucher, to inform General Sir Douglas Gracey, Commander-in-Chief, Pakistan, that Indian troops would cease-fire provided that the Commander-in-Chief, Pakistan, could give assurance of immediate effective reciprocal action on his part. The Commander-in-Chief, Pakistan, having given, with the authority of his Government, the assurance asked for, a cease-fire was ordered to take effect from one minute before midnight of January 1, 1949.

The Government of India sincerely hoped that this decision, which is being implemented on the 1st day of the new year, might bring to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, lasting peace, and to the peoples of India and Pakistan, a sense of closer friendship.

"The cease-fire order was carried out effectively by Indian troops all along the front in Jammu and Kashmir at one minute before midnight of January 1, 1949" said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Defence on January 2. "Up to mid-day on January 2 frontline reports indicate all quiet in the various sectors of the front."

U. N. Commission's Proposals

The following was the text of a communique issued by the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan which was published on January 7. The communique included the text of a Resolution adopted by the United Nations Commission for India at its meeting at Lake Success on January 5.

The Governments of India and of Pakistan have informed the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan that they have accepted the principles proposed by the Commission for the holding of a plebiscite in the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the purpose of determining the State's future status. These principles are supplementary to the Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948, which provided for a cease-fire and truce. Following the agreement of the two Governments to the Commission's last proposals, both Governments ordered the forces under their control in the State to cease-fire effective at 11.59 p. m., January 1, 1949.

INDIA'S NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO PAKISTAN

In a New Year message of greetings to the Governor-General of Pakistan, His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, said :

"My own and India's sincere good wishes to you and your people. May the New Year bring joy to both our peoples and knit us in close co-operation for the honour and prosperity of both our countries. May all bad memories be dispelled and these greetings find rich meaning and fulfilment."

Pakistan's Reply

The Governor-General of Pakistan, His Excellency Khwaja Nazimuddin, replying to the telegram of New Year greetings from His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari said:

"I thank you most sincerely on my own and Pakistan's behalf for your new year greetings which I heartily reciprocate. At this critical juncture in international affairs mutual co-operation between our two countries is not only essential for the peaceful progress of our peoples but also for the peace and security of our sister nations of Asia and the Middle East. I reassure you that my sincere efforts will be continually directed to the promotion of goodwill and co-operation between our countries and I sincerely join in the prayer that the future may bring joy and prosperity to both our peoples."

The Governments of India and Pakistan are commended for their endeavour to reach a friendly and peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem. Worthy of especial note is the prompt proclamation of the cease-fire by both Governments.

Resolution of January 5

At its meeting on January 5 at Lake Success, the Commission adopted unanimously the following Resolution :

Having received from the Governments of India and Pakistan in communications dated December 23 and December 25, 1948, respectively their acceptance of the following principles which are supplementary to the Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948 :

(1) The question of the accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India or Pakistan will be decided through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite.

(2) A plebiscite will be held when it shall be found by the Commission that the cease-fire and truce arrangements set forth in Parts I and II of the Commission's resolution of August 13, 1948, have been carried out and arrangements for the plebiscite have been completed.

(3) (*a*) The Secretary-General of the United Nations will in agreement with the Commission nominate a Plebiscite Administrator who shall be a personality of high international standing and commanding general confidence. He will be formally appointed to office by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(*b*) The plebiscite Administrator shall derive from the State of Jammu and Kashmir the powers he considers necessary for organising and conducting the plebiscite and for ensuring the freedom and impartiality of the plebiscite.

(*c*) The Plebiscite Administrator shall have authority to appoint such staff or assistants and observers as he may require.

(4) (*a*) After implementation of Parts I and II of the Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948, and when the Commission is satisfied that peaceful conditions have been restored in the State, the Commission and the Plebiscite Administrator will determine in consultation with the Government of India the final disposal of Indian and State Armed Forces, such disposal to be with due regard to the security of the State and the freedom of the plebiscite.

(*b*) As regards the territory referred to in A (2) of Part II of the Resolution of August 13, 1948, final disposal of the Armed Forces in that territory will be determined by the Commission and the Plebiscite Administrator in consultation with the local authorities.

(5) All civil and military authorities within the State and the principal political elements of the State will be required to co-operate with the plebiscite Administrator in the preparation for and the holding of the plebiscite.

(6) (*a*) All citizens of the State who have left it on account of the disturbances will be invited and be free to return and to exercise all their rights as such citizens for the purpose of facilitating repatriation there shall be appointed two Commissions, one composed of nominees of India and the other of nominees of Pakistan. The Commissions shall operate under the direction of the Plebiscite Administrator. The Governments of India and Pakistan and all authorities within the State of Jammu and Kashmir will collaborate with the Plebiscite Administrator in putting this provision into effect.

(*b*) All persons (other than citizens of the State) who on or since August 15, 1947, have entered it for other than lawful purpose shall be required to leave the State.

(7) All authorities within the State of Jammu and Kashmir will undertake to ensure in collaboration with the Plebiscite Administrator that

(*a*) there is no threat, coercion or intimidation, bribery or other undue influence on the voters in the plebiscite ;

(*b*) no restrictions are placed on legitimate political activity throughout the State. All subjects of the State regardless of creed, caste or party shall be safe and free in expressing their views and in voting on the question of the accession of the State to India or Pakistan. There shall be freedom of the Press, speech and assembly and freedom of travel in the State, including freedom of lawful entry and exit ;

(*c*) all political prisoners are released ;

(*d*) minorities in all parts of the state are accorded adequate protection ; and

(*e*) there is no victimization.

(8) The Plebiscite Administrator may refer to the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan problems on which he may require assistance and the Commission may in its discretion call upon the Plebiscite Administrator to carry out on its behalf any of the responsibilities with which it has been entrusted.

(9) At the conclusion of the plebiscite, the Plebiscite Administrator shall report the result thereof to the Commission and to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The Commission shall then certify to the Security Council whether the plebiscite has or has not been free and impartial.

(10) Upon the signature of the truce agreement the details of the foregoing proposals will be elaborated in the consultations envisaged in part III of the Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948. The plebiscite Administrator will be fully associated in these consultations.

Commends the Government of India and Pakistan for their prompt action in ordering a cease-fire which took effect from one minute before midnight of January 1, 1949, pursuant to the agreement arrived at as provided for by the Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948 and

Resolves to return in the immediate future to the sub-continent to discharge the responsibilities imposed upon it by the Resolution of August 13, 1948, and by the foregoing principles.

INDIAN CONSULATE AT SONGKHLA

An Indian Consulate has been established at Songkhla in South Siam with effect from January 5, 1949. Mr. S.R. Aiyar has been appointed Consul, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on January 15, 1949.

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PANDIT NEHRU AND DR. LOZANO ON KASHMIR

Text of Two "Aides Memoire"

THE substance of the discussions which took place between His Excellency Dr. Lozano, United Nations Commissioner, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, at Delhi from December 20 to 22 is given in two *aides memoire*.

The text of the *aides memoire* is given below:—

"AIDE MEMOIRE" NO I

His Excellency Dr. Lozano, accompanied by his Alternate, Mr. Samper, and His Excellency Mr. Colban, Personal Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, met Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, on December 20. The Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar and Mr. Girja Shankar Bajpai were also present. The discussions of the Commission's Plebiscite Proposals fell into two parts—(1) General and (2) Particular, in reference to individual clauses.

Prime Minister's Arguments

2. The Prime Minister drew attention to Pakistan's repeated acts of aggression against India. In spite of the presence of Pakistan troops in Jammu and Kashmir, which is Indian territory now, and the offensive action of Pakistan troops, the Government of India had accepted the Commission's Resolution of August 13. Pakistan had not accepted that Resolution. In paragraph 143 of its report, the Commission has referred to its conference with the Prime Minister on the conditions attached by the Government of Pakistan to its acceptance of the Resolution of August 13. As stated in paragraph 144 of the report, the Prime Minister had informed the Commission that he stood on his original premises that the Pakistan forces must be withdrawn from the State before the Government of India could consider any further steps. This had specific reference to an amplification of Part III of the Resolution of August 13.

Nevertheless, the Government of India had agreed to informal conversations in Paris which had resulted in the formulation of the proposals now put forward by the Commission. The Government of India naturally wondered how far this process of rejection of proposals put forward by the Commission by Pakistan and the adoption of a responsive attitude on the part of the Government of India towards the Commission's proposals could continue. The Commission must realise that there were limits to the forbearance and spirit of conciliation of the Government of India. The Prime Minister emphasised (1) that, if the Government of India were to accept the Commission's plebiscite proposals, no action could be taken in regard to them until parts I and II of the Commission's Resolution of August 13 had been fully implemented ; (2) that in the event of Pakistan not accepting these proposals, or having accepted them, not implementing Part I and II of the Resolution of August 13, the Government of India's acceptance of them should not be regarded as in any way binding upon them ; (3) Part III of the Commission's Resolution of August 13 provided "that the future status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall be determined in accordance with the will of the people and to that end, upon acceptance of the truce agreement, both Governments agree to enter into consultations with the Commission to determine fair and equitable conditions whereby such free expression will be assured."

The present proposals appeared to limit the method of ascertaining the will of the people regarding the future status of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to a plebiscite. While the Government of India adhered to their position in regard to a plebiscite, they had pointed out that, in view of the difficulties of holding a plebiscite in present conditions in Kashmir, other methods of ascertaining the wish of the people should also be explored. The Commission had itself recognised the difficulties of carrying out a plebiscite in Kashmir. The Government of India feel that the exploration of other methods should not be ruled out.

Further Clarifications

3. As regards (1). Dr. Lozano enquired whether there would be objection to the appointment of a Plebiscite Administrator until Parts I and II of the Resolution of August 13 had been implemented. Both he and Mr. Colban thought that the Plebiscite Administrator could do useful exploratory work even before arrangements for holding a plebiscite could be taken in hand. The Prime Minister pointed out that it was always open to the Commission to employ advisers or experts for work within its terms of reference. The Government of India, however, would regard the appointment of a Plebiscite Administrator, as such, premature until Part I and II of the Resolution of August 13 had been implemented.

Dr. Lozano accepted (2). As regards (3), he said that the Commission wished the possibility of a plebiscite to be explored first. Should the Plebiscite Administrator, however, find a plebiscite to be impracticable, the way would be open to consider other methods for ensuring a free expression by the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their wish regarding the future status of the State.

Preamble

4. B.I. *Preamble.* The phrase "The Governments of India and Pakistan simultaneously accept" is incorrect in that either Government may not

accept the principles supplementary to the Resolution of August 13. Even if both Governments accept them, the acceptance cannot be simultaneous. The wording should be changed accordingly.

B.3(b). The question was raised whether the form of words employed was intended to give to the Plebiscite Administrator powers of interference in the administration of the State, *e.g.*, by "direction and supervision of the State Forces and Police," mentioned in paragraph B.8 of the Security Council's Resolution of April 21, 1948. Dr. Lozano said that this was not the intention of the Commission and that the words quoted above had been deliberately omitted. The Prime Minister pointed out that all that the Plebiscite Administrator could in reason expect was that, for the purpose of organising and conducting the plebiscite and ensuring its freedom and impartiality, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir should give him such assistance as he might require.

Dr. Lozano said that a Plebiscite Administrator of international standing and commanding general confidence who would be appointed after consultation with the Government of India could be expected to act reasonably and that the Commission did not intend that he should usurp the functions of the State Government in the field of normal administration and law and order. His functions and powers would be limited to ensuring that the plebiscite was free and impartial.

B.4(b). The Prime Minister drew attention to the fact that the Azad Kashmir forces which had been armed and equipped by Pakistan and were under the operational command of the Pakistan army ran into tens of thousands. Their presence in the territories referred to in A.3 of Part II of the Resolution of August 13 even after demobilisation, would be a constant threat to the territory under the control of Indian and State forces, a deterrent to the return of many refugees, and an obstacle to the free expression of opinion regarding the future status of the State by those who might be opposed to the accession of the State to Pakistan.

Dr. Lozano pointed out that it was the Commission's intention that there should be large-scale disarming of these forces, though it would not be possible to require withdrawal, from these territories, of genuine inhabitants of these areas.

B.6(a). Dr. Lozano agreed that it was not the Commission's intention that the Pakistan Commission should operate outside Pakistan. Thus, the Pakistan Commission would *not* operate in the territory referred to in A.3 of Part II of the Resolutin of August 13.

The Prime Minister then raised the question of the "free return" to the State of all citizens who had left it on account of the disturbances. He said that the tendency of Pakistan would be to push as many people as possible into Jammu and Kashmir. If the plebiscite was to be limited, as it should be, to genuine citizens of the State, the entry of persons claiming to be citizens into the State will have to be most carefully checked. How was this to be achieved ?

Dr. Lozano said that the Commission fully realised the necessity of an accurate and effective check but had not gone into details. Possibly those returning to the State could be stopped and examined at the frontier. The Prime Minister pointed out that, considering the length of the frontier and the ease with which people could slip across the border over mountain tracks, a check on the frontier would be neither easy nor effective, except by the deployment of large forces.

Apart from the problem of entry, there is the even more important problem of the rehabilitation and protection of those who have left the State on account of recent disturbances. Homes have been destroyed; property has been lost; there has been wholesale dispossession of persons from the land that they used to cultivate. It is not enough to 'invite' these persons to return to the State. They have to be given full security and to be housed, fed and put in a position to maintain themselves. It may be necessary to lodge these returning citizens of the State, temporarily in camps for distribution to their homes. They could not, however, be expected to remain in relief camps for long on to take part in a plebiscite from such camps. The administrative and economic implications of this task were at once significant and onerous. They must receive full attention.

B.6(b). It is assumed that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will decide whether or not a person entered the State for a lawful purpose.

B.7 (b). India is a secular State; the United Nations also are a secular organisation. Pakisatn aims at being a theocratic State. An appeal to religious fanaticism could not be regarded as legitimate political activity. Dr. Lozano agreed that any political activity which might tend to disturb law and order could not be regarded as legitimate. The same test would apply to freedom of press and of speech.

As regards the freedom of lawful entry and exit, this must obviously be governed by B.6 of the proposals. It is assumed that in the territory under their control entry and exit will be regulated by rules framed for the purpose by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. With due regard to the security of the State and the maintenance of law and order. Dr. Lozano said that a system of permits would probably be necessary.

B.7(c). Persons guilty of ordinary offences against the law will not be regarded as political prisoners.

Emphasis on Security

5. In all their negotiations the Government of India have emphasized the paramount need of ensuring the security of the State. The Commission recognised this in their Resolution of August 13; they have also provided in 4(a) of the Plebiscite proposals that measures with regard to the final disposal of Indian and State forces will be taken up with regard to the security of the State. The Government of India wish to emphasise the supreme importance which they attach to adequate provision for the security of the State in all contingencies.

"AIDE MEMOIRE" NO. II

Dr. Lozano and Mr. Colban met the Prime Minister again on December 22. Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Mr. Girja Shankar Bajpai and Mr. Pai were also present.

B. 4. (b) of Proposals

2. Dr. Lozano said that the *aide memoire* of the conference which took place on December 20 was a correct account of the proceedings. He suggested, however, that the phrase "large scale disarming" of the Azad Kashmir forces used in the portion of the *aide memoire* dealing with B. 4(b) of the Commission's plebiscite proposals did not, perhaps, represent the Commission's intention. What the Commission had in mind was the disbanding of these forces; disarming, it was assumed, would follow.

The Prime Minister pointed out that disbandment was not the same thing as disarming. Pakistan had raised something like 35 battalions of 28,000 to 30,000 men who now formed part of the Azad Kashmir forces. The presence of such a large number of armed people, even if the regular formations were disbanded, would not be conducive, either to ensure the security of that part of Jammu and Kashmir which is under the control of Indian and State forces, or the security of those inhabitants of the territories referred to in A.3 of Part II of the Resolution of August 13 who did not fully subscribe to or share the political views of pro-Pakistan elements. Moreover, the question of the re-entry into these territories of State citizens who had left it on account of the present conflict had to be kept in mind. With such a large number of members of the Azad Kashmir forces under arms, former inhabitants of these territories who held different political views would not dare to re-enter and, therefore, would be debarred from participation in a "free and impartial" plebiscite.

In view of this explanation, Dr. Lozano agreed that the phrase "large scale disarming" should be regarded as correctly interpreting the Commission's intention.

3. Discussion then turned on B.10 of the proposals. Dr. Lozano, answering an enquiry of the Prime Minister, said that the Commission did not contemplate that the Plebiscite Administrator should undertake any administrative functions in regard to the plebiscite until Part I and II of the Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948 had been implemented. Until such implementation, the conditions for the discharge of such functions would not exist. What the Commission had in mind was that discussions on details connected with the plebiscite might begin as soon as possible as this would create a good impression all around.

Mr. Colban supported this view on the ground that the announcement of a plebiscite administrator of high standing would have an excellent psychological effect. Mr. Colban added that, of coures, *if difficulties* arose in the implementation of Part II of the Resolution of August 13, the preliminary consultations regarding the functions of the Plebiscite Administrator and other detailed arrangements for the plebiscite would have to be deferred.

The Prime Minister replied that, under the Commission's proposals, the Governments of India and Jammu and Kashmir assumed a great many responsibilities while Pakistan had to do practically nothing. The Government of India and Jammu and Kashmir could not, in fairness, be expected to discharge any of their responsibilities regarding the plebiscite until there was satisfactory evidence that Pakistan was carrying out its obligations under Part II of the Resolution of August 13.

Moreover, once the present proposals had been accepted, the things left over for discussion with the Plebiscite Administrator would be (1) his functions and (2) detailed arrangements for carrying out a plebiscite. A consideration of (2 would clearly be impracticable until Parts I and II of the Resolution of August 13 had been implemented. Unless cease-fire was carried out and Pakistan forces, hostile tribesmen and Pakistan nationals who had entered the State for purposes of fighting had withdrawn, there could not be, in the territories referred to in A.3 of Part II of the Resolution of August 13, any local authorities with whom plebiscite arrangements could be discussed.

B. 9

B.9, as at present worded, could be interpreted to mean that consultations with the Plebiscite Administrator should start immediately on the signature of the truce. This clearly was not feasible. Dr. Lozano and Mr. Colban pointed out that, when the paragraph in question was drafted, all these considerations were not present to the mind of the Commission. The Commission, according to Dr. Lozano, had assumed that since the Prime Minister of India had informed the Commission, two days after it had placed before him the conditions attached by the Government of Pakistan to their acceptance of the Resolution of August 13, that he stood on his original premises that the Pakistan forces must be withdrawn from the State before the Government of India could consider any further steps, action in relation to B.9 would be feasible only after satisfactory progress had been made with the implementation of Part II of the Resolution of August 13.

He and Mr. Colban agreed that the consultations envisaged in B.9 could take place only after the Commission was satisfied that satisfactory progress had been made with the implementation of Part II of the Resolution, that is after hostile tribesmen, Pakistan forces and Pakistan nationals who had entered Jammu and Kashmir for the purpose of fighting had withdrawn from State territory. Dr. Lozano said that this was the interpretation of B.9 which they would present to the Pakistan Government in Karachi.

4. Dr. Lozano stressed the importance of appointing the Plebiscite Administrator as soon as possible. In view of the preliminaries that had to be gone through, he thought that it might take some time before the Plebiscite Administrator was finally appointed. The Prime Minister pointed out that, if Pakistan accepted the present proposals and carried out its obligations under Part II of the Resolution of August 13, promptly, he saw no reason why the appointment should take much time. What he wished to emphasise was that there would be nothing which the Plebiscite Administrator could usefully do in India until progress had been made with the implementation of Part II of the Resolution as now explained by Dr. Lozano and Mr. Colban.

5. As regards alternative methods of ascertaining the wish of the people regarding the future status of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Lozano said that the statement in paragraph 3 of the *aide memoire* dated the 21st December, 1948 was substantially similar to his own record which reads: "Dr. Lozano said that it would be up to the Plebiscite Administrator to report to the Security Council (through the Commission) if he found the plebiscite procedure to be impossible for technical or practical reasons. The Plebiscite Administrator and/or the Commission could then recommed alternative solutions."

Rehabilitation of Refugees

6. Concluding the discussion, the Prime Minister once again emphasised the need for security for displaced State nationals returning to the territory referred to in Part II A.3 of the Commission's Resolution of August 13. Equally important would be the task of rehabilitation of refugees returning to this area as well as to the part of the State under the control of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Hundreds of thousands of persons were involved. Not only organisation and machinery but time and money would be needed to accomplish the formidable task of restoring these unhappy persons to what once was their home. Until this task was completed, the conditions for a free and impartial plebiscite would not exist.

Dr. Lozano recognised the importance of this matter and pointed out that it will have to be carefully gone into when the consultations on the details of the present proposals take place.

PUBLICATION OF "AIDES MEMOIRE"

The Government of Pakistan have issued a communique dated January 16, 1949 regarding the U. N. Commission's Resolution of August 13, 1948, and the supplementary proposals of January 5 relating to a plebiscite.

On January 13, 1949, the Government of India released to the Press, two *aides memoire* of the conversations held in New Delhi between the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and His Excellency Dr. Lozano and his colleagues of the U. N. Commission on the subject of the Commission's latest plebiscite proposals.

These *aides memoire* constitute the basis on which the Government of India have accepted the Commission's plebiscite proposals and were agreed to by Dr. Lozano and his colleagues. They were also communicated in December to the Government of Pakistan by Mr. Colban, Mr. Trygvie Lie's personal representative with the Commission, who is now in Delhi. Since a summarised version of the *aides memoire*, telegraphed from New York, appeared in India, it was considered desirable that the public should have the full text of these important documents. The Government of Pakistan agreed to such publication They were not published with any desire to start a controversy.

As regards the Resolution of August 13, the basis of the Government of India's acceptance of it is fully explained in the Prime Minister's letter dated August 20, 1948 to His Excellency Mr. Korbel.

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

Joint Appeal by India and Pakistan

The following appeal for intensifying recovery of abducted women and children was issued jointly by the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayangar and the Hon'ble Khwaja Shahabuddin, Ministers of India and Pakistan.

Discussions between the representatives of India and Pakistan were recently held at Karachi and Delhi about the measures which should be taken to improve the work of the recovery of abducted persons in the two Dominions. The Governments of India and Pakistan are determined to do their utmost to solve this difficult problem and to right the wrong that has been committed against the womanhood of both the countries. Under the new scheme each Dominion will be responsible for the actual recovery of abducted persons in its territory, and will give all available information to the other regarding the names and addresses of all the persons who are detaining abducted women and children.

In the name of humanity we appeal to the nationals of both the Dominions to help the Government officials and social workers in the recovery work. This is a blot on the fair name of India and Pakistan which should be erased without delay. The efforts of the Government officials and social workers cannot be successful unless they are supported by public opinion and inspired by a keen sense of responsibility on the part of members of the public. Our joint efforts have so far been successful to a certain extent, but to get rid of this evil, the campaign has to be energetically resumed and for this purpose we solicit the help and co-operation of all the nationals of both the dominions.

We also appeal to the Government officials and social workers to redouble their efforts and complete this work in the shortest possible period.



The Food Minister addressing a large gathering of villagers at Patharia (C.P.) on January 5 during his tour of the Province

land reclamation schemes of 10,000 acre blocks of land. Keen, curious and expectant villagers had gathered in thousands at both the centres to watch operations. In homely metpahors the Food Minister explained to the cultivators, India's pressing problem of increasing the food production and the vital part that the agriculturists had to play in the context of the country's newly won freedom. Political freedom meant little if they continued to depend on foreign countries for expensive grain imports. The Central Government, continued Mr. Jairamdas, has been conferring with Provincial and State Governments as to how bigger and quicker steps could be taken in providing improved seeds, more manure and better irrigation which are the surest means of immediate progress.

Progress in Provinces

Referring to mechanical reclamation of vast areas of cultivable waste land the Agriculture Minister stated: We ought to carry out this programme for achieving the ultimate goal of abundance. In other countries every square yard and foot of agricultural land in inhabited areas is made to produce grain or fodder, fruit or vegetable. Therefore, India cannot remain content with a state of things where about 6½ crores of acres of land await the aid of man and science to make them yield food to man and animal.

Referring to the efforts of the C.P. Government to increase food production, Mr. Jairamdas stated that the Province had led others by showing an increase of 34 percent in a single year. The United Provinces and Bombay followed by making substantial increases. Because of C.P.'s successful effort the Government of India have given to the province even larger number of tractors for reclamation of wasteland than originally intended. The Food Minister expressed hope that with the formation of the present schemes the Central Provinces would become the granary of India.

Stating that the food prospect before India was not pleasant till provinces somehow managed to overcome the present difficulties he said that it was time that the dependence upon the Centre and through it on foreign countries to make up food shortage in every province and state ended. Most provinces and states must produce much more food than now. The Government of India cannot indefinitely continue their programme of importing more and more food at greater and greater cost nor can each year all the quantity of each grain which is needed will be available from foreign countries. These fetters must be broken.

This year's demand from Provinces and States on the Centre is a significant sign of danger if the responsibility of feeding India was not duly borne by every unit in the country. This year provinces and states have asked the Centre double the quantity they asked for last year. This double demand is evidence that most areas would have to put forth every special effort to make themselves independent of aid from the Centre.

The Minister stressed the importance of linking agricultural research and the cultivator. There must be, in every province and state a continuous chain of trained and enthusiastic human agency to link up official research institutes and the man behind the plough. Each Indian province would have to take steps to bridge the gap between hunger and plenty.

Mr. R.K. Patil, Provincial Food and Agriculture Minister, who accompanied Mr. Jairamdas throughout the tour in his speech welcomed the help rendered by the Government of India to the Central Provinces, but asked for greater financial assistance to meet expenses of new schemes and bring more areas under cultivation.

Training in Fisheries

It is proposed to arrange for the second session of the Fisheries Training courses which were started by the Government of India last year from the beginning of June this year, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on January 13, 1949. Training in inland fisheries will be given at the Central Fisheries Research Station at Pulta (near Calcutta) and that in Marine Fisheries at Madapam, Madras.

The Courses are of 10 months duration and will cover training in general principles and practices of inland and marine fisheries work. They are primarily designed to train personnel for the posts of Fisheries Officers in the subordinate administrative services in the Provinces of the Indian Dominion and the States acceding to it. Candidates from foreign countries or those intending to take up private employment or develop fisheries in their own estates may also be admitted for training.

Among the subjects to be taught are included general oceanography, general hydrology, principal marine fisheries of the world and India, inland fisheries of India, ecology of inland waters, statistics of fish and fisheries, fishery biology, fishery technology, fishing crafts and tackle, navigation and steamship, marine and estuarine fish farming, socio-economics and fishery laws, classification of animal kingdom and of fishes, general principles of physiology of aquatic animals and allied subjects.

LICENCE FEE FOR FRUIT MANUFACTURERS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, have made amendments in the Fruit Products Order, 1948, modifying the method of granting licences to manufacturers of fruit products, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculturo on January 7.

With effect from the current calender year, the licence fee will be chargeable for one year and not on a half-yearly basis as in the past. The minimum licence fee of a manufacturer will be Rs. 40/- for the first four thousand rupees or part thereof; and thereafter at the rate of Rs. 5/- for every five hundred rupees or part thereof, based on the value of the output for the preceding year. The fees once paid will not be refundable except when a licence is refused.

Procedure for the export of manganese ore, chrome ore and kyanite has been finalised by the Government of India in consultation with various associations representing the trade. In this connection, a Press Note was issued on December 29, 1948, detailing the decisions arrived at and the procedure which applicants for export licences should adopt in regard to the export of manganese ore. It is now announced that the same procedure will be followed in regard to the export of chrome ore and kyanite.

CO-ORDINATED PLANT PROTECTION IN INDIA

Sardar Datar Singh on Quarantine Measures to Conserve Food Stocks

"ACCORDING to experts, plant pests and diseases cause damage to food crops which are two or three times of what we are obliged to import. The problem of control of pests and diseases, therefore, demands our immediate and earnest attention," declared Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in his inaugural address at the meeting of the Plant Protection Officers of the Central, Provincial and State Governments held in New Delhi on January 12, 1949.

This meeting was the first of its kind in India and the Ministry of Agriculture, taking advantage of the presence of officials of the Provincial Agricultural Departments in the capital in connection with the meeting of the Advisory Board of the Council, had arranged a discussion on this important subject which, if properly tackled, would substantially add to India's food production and should ultimately wipe out the necessity of food imports, altogether.

Sardar Datar Singh said:

"I need hardly point out to you the heavy losses that plant pests and diseases are causing to our various crops in all parts of the country and the urgent necessity of preventing such losses in order to step up food and agricultural production. As you are aware, there is a heavy drain on India's resources on account of imports of food grains from abroad.

Need for Trained Personnel

"We are all aware that plant protection campaigns on adequate scale require properly trained personnel, pesticides and power-operated machines in sufficient quantities. Unfortunately, most of the equipment and pesticides are not available in our country and have to be imported from abroad. Arrangements have, therefore, to be made for their supply well in advance of the outbreaks of pests and diseases.

"The personnel have to be specially trained because the operations require special skill and technique with which agriculture and science graduates are not very familiar. Perhaps, you also feel the need of the advice from the Centre, for example, to secure information about the latest developments in different parts of the world in the methods of pest and disease control, new and better pesticides and machinery, to obtain timely warning about outbreaks of pests and diseases, information regarding the spread of pests of foreign origin which have already got established themselves in the country in the absence of proper quarantine measure at our ports and so forth. This service will now freely be placed at your disposal by the Central Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage."

Among the important decisions taken by the meeting were:

(1) That every Province and State should build up an effective plant protection organisation without any unavoidable delay.

(2) The Central directorate of Plant Production, Quarantine and Storage should be adequately staffed so as to enable the Centre to assume an active role in plant protection work, in particular (i) to advise and assist the smaller provinces and states who cannot be expected to build up an effective organisation for some years to come and (ii) to deal effectively with serious outbreak of pests and diseases to control which will be beyond the capacity and resources of a single State or Province.

(3) As most of the insecticides and fungicides, as well as the mechanised equipments, like sprayers and dusters, have to be imported from abroad, the Centre should take the responsibility of procuring these articles for the Provinces and States, subject to the conditions that the latter indicate to the Centre, by the end of January and July every year, their half-yearly requirements of these articles.

Central Pool

The Centre will arrange with firms dealing with these insecticides and equipments, to keep sufficient stocks for supplying the Provinces and States affected on receipt of a firm order, through the Plant Protection Adviser. The Provinces and States were also advised to keep a reserve stock on these articles to deal with a sudden or unexpected outbreak of any pest or disease.

It was also recommended that the Government of India should maintain a Central Pool of Plant protection Power-Operated Machinery with sub-stations at three centres of India, so as to serve all parts of the country as speedily as possible when an epidemic breaks out. The sub-stations were suggested to be located at Asansol, Ajmer and Nagpur.

The meeting also approved of the suggestions that the various insecticides, fungicides and herbicides which have appeared in the market should be given a rapid trial by the Central Oragnisation with a view to a gauge their efficacy in dealing with particular pests and diseases.

Trainino of Personnel

Training of plant protection personnel was discussed and it was decided that while those Provincial Governments who have got properly equipped Departments of Agriculture may arrange their own training, others including the States, which do not have any such organisation, will be helped by the Centre by arranging training of their personnel for plant protection work.

It was further recommended that the Plant Protection Adviser should issue a quarterly bulletin which may later on be developed into a monthly bulletin, giving an all-India appreciation of the pest and disease situation for the use of plant protection workers.

The need for adequate protection of foodgrains during storage in farms as well as in Government or trade godowns was also considered and the recommendations made at the last meeting of the International Food Infestation Conference of the FAO were endorsed. It was suggested that the Provincial Governments should, as far as possible, set up Grains Storage Deposits with proper equipments and facilities for storage, particularly in villages.

COMMITTEE ON FERTILISERS

In view of the need for further knowledge regarding the scientific application of chemical fertilisers and organic manures by reference to crop soil relationships, and because of the divergent opinions expressed regarding utility of chemical fertilisers in India, the Government have appointed an Expert Committee to undertake a scientific study of these questions as early as possible.

The Committee will consist of Dr. J.N. Mukerjee, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, as Chairman and the following members: Dr. B.V. Nath, Director of Agriculture, United States of Rajasthan, Messrs. R.L. Sethi, Agricultural Commissioner, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, C.S.D. Swamy, Deputy Agricultural Production Adviser (Fertilisers), Central Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. C.N. Acharya, Compost Development Officer, Central Ministry of Agriculture and Choudhary Mukhtar Singh, Meerut. Mr. H.C. Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, will be Member Secretary.

The Committee will collect all the existing data relating to the use of chemical fertilisers and its effect on the soil; examine the value and advantages of using organic manures mainly compost; take the evidence of the Central and Provincial officers and practical agriculturists wherever necessary, and suggest the best methods of using chemical fertilisers either singly or in combination with organic manures, with reference to the deficiencies in the soil in relation to the crop grown. It will also examine the suitable forms of nitrogen for various soils and crops in India, and review the work already done and draw up a programme for the future. It will submit its report to the Government of India as early as possible.

INDIAN CONSULATE AT KASHGAR

An Indian Consulate General was opened at Kashgar, Sinkiang, China, and Captain R. D. Sathe assumed charge as Consul General on December 21, 1948



Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, inaugurated land reclamation schemes at Patharia and Piparia (C.P.) on January 5

AGRICULTURAL WEALTH BASIS OF INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS

Food Minister Inaugurates Land Reclamation Schemes

THE HON'BLE Mr. JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, inaugurating a 10,000 acre land reclamation scheme by tractors at Patharia, Central Provinces, on January 5 emphasised the need for application of science and mechanical power towards agriculture with a view to make the country self-sufficient in food. He also appealed to the agriculturists as well as to the officers of the Central and Provincial Governments, who will be in charge of implementing the scheme to take up this work as a mission so that this great national effort may contribute to make India healthy and prosperous.

The following is the text of Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram's speech:

Some days ago my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Patil, your Minister for Agriculture, asked me to be present at this function and I agreed to it without any hesitation. As a matter of fact, I was myself desirous of being present here on this occasion. Today's function has an importance of its own. A little over a year ago, we gained our political freedom and simultaneously our land was partitioned. Both political freedom and this physical partition of our country has left us with big tasks. The masses want to reap the fruits of freedom particularly in the economic field. The People's Government is eager to plan and work for that end. It is anxious to reconstruct a happy and prosperous India. This happiness and prosperity is linked inevitably with agricultural wealth.

A country like India where for long a majority of its people must live and labour in villages, prosperity can have no meaning unless our fields and farms yield us their full fruit and enrich the tillers of the soil and thereby the country. It is the agricultural wealth of countries like the United States, Canada, Australia and Russia which has made their people prosperous and given them the means for achieving national prosperity. Agriculture is the mother of industry. We must have a healthy and robust mother if its child is also to be robust and healthy. Agriculture must, specially in a country like ours, have the first place in national economy. More of national attention, national energy, national finance, both through the Central and the Provincial and State Governments should be diverted to the fulfilment of our task in the field of Agriculture.

Maximum Agricultural Production

We need not confine ourselves to the goal of mere self-sufficiency. Maximum agricultural production is to be the foundation of our industrial development. Vast masses must have adequate purchasing power to constitute the home market for the products of our fully developed industrial activity. India cannot imitate those nations who maintain their industries by exploiting and dominating of colonial countries. The 35 crores who make up India can sustain an expanding industrial activity if only they created out of the mother earth adequate purchasing power for themselves.

But this great task of developing agriculture cannot be fulfilled unless the millions who work on the fields give their fullest co-operation. We have not all of us yet realised that if partition enabled us to achieve political freedom, it has led to economic consequences which are not all to our advantage. The partition of the country has left us with great shortage in some of the most essential commodities. We are short in food, short in cotton, short in jute and short in a number of other vital things. In all these we must have the goal not of self-sufficiency but of abundance and plenty and yet we are starting with initial handicaps. It has been estimated that as a result of partition, we in the Indian Dominion have to maintain about 78 per cent of the population of undivided India. To our share come also only 70 per cent of the rice area and 64 percent of wheat area and on this we have to maintain 78 per cent of the population.

The partition has also placed us under another serious drawback. Having allotted 78 per cent of the total population to our Dominion, we were given only 65 per cent of the area under irrigation and dependable supply of water for our crops and only 54 per cent of irrigated wheat area. In our Dominion so far as also the States are concerned, huge areas of uncultivated and unirrigated lands have fallen to our share. A very disproportionate area of land has thus to depend upon the vagaries of the weather and the uncertainties of the monsoon. Human effort spent on field operations is deprived of its fruits if nature does not bless it with its merciful showers. And so in proportion to population, over a wider region than before partition, our crops have to face uncertainties. The reverse is the case with Pakistan. Its Provinces and States have to maintain proportionately less population and greater area of cultivated and irrigated land.

Initial Handicap

India, agriculturally, has thus to start with a great handicap. A year or two's efforts in a normal way can effect no radical change where our chief means of agricultural production, land and water, have both shrunk materially in proportion to population. Since August 1947, our great task has been to produce out of less land and still less irrigated land enough food to feed a greater proportion of population. But, however, big the task, it has to be fulfilled and however great the difficulties, they have to be overcome.

It is for the fulfilment of this task and for overcoming all these difficulties that your own people's Government in the country wants the co-operation of all of you. I would like the agriculturists of the Central Provinces to realise the opportunities which are being given to them to tender this co-operation. There are vast areas in your Province which have become infested with weed and which today can yield nothing either to you or the country. It has been estimated that in your Province 6 lakhs of acres are in this condition. The Central Government with the full co-operation of your Provincial Government is trying to reclaim this large unfruitful area for you and the country.

Today about 100 tractors sent from Delhi are ready for fresh operations so that in place of being over-run by unsightly weeds we may see the fields of your Province laden with health giving wheat. These six lakhs of *kans* infested lands of your Province is only a little bit of the huge area of 6½ crores of acres of cultivable waste land which we have inherited as our share when freedom was won and partition effected To convert all this stupendous area of cultivable waste land into smiling fields of corn is a mighty problem which must occupy several years. But we have planned an immediate programme of reclaiming about one-tenth of this area in the immediate future. 40 lakhs of acres infested with weed or *kans* or *hariali* in the Provinces of C.P., U.P. and Bombay and the States of Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhupal are to be immediately reclaimed.

Besides this area there is other uncultivated waste land not infested by any harmful weed which also has been included in the present programme. This would cover another 22 lakh acres. Thus a total area of 62 lakh acres is intended to be included in a programme which beginning towards the end of the present year is expected to be compelted in the course of about six years. Every season thus, new land will be coming under the plough and yielding us badly needed foodgrains in an increasing measure from year to year.

In this scheme of reclamation, 14 lakh acres are to be ploughed up in Madhya Bharat, 10 in U.P., 9 in C.P. and 5 each in Bombay, Orissa, East Punjab, Bhopal, Vindhya Pradesh and 4 lakhs in East Punjab States. All this will require investment of large funds and great supply of technical personnel and considerable organising effort. As regards the funds, it is proposed to borrow the necessary finance from the International Bank. We have been consulting the Provincial Governments with regard to this big scheme and it is hoped that it will be finalised in its main outline at Delhi in the course of the next few weeks.

Government's Aim

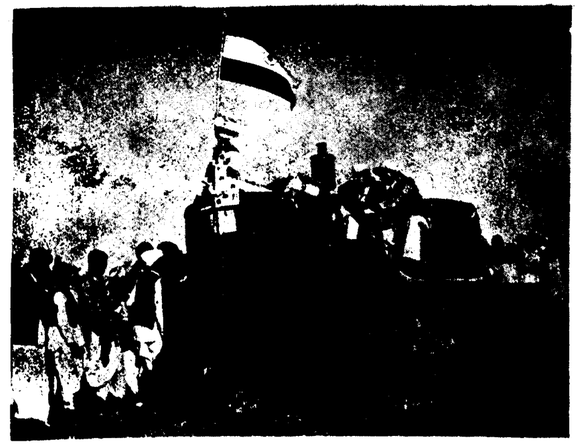
All this land is beyond reclamation by human labour. The aid of science and mechanical power is inevitable if these 62 lakh acres of potential wheat growing fields are not to continue to reproach us daily with their barrenness, while the whole of India is asking for more food and we have to take round the begging bowl to a dozen countries, big and small, and ask for food even at high prices and sacrifice hard earned money and exchange currency, both of which we can ill afford. This does not mean that other measures have not to be taken to step up production in existing fields all over the country. Intensive action in regard to irrigation, improved seeds and manure is essential if immediate results are to be achieved.

To those who are administering the Government of this Province, whether from its headquarters or in the districts or villages and also to the lakhs of kisans who will cultivate the land we are now going to plough up, my appeal is to feel that while implementing this programme, they are all participating in a great national effort to help India to reap the fruits of political freedom, that they are playing their part in terminating the economic bondage of our country as a beggar of food and that they are, by producing more food, contributing to make India healthy and prosperous.

You, the administrators and peasants of the Central Provinces will be developing your own Province and moving forward to the time when the Central Provinces will become the granary of India. Your Province has great potentialities, agricultural and industrial. But I venture to suggest to those who are shaping the policies of this Province to look upon the role of C.P. as a granary of India as in no way less important than as a region of vital industries of the country. Let the agricultural wealth be, as in the United States, the foundation of your industrial progress. For a Province to be wealthy, the vast masses of its people should first be wealthy. It is, therefore, essential that the masses who are spread out in the countryside should be enriched by developing the agricultural resources to the maximum and taking out of the land, both old and new, twice and thrice the yield which they give today and thus double and treble the wealth of the rural population.

I have no doubt that the Government and the people of C. P. will formulate and implement such plans as are for the people's ultimate good. As you know, agricultural production is almost wholly the function of the Provincial authority and the Central Government has little scope for executive action in this field.

The food problem has importance of a war problem. But it is the Provinces which have to wage this war. To the extent that the Provinces put their shoulders to the wheel, to that extent will India free herself from the economic bondage and move forward towards the goal of abundance in food and other agricultural production. And, may I on today's occasion, ask the peasantry of C.P. to make and declare their determined resolve that they will show by day to day action that they are fully behind their Government in its plans for the development of agriculture in their Province.



Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram operating one of the tractors at Piparia (C.P.) on January 6

LAND RECLAMATION PROJECTS

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram left for Delhi on January 7, after completing his two-day tour of Central Provinces undertaken in connection with land reclamation schemes now in operation in the Province. The Food Minister was accompanied by Mr. D.R. Sethi, Chairman, Central Tractor Organization, Government of India and Mr. A.G. Menon, Chief Engineer.

One hundred thousand acres of uncultivated land will have been reclaimed by summer this year by six units of tractors supplied by the Central Tractor Organization to the Province. It is estimated that the Central Provinces has six lakhs acres of cultivable land at Khurai. The Food Minister saw lush green crops of wheat and gram on 8,000 acres of land mechanically reclaimed and sown last year. On a conservative estimate, the standing crops on mechanically cultivated area shows a fifty per cent increase over crops in other areas.

At two villages, Patharia and Piparia, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram inaugurated

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

Meeting of I. C. A. R. Advisory Board

THE 32nd Annual meeting of the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research met in New Delhi Town Hall on January 12. Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, in his inaugural address highlighted the principal items on the agenda and drew particular attention of the members of the report of the Research Re-organisation Committee of the Council and the decisions taken by the Regionalisation Committee on planning of agricultural research on a regional basis at its meeting held on January 11, 1949. He paid a tribute to the memory of late Mr. Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam, who was for some time Vice-Chairman of the Council, and the Board associated itself with Sardar Datar Singh's remarks.

Sardar Datar Singh expressed his appreciation of the fact that the Madhya Bharat Union and the Patiala and East Punjab States Union had become members of the Council and hoped that all the new States Unions and other remaining states would join the Council soon, so that no part of the Indian Union would remain unrepresented on it.

BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

India's participation in International Organizations on research figured prominently in the discussions at the meeting. There was a proposal to revive India's membership of the International Dez Epizootics, an international organization, located at Paris, for research on veterinary diseases. There was another proposal of the UNESCO on the establishment of international research laboratories. The advisory Board held the view that while India would gladly participate in any international organization for the promotion and cultivation of research, such participation should not in any way stand in the development and growth of national research.

The Board also recommended to the Government of India a proposal to invite foreign statisticians of eminence to deliver a course of lectures in statistics under the auspices of the Council. This will strengthen the programme of training in statistics under the Council.

A number of important research schemes including those on improvement of crops, agronomical conditions in general, soil conservation in Himachal Pradesh, setting up a suitable organization for collection of agricultural statistics, research on tuber crops as an aid and substitute for food, standard method for milk analysis and dairy development, were approved by the Advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research which concluded its two-day session on January 13, 1949.

The new economic situation in the country consequet upon the partition was fully reflected in the Board's deliberations which gave particular emphasis on research schemes in the East Punjab and West Bengal for agricultural rehabilitation. Similarly, the development schemes of Hyderabad and Kashmir, came in for special treatment in view of the abnormal conditions prevailing there.

The need for collecting more reliable statistical data on agricultural production was strongly felt by the Board and a five year co-ordinated scheme of crop cutting experiments of principal crops in various provinces was approved.

A resolution was passed urging upon the Government to sanction more finance for agricultural research as it was felt that to help in making the country self-sufficient in food, wider agricultural research than what limited finances permit at present should be undertaken.

A soil conservation scheme of the Himachal Pradesh for undertaking an ecological survey, cultivation of soil binders, collection of erosion data and to find out suitable measures to reduce soil losses was recommended. A scheme for the improvement of the soil conditions in spent-up orchard lands in the Kumaon Hills was another important research item recommended.

Tuber Crops

The Council had in its previous meetings recommended the cultivation of tubers such as sweet potatoes and cassava as a source of human food, so as to relieve pressure on cereals and had invited Provincial Governments to submit schemes on the subject. Schemes submitted by Bombay, U. P., East Punjab, Bihar, Orissa and Mysore were recommended.

Schemes for the improvement of rice crops in the East Punjab, Coorg and West Bengal, and of maize in West Bengal and Bihar were sanctioned. Several research schemes on pulses in Madras, West Bengal, U. P., Bihar, Hydersabad, Orissa, Mysore and Gwalior were approved. Research schemes on millets in Mysore and on palmyra in Madras were also recommended.

A Jaipur Scheme to check soil erosion and spreading of the desert area was approved. The object of the scheme is to prevent the desert from spreading by sand blown by winds, by planting suitable shrubs and grasses which will at the same time provide better fodder for livestock.

A scheme for the co-ordination of research on insect pests and blast and foot diseases of rice in Madras was recommended. An East Punjab Scheme on Wilt disease of gram was also approved. The Council recommended that the animal nutrition scheme of Madras which was stopped in 1943 due to lack of accommodation for the laboratories etc., should be revived.

A scheme to explore the possibilities of using milking cows for draught work was considered and approved. It was suggested that the work should be conducted at four centres, including the Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore.

Standardization of the method of analysis of milk and milk products, suggested in a scheme of the Indian Dairy Research Institute, was approved.

Random Sampling Method

In the absence of reliable data on crop yields, the results of Government development plans on Grow More Food and other Schemes cannot be gauged properly and the Board strongly felt that a suitable statistical machinery was required to collect accurate figures. The Government of India have been considering the best method of arriving at accurate figures of crop production since 1943 and years of research have indicated that random sampling method can alone provide reliable statistics of yield of crops. An Inter-Departmental Committee set up in 1946 by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Sir Theodore Gregory, then Economic Adviser to the Government of India, which examined this method was convinced of the practicability of its use and recommended that all Provincial Governments should adopt this method as a permanent measure for assessing crop yields. The Famine Enquiry Commission also made similar recommendations.

The Advisory Board, after careful examination of the scheme has recommended that the random sampling method should by adopted by the Provinces. The main objects of the scheme area: to evolve a random sampling technique for conducting crop cutting experiments under the auspices of the Provincial Agriculture Departments, to demonstrate to the Provinces the feasibility of adopting the method so devised, to train the existing Provincial staff in the technique, to estimate the yield per acre for the Provinces as a whole and to revise the present state of district normal yields in the course.

The total expenditure involved in the Five-year scheme is estimated to be Rs. 59 lakhs. The Board has recommended that the Central and the Provincial Governments concerned should share the expenditure on a 50 : 50 basis during the first year and on 1 : 2 basis during the four succeeding years excepting the Governments of West Bengal and the East Punjab, who, in view of their present financial conditions, may share one-third of the cost of serveys during the first year and one-half during the four succeeding years. On this basis the share of the Central Government comes to Rs. 30 lakhs.

INDIAN VICE-CONSULATE IN SUMATRA

Mr. Gopal Das Seth has been appointed acting Vice-Consul at the Indian Vice-Consulate at Medan, capital of Sumatra. The Vice-Consulate was established on December 6, 1948.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF CROPS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Regional Groupings to Facilitate Research

AT a meeting of the Regionalisation Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research held on January 11, 1949, regionalisation of research on the basis of different soil and climate complexes was decided, as an experimental measure, with a view to ensure planned agricultural research in all parts of the country. It was tentatively decided to divide the country, for agricultural research purposes, into different regions having more or less identical climatic and soil conditions and similar problems, and to set up regional committees to deal with them under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The meeting was presided over by Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and was attended by members of the Regionalisation Committee including representatives of the Central Ministry of Agriculture and Directors of Agriculture of Provinces.

The need for regionalisation of research has been felt for the last two years and the subject was discussed at two previous meetings of the Committee, the last one being held in November, 1948. Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Council, in his opening address to the Committee on January 11, pointed out that at present the Council had to consider research schemes submitted from different sources without any co-ordinated plan, with the result that problems of importance were sometimes overlooked or not given the attention due to them and sometime duplication of work occurs.

To ensure planned growth in agricultural research, Sardar Datar Singh said, that the fundamental problems had to be studied from its proper perspective and the best way to do so was to divide the country into various regions according to the climate and soil complexes and to tackle the problem of each region by a suitable scientific body.

Advantages

The advantages of regionalisation are manifold and obvious. Besides effecting greater unity of purpose and maximum co-operation among workers, it enables them to attack the many phases of difficult and comprehensive problems in a co-ordinated manner with efficiency, use of available man-power, equipment and facilities. Also the objective and the design of the experiments and the methods of procedure can be carefully and efficiently worked out and uniform methods and measurements of a common philosophy developed which will help immeasurably in determining results

There are, however, a few limitations to successful regionalisation *viz.*, the presence in each region of small pockets which will not be representative of the general conditions prevailing in that region, and the administrative difficulties inherent in a system where a number of Provincial Governments are concerned. These difficulties can, however, be obviated by setting up local committees to deal with problems of isolated pockets and by having a suitable administrative machinery which will ensure the necessary co-ordination.

It was decided to divide the country into separate regions, both from the point of view of research on principal crops as well as on the requirements of animal husbandry. For research on crops the following five regions were suggested :—

WHEAT REGION : comprising of East Punjab, Western U. P., Western C. P. and Berar, parts of Rajasthan ;

RICE REGION ; comprising of Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, East Central Provinces, East United Provinces and Eastern Madras ;

MALABAR REGION : comprising of Bombay, Madras, West of the Western Ghats, Mysore, Coorg, Travancore and Cochin ;

MILLET REGION : comprising of Jhansi in Southern United Provinces, C. P. and Berar, Central India States, Western Hyderabad, Deccan, Western Madras, Eastern Bombay, Baroda and part of Mysore ;

HIMALAYAN REGION ; including Assam, Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan, Kumayaon, Gharwal, Simla Hills, Kulu, Chambha and Kashmir State.

On the animal husbandry side the country was proposed to be divided into four regions comprising of

THE DRY REGION : consisting of Eastern Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan and West U. P. ;

THE WET REGION : including Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Madras, Travancore and Cochin;

THE MEDIUM RAINFALL REGION : reconsisting of Hyderabad, Central India States and C. P. and Berar; and

THE HIMALAYAN REGION ;

It was also decided that Regional Committees should be appointed in each of these regions consisting of the Directors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of the Provinces and States concerned. The Agricultural Commissioner and the Animal Husbandry Commissioner of the Government of India will also be associated with these regional committees.

The functions of these committees would be to study the problems occurring in the particular region, to decide how best and where they could be tackled, and finally to refer them to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with their recommendations. Problems of local importance will thus be eliminated from the Council's research work and it will be free to deal with problems of a more fundamental nature which will ultimately help in developing planned and co-ordinated research on agriculture in India.

Fumigation of Imported Plants

THE establishment of a fumigatory for purposes of fumigation of plants and plant materials imported from abroad, before entry into India, has been decided by the Government of India and arrangements for the allotment of the Sewri Site in the Bombay Port Trust area for setting up the necessary equipments etc., are nearing completion.

The necessity for an up-to-date fumigatorium with properly qualified staff and equipment is great, as prior to the institution of strict restrictions on imports by sea of plant and plant materials, several foreign insect pests, *e.g.*, the Potato moth, the San Jose Scale the Fluted Scale etc., and noxious weeds like Lantana, Water Hyacinth, etc., got entry into the country and have caused a great deal of loss to the country's economy.

There are yet quite a number of noxious pests and diseases of plants in foreign countries which have fortunately not yet been carried into India *viz.*, the Cottom Boll Weevil, the Mediterranean Fruitfly, Coffee Berry Borer, and dangerous diseases like the South American Rubber leaf disease, Fiji Disease of cane, the Potato Wart, etc. In view of the growing air and sea traffic, these are likely to enter into India far more easily if suitable control measures are not undertaken.

Plants or plant products that have to be carefully examined are potted plants, plant cuttings, scions of fruit trees, bulbs and corms ; fruits, seeds of various sorts, tubers such as potato, dry fruits and dry leaf like unmanufactured tobacco, etc. Most of these imports, including the horticultural ones, come from all parts of the world including U. K., U.S.A., Belgium, Holland, Mediterranean countries, Japan, China, Philippines, Java and Burma.

For purposes of inspection, trained technical staff, both entomological and mycological, is needed at the ports of entry, who should be able to recognise the presence of insect pests or fungus or bacterial diseases, by subjecting them to microscopic examination. Where virus diseases are suspected, the plants will have to be grown segregated in glass houses for noting the development of latent virus or bacterial infections. As a rule, all plant imports have to be subjected to fumigation in up-to-date fumigation chambers for destroying living insects found on them. In the case of bacterial and fungal infections, very often, the whole lot may have to be burnt and destroyed.

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco leaf from Cuba and U. S. A. which are essential for the Indian cigarette industry, have to be carefully examined against a serious caterpillar pest which is common in America, Europe and Java but from which India has been completely free. This pest is dangerous in tobacco godowns.

INDIA'S SUCCESS AT FOURTH SESSION OF F.A.O. CONFERENCE

FULLER details are now available of the work of the Indian delegation to the Fourth Session of F.A.O., which was held in Washington in November. India's 8-man delegation was led by Mr. Dinkerrao Desai, Bombay's Food and Civil Supplies Minister, with Mr. B.R. Sen of the Central Ministry of Agriculture as alternate. Among the honours which came to India at this Conference of 58 nations of the world, was the election of Mr. B.R. Sen as Chairman of one of the three Commissions into which the Conference had divided itself, and also as one of the three vice-chairmen of the F.A.O. Council for 1949. The other two vice-chairmen were Professor Meyer of the University of Paris and Dr. Barton of Canada, both of whom had been associated with the F.A.O. since its inception. India was also re-elected to the F.A.O. Council by 34 votes against a total of 43 cast.

Three Commissions

The major work of the Conference was done in three Commissions set up by it. The first was to deal with the principal issues arising from a survey of the current agriculture and food situation and to make recommendations to member governments, with a view to promoting the general objectives of F.A.O.; the second was to examine in detail the programme of work suggested by the Director-General of F.A.O. for 1949 and to make recommendations, and the third was to discuss the financial and other administrative matters of the Organisation. Viscount Bruce of Melbourne was elected chairman of the first Commission, Mr. B.R. Sen of the second and Mr. Wauters of Belgium of the third Commission. All the 58 member nations were represented in each of the three Commissions.

Commission II, whose chairman was the Indian delegate, dealt with subjects of the greatest importance. Of a total annual budget of 5 million dollars, 3 million dollars are directly spent in the programme of work drawn up for the 8 divisions of F.A.O. which fell within the purview of this Commission. These include Economics and Statistics, Agriculture, Forestry and Forest Products, Nutrition and the distribution of cereals through the International Emergency Food Council.

This Commission also dealt with questions relating to regional offices of the F.A.O., the establishment of the International Rice Commission and the relations between the different agencies of the U.N.O. In dealing with the programme of work, the Commission first laid down certain basic principles to guide the Director-General in settling priorities among competing schemes. This was to be on the following classification. (a) projects having world-wide effect (b) regional projects and (c) national projects. It was emphasised that the main function of the F.A.O. was to deal with problems which exceeded national boundaries, and nothing should be done by it which might weaken the responsibilities of national governments. In the case of projects of purely national effect, the responsibility of the F.A.O. should be to give advice and technical assistance.

The Commission accepted the invitation of India to hold the Far Eastern Forestry Conference at Mysore next summer and decided that for the time being the Far Eastern Regional Conference and the Rice Council should be located at Bangkok. The question regarding the permanent site will be decided by the next session of the F.A.O. Conference.

Commission I devoted most of its attention to the current commodity situation in relation to the general objective of the F.A.O. It was recognised that the current level of world production of foodgrains and agricultural raw materials was below pre-war level and far below the level of consumption according to nutritional requirements. At the same time, because of the difficulties of foreign exchange and underdevelopment of resources and consequent low incomes in many parts of the world, a number of exporting countries felt that current effective demand for certain products such as wheat and sugar, was below the supplies available and that the emergence of surpluses at current levels of consumption might become a reality. This point was emphasised by the leader of the Indian delegation.

On the question of development o Asia and other under-developed countries it was emphasised that the principal bottle-necks were a shortage of essential equipment and machinery and financial resources. The Commission recommended that the Director-General should invite the assistance of United Nations, the International Bank and other appropriate U.N. agencies in preparing for consideration by the F.A.O. Council, fact-finding statements concerning all financing facilities, the use being made of them and the nature of their demand. This report will be considered at the next session of the F.A.O.

Commission III dealt mainly with the location of the head-quarters of the Organisation, the venue of the next session and questions relating to the scale of contributions by member governments. The question of the permanent site of the F.A.O. will be decided at the Fifth Annual Conference which is to be held at Havanna early in 1951; pending this decision the F.A.O. will continue to remain in Washington. Questions relating to the scale of contributions and requests for reduction of contributions made by various countries, of which India is one, will be examined by a special commission to be appointed by the F.A.O. Council at its next session.

Research on Water Requirements of Crops

THE Government of India, on the recommendation of the Central Board of Irrigation, have decided to appoint a Standing Advisory Committee for Research on Water Requirements of Crops, consisting of representatives of the Central Board of Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture and the Meteorological Department. In a resolution passed in December, 1947, the Central Board of Irrigation recommended the formation of such a Committee with a view to ensuring effective co-operation and co-ordination between the activities of various Departments concerned in research towards the determination of water requirements of crops in different parts of the country and other allied problems like quality of water, land reclamation, soil survey and rotation of crops.

The Committee will advise on research already being conducted in regard to the most advantageous use of water for agricultural purposes and problems incidental thereto. It will study and co-ordinate research work which is being done by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Agriculture and Irrigation Departments in the Provinces, and also the work done in regard to multipurpose projects, and advise on the most satisfactory method of achieving optimum results in this line of research. The functions of the Committee shall thus be primarily technical and advisory, actual research being taken up and conducted by bodies, most suitable for the purpose.

The membership of the Committee will be :

Chairman: Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Ex-officio).

Members: Agricultural Development Commissioner with the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture;

One Representative of the Centra Ground Water Organization;

One Representative of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

The Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute;

Director General of Observatories;

Director, Agricultural Meteorology;

Director, Malaria Institute of India;

Chairman, Central Power, Irrigation and Navigation Commission;

Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Madras;

Executive Engineer, Irrigation Research Division, U.P.;

Executive Engineer, Irrigation Research Division, Bombay;

Secretary: Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation.

REGULATING WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Mr. Lall's Address to I. L. O. Consultative Committee

ADDRESSING the I. L. O. Consultative Committee which met on December 28, 1948, for discussing wage regulation in agriculture and measures for enhancing the earnings of primary producers, **Mr. S. Lall, Chairman, Governing Body of the I. L. O. and Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Government of India, said :**

I am glad to be here at this Consultative meeting of the I. L. O. the purpose of which I should like to explain very briefly. We held our first Preparatory Asian Conference at Delhi last year. We have to follow that up and hold our second Asian Conference next year, that is in 1950. The exact date and place of this Conference has not yet been fixed, but it has been decided to hold it sometime in January, 1950. One of the items on the agenda of that Conference will be wage regulation in agriculture, and connected with that is the question of the introduction of measures to enhance the earnings of the primary producers. The object of this meeting is to help the I. L. O. to prepare their memorandum on this item of the agenda.

This is a new departure in I. L. O. policy. Formerly all the memoranda were prepared in Geneva. Very often the persons who prepared them had not even seen anything of the conditions of which they were writing in the memorandum. We are now breaking away from that. We have had three I. L. O. experts here to study their own particular items. We had Mr. Fox dealing with workers' welfare facilities; we had Mr. Jain dealing with the organisation of Co-operative development; and Mr. Mathew who is now with us is dealing with our present item. This meeting marks a new stage in I. L.O. policy. The I.L.O. is concentrating its attention on the special problems of Asia. Up to last year or the year before, there was little done that could be of any special interest to Asia and the Middle East.

Industries cover only a very small proportion of our workers, and the vast masses of our agricultural workers were left completely untouched by the activities of the I. L. O. That defect the I. L. O. is now trying to remedy.

As regards wage regulation in agriculture, we are dealing first and foremost with the purely agricultural worker, that is to say, the man who actually lives by labouring for others in the fields. The number of such agricultural workers is not known precisely, but an estimate based on the census would be at least 30 millions, possibly 40 millions. I think it may even be more. We have also to bear in mind that women and children are employed in agriculture. The need for protection is therefore great because the exploitation of child labour may lead to serious evils which we should prevent as early as possible and as effectively as possible.

We have so far made no attempt to regulate conditions of employment in agriculture. Indeed our knowledge of conditions of employment of agricultural workers is very scanty. We passed the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 which provides for the fixation of minimum wages for agricultural workers by March 15, 1951. I have always been insisting that in labour legislation it is not enough to provide something : you have to prepare the ground and see that what you provide will be enforced. In this case, in the Ministry of Labour we have been insisting that we must start immediately to hold enquiries which will enable us to know what the conditions of employment of agricultural workers are. The nature of the enquiry which we contemplate will be indicated in the questionnaire which we have prepared and which I understand, is now in the press ; I hope it will be published very shortly. I would like to say here that we have taken a whole year in preparing our questionnaire. We have had to consult Provincial Governments ; we have had to consult many authorities ; and so many criticisms have been made on our original draft that we have had to revise and re-revise it. I dare say there will still be defects, but by and large the questionnaire will enable us to obtain useful information. What is most important in my opinion is that the questionnaire, even if it has defects, will indicate, to us the lines of enquiry which can without excessive cost be undertaken when we undertake our next census in 1951. From our experimental enquiries we will be in a position to know what is the nature of the information which we can obtain easily. That information can be collected on an all-India basis when we hold the census of 1951.

In any case I have great hopes that the results of our enquiry will enable us to form some idea of the average earnings of the agricultural workers in different parts of the country. It will also, I hope, enable us to know what is the average period of employment of agricultural workers engaged in the cultivation of different crops. This information will be of great value in determining any scheme of minimum wages.

Evil of Forced Labour

I must now refer to an evil which has been continuing in India and which we have tried our best to root out—I am referring to forced labour. Forced labour by law is not permissible, but we all know that it does exist. We have to see that the abolition of forced labour does not remain merely an abolition in law but becomes an abolition in fact. Forced labour takes very many forms I have no doubt that we shall get rid of this evil very quickly and in good time.

In dealing with the problems of agricultural labour, what strikes one most is that, if we really wish to improve the conditions of agricultural workers, we must find out some subsidiary occupation for the rural population. Unless we do that 75 per cent of our population will be underfed, under-nourished and under-clothed, always living below the subsistence level. In this attempt to find out subsidiary occupation we will have to explore many methods. We might have to spread out our large-scale industries into rural areas ; we have to develop our cottage industries ; and we have to undertake a course of vocational training which will fit our agriculturists and enable them to take up a subsidiary occupation.

Technical and Vocational Training

Formerly the I. L. O. concentrated its attention on laying down minimum standards for labour, *e.g.*, the eight-hour day, holidays with pay, rest periods and so forth, but now it is doing what, I think, is also its proper and legitimate function. It is undertaking technical and vocational training, particularly for the backward countries of the world. It has realised that the I. L. O. can no longer rest content by merely doing the negative work of laying down labour standards ; it must also help backward countries to rise. The I. L. O. has realised, as stated in its new constitution, "poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere." Therefore, the I. L. O. is now embarking on a very big scheme of technical and vocational training, which will be concentrated in the Middle East, Asia and the Far East. By developing vocational training in India the I. L. O. can be of great assistance to us in helping our agriculturists to take up a subsidiary occupation.

The second part of our item deals with the introduction of measures to enhance the earnings of primary producers. It will be within the recollection of those who attended the Preparatory Asian Conference at New Delhi that many speakers urged that you cannot just deal with agricultural workers in isolation.

The line between the agricultural worker and the peasant cultivator is very thin. There are many cultivators who are more labourers than peasant cultivators. If we ignore the peasant cultivator and concentrate on agricultural workers, we may not be able to tackle our problem. Therefore, the remuneration of the primary producer was deliberately included in this item so that we may not look at the problem of the agricultural worker only from a limited and one-sided angle.

If the remuneration of the primary producer is to be improved, there is obviously only one fundamental thing on which we must concentrate and that is increased production from the land. The land must yield more than it is doing now and we must bring science, labour and everything else to increase the productivity of the land.

How far is our existing system responsible for our low production ? Here we will still have to consider whether peasant proprietorship should continue or whether we should encourage co-operative or collective farming. In fact, we need wide-scale experiments on co-operative and collective farming to see whether the evils of small holdings can

be somehow overcome. We have also to see whether we should concentrate on specialised farming, diversified farming, or a combined system of mixed farming. We have to see that when we produce more food what is to be our objective. Are we to grow cereals just to save people from famine, or are we also to produce food for nutrition?

These are all matters which we shall have to investigate and in these matters I am sure the I. L. O. will have to rely heavily on the experience of experts in India. It is on the basis of that experience that the memorandum should be prepared.

I have referred already to the progressive decline in the size of the holdings. In 1945, the man-land ratio was only .99 of an acre per cultivator. The ratio has been coming down steadily and I have no doubt that unless something is done it will go down still further. There is a limit to which the subdivision of a holding can be allowed to continue. That limit has already been reached. We have to see how we can reclaim waste lands in order that we may make good our present deficiency which compels us to import food at very great cost.

Reclamation of Waste Lands

In the reclamation of our waste lands we have to see what scientific methods we should introduce and how we can develop co-operative farming so that in the new lands that we bring into cultivation, the evil of subdivision will not perpetuate itself. We have also to consider other connected problems, *e.g.*, the prices for agricultural commodities: should there be "ceiling" and "floor" prices on agricultural commodities so as to give the maximum inducement to the cultivator to cultivate efficiently?

In the question of prices some experiments have been made and it will be for the I. L. O. to study how these experiments have worked and from past experience to see on what lines we should proceed. The Government of India have guaranteed to support cotton prices by a buying programme when these prices fall below the guaranteed "floor." In Bihar and in the U. P., minimum prices have been fixed for sugarcane during the last 10-12 years.

So far as the Ministry of labour is concerned, everything boils down to one fundamental problem, because we view these problems from a wider field. We are concerned with a man-power budget, a term coined by Mr. Bevin when he was the Minister of Labour. Governments are worried over the financial budget, but the man-power budget is no less important. It is more human and in the long run it yields more lasting results. We have to see what is our manpower, how it is employed, and how the population which is under-employed or badly employed can be switched on to more useful and gainful employment. Only in this way can we hope to introduce measures of social security.

I have in a very brief and superficial manner summed up some of our problems and I have no doubt that the Director of the I. L. O., Mr. Mathew, who will be responsible for the preparation of the memorandum on this very important subject for the forthcoming Asian Conference will find your advice and guidance of great assistance to him in its preparation.

PRESERVED FRUITS INDUSTRY

Tariff Board Examines Claim for Protection

THE imperative need for co-operation between a major industry and its subsidiary or ancillary industries was emphasised by Mr. G. L. Mehta, President, Indian Tariff Board, on January 11, 1949, when the Board commenced its hearing of the case of the preserved fruits industry for an upward revision of the existing protective duties or, alternatively, for the grant of a subsidy to put the industry on an equal footing with foreign manufacturers or canned and bottled fruits. Dr. H. L. Dey and Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Naidu, members of the Board and Mr. N. T. Mone of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, were also present.

Of recent origin and largely developed during the war, the Indian preserved fruits industry has been operating under the shelter of protective duties ranging from 40 per cent to 80 per cent on different categories of canned and bottled fruits and syrups. In affording this protection for a period of three years ending March 1950, the Government of India had stipulated that the form which the protection or assistance should take after March 31, 1949, should be on the basis of further examination by the Tariff Board.

Since the beginning of 1948, when the present measure of protection came into the force, the all-India Food Preservers' Association had been in communication with the Government of India and the Tariff Board with a view to securing an increase in the protective duties or, alternatively, a subsidy for the development of the Indian industry.

Initiating the discussion, Mr. Mehta referred to the importance of the preserved fruits industry from the point of view of the nation's health and its economy. He said that while depending for its raw materials upon other industries, namely, fruit farming, sugar, tin cans, and glass bottles, the fruit preservation industry also absorbed the seasonal surplus of fresh fruit and, in the changed circumstances of the Sugar Industry, might also serve to absorb the sugar surplus, thus proving a stabilising factor as regards prices and supplies of fruits and fruit products throughout the year and all over the country.

Changed Situation

Mr. Mehta stated that the partition of the country had brought about the change in the position of the industry since the interim Tariff Board had considered the question, resulting in a reduction in the area under fruit farming and in the number of factories producing preserved fruits. It was, therefore, necessary to ascertain the quantum of production and demand in the Indian Dominion.

Dealing with the grounds on which the industry had asked for an increase in the protective duties to much higher levels, Mr. Mehta pointed to the recent reduction in sugar prices which affected the claim for an adjustment in costs. Any relief in the price of sugar supplied to the fruit preservation industry should be sought by negotiations between the two industries. Mr. Mehta hoped that the Sugar Industry would find it to its own advantage to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the Food Preservation Industry for the supply of sugar at reasonable rates, particularly when that industry was faced with a surplus of sugar.

As regards the increase in the prices of tin cans, Mr. Mehta said that the Government could not accept the interim Tariff Board's recommendation for the import, free of duty, of 500 to 1,000 tons of American tinplate for meeting the requirement of the preserved fruits industry. So long as the industry was using Indian tinplate, no adjustment in costs on this score also was called for. Regarding increase in the price of glass bottles, Mr. Mehta, while commending the spirit of co-operation that prevailed at the joint conference of representatives of the preserved fruits industry and leading glass manufacturers held in March last year at Delhi, enquired how far the resolutions of that joint conference had been implemented in practice.

Import Restrictions

Referring to import restrictions, Mr. Mehta stated that no licences were granted for imports of canned or bottled fruits from dollar, hard and medium currency countries, and that licences are at present granted against an overall monetary ceiling for import from soft currency countries only. The President also impressed upon the Indian Industry the necessity of improving the quality of its products.

Seeking clarification of the alternative scheme of subsidy proposed by the All-India Food Preservers' Association, Mr. Mehta disclosed that the scheme envisaged the establishment of 60 factories in the whole country, in two stages over a period of five years, involving a subsidy of Rs. 75 crores per annum in the first two years and Rs. 7 crores per annum at the end of the five year period. To his mind, the scheme implied that the Government should themselves nurture in the initial stage certain facrories to be established and developed by private enterprise.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE

The Indian delegation to the International Wheat Conference, which commenced in Washington on January 26, will consist of Mr. R. L. Gupta, Director-General of Food, Mr. R. R. Saksena, India's Consul General in New York and Mr. N. G. Abhyankar, Food Attache to the Indian Embassy in Washington, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Food on January 15, 1949.

ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Mr. H. V. R. Iengar's Broadcast

THE Andamans and Nicobar Islands have immense potentialities for development. The scenic beauty of these Islands, their vast forest resources and their important strategic position in the Bay of Bengal were some of the main points of a talk on "Andamans and Nicobar Islands" broadcast by Mr. H. V. R. Iengar, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, from the Delhi station of All-India Radio, on January 3, 1949.

Mr. Iengar said: Some three to four weeks ago, when I was in Port Blair, I happened to run into a young man who seemed a typical member of a community with whom I had come into much contact in Bombay and Gujrat. His facial cut, his beard and his personality seemed characteristic of this enterprising commercial community. I thought I would introduce a homely touch into our conversation by talking to him in Gujarati. But after a while it became clear to me that he did not know a word of that language. The coversation then turned into Hindustani of which his knowledge, unlike mine, was excellent. He told me he had never been to India, had only vaguely heard that his ancestors came from Surat and that he spoke no other language than Hindustani.

A little while later, I met a young woman who seemed absolutely typical of the class of South Indian women who work in the factories in Coimbatore. It would have been ludicrous to talk to her in any language other than Tamil or so I thought half unconsciously, and I spoke to her in Tamil accordingly. But she did not understand a word of it; the only language she knew was also Hindustani and that she spoke excellently.

It soon became clear to me that the Indians in Port Blair have solved a problem which is still being debated on the mainland (which is how they call India) and which would probably take quite some time to solve. The mother tongue of every Indian there, whether his people originally came from the Punjab or Bengal or Madras is Hindustani. They have also succeeded in solving, with a completeness which strikes visitor from India as astonishing, another problem, which in India has been the subject of fierce controversy and which had actually led to the partition of the country and a tremendous amount of bloodshed and tragic suffering.

Religion sits very lightly on the people at Port Blair. It is regarded as an entirely personal matter—so personal indeed that it does not affect even family relationships. There are families in Port Blair some of whom are Muslims and some Hindus and they see no incongruity in this whatsoever. In fact, the people do not understand why religion should be regarded in India as a barrier between human beings and some of them seemed a little apprehensive that if the large-scale immigration took place into the islands, religious conflicts may raise their heads in a place where they have been unknown hitherto.

I confess I was astonished both at the remarkably practical and sensible attitude to religion in Port Blair and the manner in which they have solved the problem of a common language. Many other things also astonished me. Thus, although I was aware that the convict settlement had been abolished for some time, I could not get out of my mind the feeling that these islands were some kind of "Kala pani" invested with a somewhat sinister atmosphere.

But what I saw when our ship dropped anchor in the harbour at sunrise drove all such impressions from my mind. In actual fact, the cellular jails are located on a site of exceptional beauty and one forgets now that thousands of men must have lived long and weary years of agony in their lonely cells. Two of the seven cells have now been demolished and the plan is to demolish the other five and to build on the site a fine hospital. It is perhaps a symbol of the change that has taken place in the minds of the Government of India regarding these islands that the memory of the cellular jails should be wiped out by the erection in their place of buildings devoted to the healing and comfort of the sick.

Strategic Importance

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands number 204 altogether and occupy a strategic position of exceptional importance in the Bay of Bengal. That is why the Japanese took the trouble to occupy Port Blair, Car Nicobar and other places and their presence there caused many an anxious moment to those directing our operations. There are some very fine natural harbours; Nancourie, which I visited, is particularly good and is also one of the prettiest places I have seen.

It is believed that the British Government suggested during the negotiations leading to the transfer of power that the islands might be handed over to them, but naturally this was not accepted by our political leaders. Of this there can be no doubt that from the point of view of the defence of India, the effective occupation of these islands is a matter of the greatest importance to us. I might add that the Government of India have allowed the R.A.F. to have a small Radio beam station in Car Nicobar for giving navigational assistance to aircraft flying from India or Ceylon to Singapore. We cannot spare the resources at present to run this station ourselves, when we can we will take it over.

Many years ago, an European Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, while answering an angry debate in the Assembly, maintained that the Andaman and Nicobar Island are a paradise on earth. His remarks were drowned in sarcastic laughter, but there was more truth in what he said than the Members realised. Many of the islands in the group are of great scenic beauty with long stretches of fine sandy beach set against the background of cocoanut plantations; there are lagoons which look like dream pictures; there are forests of fine timber and there are fresh water streams flowing through the valleys.

The weather is very much like the weather in Bombay; one grumbles at it now and then like most people do in Bombay, but taken all the year round it has more points—at any rate so I feel—than places like Delhi, whose delightful winters serve merely to emphasise the dreary and agonising summers. Altogether, it is a matter of some surprise that the great Indian colonists who went as far as Malaya, Java and Samatra bypassed these islands which were undoubtedly known to them. They probably thought they were not populated enough. In any case, they gave a name to the islands; Andaman is derived from the word Hanuman.

The population of the islands is very small. According to the census of 1941, it totalled altogether only some 33,000 people. Of this, some 19,000, practically all Indians, lived in Port Blair and some 12,000 in the Nicobars. There are a few aboriginal tribes still in the Andamans, but these are very small in numbers and they seem to be dying out. The bulk of the Nicobarese live in Car Nicobar. They are an intelligent, cheerful and hard working lot of people who, with some assistance from the Government, can become a fine and prosperous community. They suffered badly during the Japanese occupation; and we owe it to them to rehabilitate them and improve their standard of living.

We have an Assistant Commissioner living amongst them and we are running a hospital which is well patronised by the sick particularly by the womenfolk. We are also running a number of schools; and I will not easily forget how delighted I was, during a visit to one of them when the children got up and gave me a lusty Jai Hind.

There has been talk recently of sending refugees and others to settle in these islands. When I arrived in Port Blair, a delegation consisting of a Minister of the West Bengal Government and some technical experts and some representatives of the East Punjab had just left. They had gone about a good deal and have returned greatly impressed. Any large scale immigration, however, is a process that will take time and that will have to be planned with great care. Many of the islands have not been properly surveyed and, in fact, one of them in the Nicobar group has never been visited by any official.

Moreover, even in respect of the areas that are familiar to our officials, a good deal of work has to be done before we can think of any large scale immigration. The most important is to decide how much of the valuable forests it would be desirable to leave as forest and how much it would be desirable to afforest for the purpose of cultivation. The Government of India are taking the necessary steps to have a plan prepared. It would be wise not to anticipate it because it is still in an inchoate stage. But one thing is clear. Whoever goes to the islands from India should not regard himself as having been got rid of. For the islands are a fine place and they mean a great deal for India.

DUTCH AGGRESSION—A CHALLENGE TO U. N.

Mr. B Rama Rau's Speech in Security Council

CONDEMNING Dutch aggression against Indonesians in Indonesia and failure of the Netherlands Government to carry out in a satisfactory manner, the orders of the United Nations, Mr. B. Rama Rau, in a vigorous speech during the debate on Indonesia on January 7 urged the Security Council to take "swift and effective action to act as a deterrent to other aggressions in the future."

Following is the text of his speech :

Mr. President, I do not intend at this stage to make any lengthy statement. In fact, after the very able presentation of the case by the Indonesian Representative and the application of devastating logic for an analysis of the situation by my friend the Representative of the Philippines, any lengthy statement on the merits of the case is probably unnecessary.

I would like, before I speak further on this subject, to explain the significance of some of the developments in Asia that have attracted considerable attention in Europe as well as America. As you all know, the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Nehru, has issued invitations to fifteen countries including Australia and New Zealand to discuss the Indonesian problems. Most of the countries have already accepted the invitation and, as far as I know, none has declined so far. It is important that the scope of this Conference should be clearly understood so as to avoid any misapprehensions. I will therefore read out to you an extract from the speech in the course of which Pandit Nehru made the announcement regarding the Conference. He stated as follows : "We have seen the most naked and unabashed aggression and the use of armed might to suppress a people and a Government. We see attempts to revive dying imperialism and colonialism. That this imperialism will die I have no doubt, but there is danger that in the process of fading away it might bring catastrophe on a large scale in its train."

No Intention to Bypass U.N.O.

Pandit Nehru then stated that it was of vital importance that the countries concerned should all confer together and that all freedom-loving countries should co-operate in protecting freedom from this onslaught. If this was not done now, the consequences were going to be disastrous for the world. This co-operation, he explained, should be within the framework of the United Nations. I wish to emphasize this, since fears have been expressed in some quarters whether this Conference was intended to sidetrack or bypass the United Nations Organisation. There is no such intention.

India has always supported very strongly the United Nations Organisation and it is her desire to co-operate fully with the Security Council in any effective measures it may take with the object of solving this difficult problem on a satisfactory basis.

As I have stated, I do not wish to spend very much time explaining to you the position in regard to the Resolution passed by the Security Council some time ago because that work has been done by my predecessors, the Australian Ambassador, the representative of the Philippines and the Representative of Indonesia. There is no question that that Resolution has not been carried out by the Netherlands Government and, if I may say so, nor is it possible to carry out that cease-fire order without removal of the troops to their original line.

The Netherlands Government attacked the cities and the Indonesian forces did not offer any resistance, but have withdrawn from the cities and organized themselves into small guerilla bands. I notice from the statement just made by the Netherlands Representative that in their opinion they have fulfilled the cease-fire order, but they say that they reserve the liberty to carry out mopping-up operations against guerilla bands. What does this mean ? Can anyone be satisfied that the Netherlands have carried out this Resolution ?

These mopping-up operations are directed against the same Indonesian forces organized on a different basis. That is the position in regard to the cease-fire order, and as regards the release of the leaders, I hardly need say anything because even the statement of the Representative of the Netherlands makes it very clear that that order has not been carried out.

What liberty can the principal leaders have when they are confined to a small island ? Such an assertion by the Netherlands Government's Representative is really an insult to the intelligence of the Security Council. At the end of his statement, the Netherlands Representative explained the intentions of his Government.

Can anyone believe in the sincerity of the Netherlands Government ? The leaders are confined to a small island and separated from their followers who form the bulk of the population. And the Netherlands Government is going to set up a Government on a democratic basis. Is such a thing possible under the conditions they are determined to impose ?

Grave Situation

I do not wish to say very much more about the Resolution for it is impossible for anyone to accept the statement of the Netherlands Government that the Resolution has been carried out. But I wish to say something about the repercussions of this problem on the European situation. I need not say very much about the repercussions in Asia. The Conference in New Delhi is an indication of the gravity of the situation. Every Asian country is gravely disturbed.

I wish to say a few words on the repercussions of this aggression on the European situation. The aggressor country is a member of the Western Union or the North Atlantic Pact, as it is sometimes called. The question arises, what are the implications of this pact ?

Under the cover of the security afforded by the Union or the Pact, is one of the participant members to be allowed to create insecurity elsewhere and become a menace to world peace ? Undoubtedly, this is an aspect of the question which will be carefully considered before the Powers who are not now members of the Union decide to lend their support to the Union.

International Repercussions

The second point arises in regard to the assistance given under the Marshall Plan to the Western Powers for the rebuilding of their economic structure. It is not a question of using Marshall aid as an instrument of political pressure. No modern war can be carried on without adequate economic resources. Indonesia and the other countries seriously affected by this development are clearly justified in requesting the United States to consider whether she should continue to provide resources for a country which is utilising these resources for reviving imperialism in South-East Asia. This magnanimous gesture on the part of America was designed as a contribution to world peace and when one of the recipient countries is defeating the objects of the E. R. P. by creating conditions in another part of the world that would have very serious international repercussions, surely there is justification for reconsidering the whole policy.

I do not wish to put forward at this stage any concrete proposal for the solution of this problem. Any such proposal should be discussed and carefully considered outside the Council before any suggestions are put forward here. But I would like to impress upon the Council the gravity and the urgency of the situation. I do so because such informal conversations as I have had have made me somewhat pessimistic.

Some have referred to the healing qualities of time. It has been said that if you allow a situation to drift, a solution would be found somehow or other. Whenever this argument is produced, I am reminded of a very striking passage in one of the writings of the late Lord Keynes, the great Economist. He was referring to the attitude of his fellow economists during the Thirties. I do not remember the exact words for I am quoting from memory but he said something to this effect. "We economists are setting ourselves too easy and too futile a task, if, during a period of acute depression, we merely say that in the long run the period of depression will be followed by a boom. What solace is it to a sailor on a ship sinking in a stormy sea to be told that in the long run the ocean will be flat. In the long run we will all be dead."

If today for any reason we hesitate to take any action, and if for any reason the Security Council does not accept this challenge, the consequences will be of a very serious nature. Inaction will mean not only the end of Indonesian independence, but will deal a death blow to the Security Council and to the whole United Nations Organisation. I hope that the response of the Security Council to this challenge thrown out by the Netherlands Government will be swift and effective and will act as a deterrent to other aggressors in the future.

PROTEST MEETING OF INDIA LEAGUE

The following message was sent by Mr. B. Rama Rau, Indian Ambassador in Washington to the President of the India League of America on the occasion of a meeting held under their auspices in New York on January 10, to protest against the Dutch aggression in Indonesia :—

It is appropriate that the India League of America, which did so much to mobilize public opinion in America in favour of independence for India, should now take the lead in organizing a meeting to give expression to the growing volume of opinion in this country condemning imperialist aggression in Indonesia. When the Dutch perpetrated their first act of aggression in 1947, India took the initiative in inducing the United Nations Security Council to intervene in the matter and, as a result, the Dutch signed a solemn agreement to undertake negotiations for the peaceful transfer of power to the Republic.

This Agreement has now been violated by the Dutch in a "naked and unabashed" manner and carefully prepared military action has been taken to crush the Republic. This aggression has been condemned by the Government of India and by the American Press in unmistakable terms. India and other freedom-loving countries in Asia realise the potential dangers of this attempt to revive dying imperialism in Asia.

Holland is a member of the Western Union and has also been receiving financial assistance under the Marshall Plan. Obviously, one member of the Union has taken advantage of the military and economic security provided by these measures to create insecurity in another part of the world and become a menace to world peace. India, therefore, strongly feels that the hands of the Security Council should be strengthened in regard to this matter and she has, therefore, called a Conference of Asian countries to meet in New Delhi on January 20, to mobilize international opinion in favour of any effective steps that the Security Council might decide to take.

I earnestly hope and pray that there will be a settlement of this question at an early date. There has never been such a clear case of aggression or of defiance of the United Nations Organisation. If the Security Council is not able to take adequate steps to deal with the situation, the consequences will be disastrous from the point of view of world peace. The future of the United Nations Organisation is at stake.

INDIA'S GOODWILL MISSION TO PERSIAN GULF

Cordial Messages Exchanged

THE following messages were exchanged between the Indian Goodwill Mission which visited the Persian Gulf States between December 12 to 19, 1948, and the Rulers of Bahrain and Kuweit. The Mission consisted of Mr. C. S. Jha, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations and Mr. Mohammad Habib, Professor of History, Aligarh University.

From the Indian Goodwill Mission to His Highness Shaikh Sir Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifah, Ruler of Bahrain :

We, the members of the Indian Delegation to Bahrain, deem it a privilege to present ourselves before Your Highness to convey the greetings and good wishes of the Government and the people of India and to extend to Your Highness and your people sincere and cordial assurances of India's abiding friend- ship.

The relations between India and Bahrain are of long standing. Throughout the middle ages Bahrain was the centre of the contact between Arab and Indian cultures. It was also the centre of a flourishing trade between the two countries. Amongst the previous imports from Bahrain to India were the famous Arabian horses (asp-i-bihri) and the Bahrain pearls (bi ali Umman). These trade relations have been maintained in modern times.

Indian merchants and traders have been conducting their business in peace and prosperity under the protection of the Al Khalifah dynasty for the last two hundred and fifty years. In recent years Indian workers have been employed in the Bahrain oil fields and thereby contributed to the prosperity of the island. It is our firm and sincere hope that the commercial ties between India and Bahrain will be further developed for the benefit and prosperity of both our peoples.

We have been impressed in the course of our short visit by the prosperity and contentment of the people of Bahrain under Your Highness' rule and we humbly pray for their continued progress in the future under the protection and guidance of Your Highness and your successors.

From the Ruler of Bahrain to the Indian Goodwill Mission :

We thank you for the letter which you presented to us conveying to us the greetings and good wishes of your Government and the people of India. We are very happy to receive this communication with its assurance of goodwill and friendship.

Throughout its history Bahrain has been closely connected with India. Both in our own time and during the rule of our predecessors our family and our Government have maintained the most friendly relations with the Rulers of India. It is our most fervent desire that these friendly relations should continue as they have in the past and we earnestly hope that commerce and trade between Bahrain and India will continue to increase to the mutual advantage of both our peoples.

Indians from many parts of the country are living and working in our islands and we appreciate your reference to the fact that they are carrying on their business here in peace and prosperity under our protection. In our country people of different nationalities live and work together harmoniously.

We shall be grateful if on your return to India you will convey our assurance of cordial friendship to your Government and to your people and we desire you to inform them that we greatly appreciate the messages of friendship which you have brought to us from India.

From the Indian Goodwill Mission to His Highness Shaikh Sir Ahmed-al Jabir-al Subah, Ruler of Kuweit :

We the members of the Indian Delegation have been directed to convey to Your Highness the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of India and to assure Your Highness and the people of Kuweit of India's abiding goodwill and friendship.

The Cultural and Economic relations of the people of India and the Arabs of the Sea of Oman date from time immemorial and their continuance to the present day shows that this exchange of ideas and of goods has been beneficial to both parties. In the Middle Ages when overland transport was extremely difficult, Arab navigators brought foreign commodities to our shores and took our merchandise abroad. We wish, in particular, to refer to the import of horses and pearls from the Sea of Oman and the export of Indian silk.

In recent times the discovery of petrol in Kuweit has led not only to the production of a commodity needed by all the world but also to the prosperity of the people of Kuweit. We are happy to find that our nationals are contributing to the development of this industry and that their standard of work is considered satisfactory by their employers.

We are gratified to observe the perfect harmony and amity between Your Highness' subjects and the Indian nationals who are carrying on trade and business in Kuweit under the protection of Your Highness' Government. We have no doubt that Indian nationals will continue to receive the same justice and treatment consistent with the greatness and dignity of both our countries and peoples under the rule of Your Highness and your successors.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MYSORE



Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (with a turban) Dewan of Mysore, introducing the Chief Minister and other Ministers of the Mysore Government to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, on his arrival at Bangalore on December 26. Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, is second from right. (Below) Pandit Nehru inaugurating the Aeronautical Society of India on December 27 at Bangalore.



Dr. C. V. Raman, famous Indian scientist, showing to the Prime Minister his invention known as the 'Raman Lighteffect' in the laboratory of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, on December 27. (Below) Pandit Nehru being greeted by His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore when he visited the Mysore University to address its special Convocation on December 28. The University conferred on the Prime Minister the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

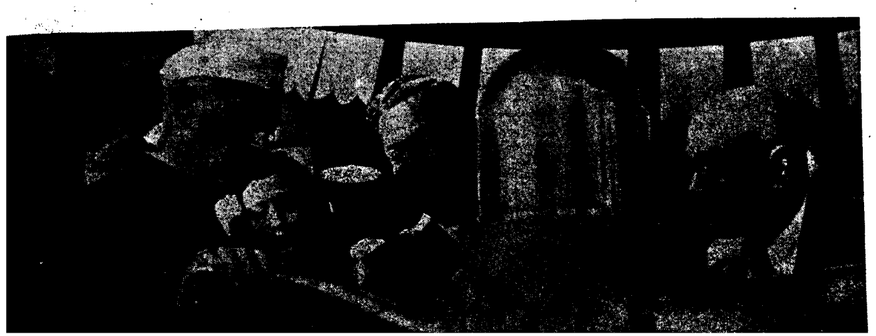


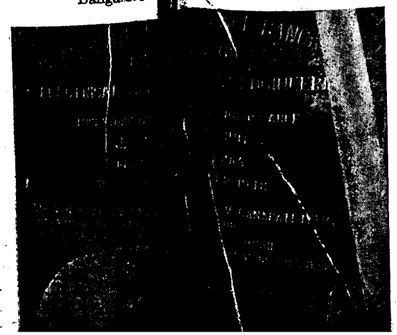
(Below) The Prime Minister also visited the Hindusthan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore on December 27



(Below) Pandit ... of the building of E... ing Department of t... Bangalore ... laying the foundation stone ... Communication Engineer- ... Institute of Science at ... ber 27

(Below) Pandit Nehru expressing his gratitude to the Mysore Government for its gift of the Cheluvamba Mansion to the Government of India on December 30. This building at Mysore will house the Food Technological Institute of the Central Government







Gandhiji was most concerned not about prices but about the moral condition of our people. It may be that that moral condition has something to do with prices also. But the main thing he was concerned about was a deterioration in the moral fibre of the people, including *mutual love and mutual trust*. It was towards that he was making his highest endeavour just before he disappeared. Let us try as far as we can to keep his memory not in marble or plaster or bronze, but in the tissue of our hearts. We should try to paint and frame him in our hearts. Other pictures or statues have no life. It is then that every individual member of the Chamber of Commerce will get the inspiration, sought from the bust I have unveiled.

APPEAL FOR CO-OPERATION

Declaring that the Government of India were fully alive to the necessity of giving every attention to the undeveloped areas in whatever field it may be in order to produce maximum amount of good to the country, His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari laid special emphasis on the need to restore people's sense of human values. He appealed to the capital and labour to extend their full support to the Government to improve the lot of common man.

His Excellency was replying to the address presented to him by the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce at Shukrawarpeth, Poona on January 8, 1949.

The following is the text of His Excellency's address.

It is exceedingly kind of you to have put up this beautiful *shamiana* and to have taken so such trouble to make me feel happy. The other Chambers of Commerce in India are old institutions, but within the short time that you have been working, you have shown a high degree of originality and sincerity of purpose and enlightened approach to problems. I noted it when I met your deputation a few years ago when I was holding charge of one of the Ministries in the Government of India. You approached things if I may say so, in a practical manner. You will, I hope, carry on in the same way and will, I am sure, contribute a great deal to the solution of all our difficult problems.

The localization of organizational work is very important. There is a tendency for every organization to cover the whole of India and get lost, so to say, in the very size of the adventure. Every local adventure with an emphasis on the local context, human and other, has much more chances of success than a large all-India, all-embracing organizational effect. Whatever unity of culture and of other things we have, our country is very large and we should have a number of local organizations with sincere workers who will concentrate on things near about them. So when a few years ago you came to me with a deputation, I was indeed very pleased. I felt that you were sure to put new life into the people of this part of the country. I see from your address you are conscious of having done good work in that direction and I wish you all further success. This part of the country has produced Kirloskars who have done so much in a difficult field. I have no doubt that there are many more of that type available who can be drawn into this work.

As I do not tire of telling people, patriotism hereafter consists in work such as the Kirloskars are doing in co-operation and productive activity. Your own remarks in the address make it unnecessary for me to say anything more on that subject. All that you say is very true and all that you desire will be done but you will have to allow for the weaknesses and difficulties of the situation. You will have to allow for the fact that we are all more or less new in the art of Government, more or less inexperienced, we have had more difficulties than even experienced governments have faced in other places. We have been doing fairly well with God's grace. If you will continue to show patience, I am sure we will be able to achieve a great deal in this dear country of ours.

You said to me that I should advice my Government to be more impartial in the distribution of their favours and



Shri C. Rajagopalachari inspecting R. I. N. cadets on board the HMIS "Delhi" at Bombay docks on January 9. It was the Governor-General's first visit to the Flagship since her arrival in Indian waters



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari replying to the civic address presented to him by the Poona City Municipality during his recent visit to the city

encouragement to backward areas. Let me assure you that all this will be done and it is wholly unnecessary for me to advise my Government in this regard. They are quite conscious of the needs of the situation. They are very sincere in their efforts to produce the maximum amount of good results all over the country. No great exertion on my part therefore is necessary for that purpose. You think that my words will weigh with them more than your own words. There also I think you are mistaken. Your own advice will be considered as valuable, especially as it is backed by direct experience than any advice that I give them. But I do not refuse to do what I can in the matter that you suggest.

I wish to ask you, however, not to look upon this help from Government or the notice of Government as a kind of rationing. It is not as if we have a limited supply and they have to distribute equally that limited supply to all places. On the contrary it is necessary to give every attention to undeveloped areas in whatever field it may be, in order to produce the maximum amount of good to the country. If some areas have advanced to the full, other areas which have not yet advanced in this respect will have to be taken up in order that the total output may be enlarged. It is not a case of justice, it is just a case of patriotic effort to produce the maximum amount of good in the country. If we give attention to Maharashtra, we will have more for India and that is quite enough reason for giving every possible attention to the further development of Maharashtra.

You have, Mr. President, been, however, somewhat unfair to us in one respect. Although you have not said so in so many words, you indicate that we are, in season and out of season, criticizing industrialists and we ought to direct our attention to labour also. Let me remind you that no occasion is lost by the members of my Government and myself in drawing the attention of workers to their duties in the field of labour. When we are in the company of industrialists we deal with them. When we talk to labour we deal with them. We should not go about creating superficial satisfaction by attacking absent parties. If you remember this and review what has been said or written from time to time you will see that we have not spared labour. We have not spared the industrialists either. In fact we have not spared even ourselves in that matter. If you catch us any time telling workmen that they should be less industrious than they are or less sincere in their output than they are, you are entitled to condemn me and my colleagues.

The same drug will not cure all patients. You should not criticize Government on the score that they have used soft language towards labour. Labour may be less poor than they were last year or five years ago. That does not mean they are happy or that their families have got opportunities that the upper or middle class families have or that their children are being educated or have tenements they can rightly call their own and feel the joy of home. You must, therefore, not be jealous so to say, if more kindness is shown to workers by our Government than on the face of it appears to be shown to industrialists. Different people require different degrees of kindness and different degrees of harshness. I assure you that no one has realised the need for increased and strenuous work in the country more than the members of Government.

Labour, too, knows that it is only if they work that things can be produced and wages can be paid and life all round made better. They know all that but they feel that unless they do certain things they will not get what is absolutely necessary for them. They may be wrong in their judgement, but I want you to be kind in your assessment of the situation as a whole. Let us tolerate each other's feelings to some extent and let us pull together. Let me tell you that I feel that whatever may be the causes, things are better this year than they were last year and should be



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari addressing the industrialists of Bombay on January 10 during his recent visit to the city

NO PRICE STABILIZATION AT PRESENT LEVELS

Rajaji's Address to Indian Chamber of Commerce

AN unequivocal exposition of the Government of India's policy with regard to *stabilization* of prices and controls was given by H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, in his address to the Indian Chamber of Commerce, when he unveiled the Bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Bombay on January 10, 1949.

His Excellency said:

I have always felt it a painful duty to unveil a picture or statue of our beloved leader, although it is impossible to refuse a request of this kind. It revives pain to look at pictures and statues of one whom we have lost. When you feel grief, how can you judge works of art? The man was different from his form. You cannot get anything out of it by looking at a material likeness of that form. An ancient text in our scriptures says that the person you see in the eye is the ATMAN. Scholars have given many interpretations of this text. The text itself is the centre piece of a story where the chief of the gods understood it in one way and the chief of the antigods understood it in another way. There is something missing in any work of art and that is in your mind all the time when you look at a statue like this. The light that shines from inside in the eyes cannot be brought out in any statue. So, my friends, forgive me if I have not been able to give any opinion on the artist's work.

The members of the Chamber here were in one way closely connected with Gandhiji while in other ways they were far apart from him. There are many people who used to look upon Gandhiji as a great *bania* and you are a Chamber of *Banias*. The term '*ba ia*' has been used in a very familiar and derogatory sense in modern days, It is used to denote a caste or a miser, a moneylender and so on. But really a bania simply means a merchant. To distribute things among the people in a fair manner is the *bania's* Dharma. You are a Chamber of such people. God has many names in our scriptures and one of them is 'trader,' that is to say, He receives and gives. He receives as price the action of men and gives reward in return, weighing it in exact scales just as merchants are expected to do. Correct weighment was one of the attributes of God and correct trader is one of His thousand names.

Social Institutions

You have erected this bust to be a constant source of inspiration to members of your Chamber. May that inspiration remind you of the correctness of life that you are expected to lead and the manner in which you are expected to fulfil your functions in society. Trade and commerce have grown. The community of merchants has come to exist not by a conspiracy of selfish people, but as a step in natural evolution. All social institutions are as much living organisms as plants and lives that have come into being through evolution and the laws of nature. Your trade and commerce have come into being as part of a natural evolution and, therefore, merchants have a necessary function in society to perform. As long as they perform the functions that appertain to them, the scriptures of our ancients and the philosophy of our moderns recognise them as having an important place in society.

There are many schools of social organization. There may be people who dream that we should have a society wherein distribution could be done without the help of profiteering agencies. But agencies of some kind are required for distribution, and whether one agency is better than another is a matter of trial and error. The same smith may get different results working with different tools. Whether one method of distribution is better than another depends not only upon the relative merits of the method but also on the man concerned. While therefore we try and find out our mistakes, let us not become fanatical opponents of one another. In India, many trials have to be made, many errors have to be committed and rectified. If the Government of India brought in controls or if they removed controls or brought controls in again, these are not signs of indecision or instability. These are symptoms of the spirit of honest endeavour and let us look upon them as such.

The Government of India have tried and are trying to cope with extraordinary difficulties. In a small country, with a relatively small population, experiments are easier and results more satisfactory and decisive. But in a large country such as ours, with a population as vast as it is, where numerous layers are involved, experiments are rather difficult. It requires greater courage on the one hand and greater tolerance on the other. Let us, therefore, be sympathetic and help the Government. The removal of controls had not proved satisfactory and some people could say "Well, did I not tell you?" or "Did I not say you should do something else?" and so on. The Government of India have reimposed regulation to some extent and it has not been very quick in producing results. Every line of work produces new difficulties and we must face them.

No Stabilization of Prices

When the Government of India said, "We shall try our best to lower prices but we shall begin now at where prices stand," some people were quite happy, others were unhappy. They said "Do you mean to say that you will go on stabilizing prices at their present levels? It would be extraordinarily unfair. We have not been given compensatory arrangements for the high prices now reached," and there is thus great discontent.

When I decided to come to Bombay and knew that I would meet you all, I knew that I would have to say something about this matter. So instead of depending on my own notions of things, I asked my friend and colleague, the Finance Minister, about this. The Finance Minister of the Government of India informed me definitely that it is not the intention of the Government to stabilize prices at their present levels. It is only a point at which to start. As things ease themselves, prices are bound to come down. It is not their intention to maintain prices at the present levels. They expect all prices to go down as we go on. That is the definite policy of the Government I am in a position to tell you and through you all those who are concerned.

All this has nothing to do with Mahatma Gandhi. But during the last few months of his career in this world, Mahatma Gandhi was very much exercised over the question of prices and showed concern in the consultations people had with him. It was always wrong to go to Mahatma Gandhi with the belief that whatever he said was the word of God. Those that went to him in that spirit returned no doubt very happy, but in my opinion, not very wise. Those who went to him for advice as a great and selfless man and as a friend and patriot and as one inspired by love of humanity and therefore entitled to special regard, came back wiser than when they went to him. It was in that spirit that Ministers of the Government of India consulted him from time to time.

All the time Mahatmaji lived, he did not like anybody to go to him with the intention of accepting without examination anything he said. If I may tell you a personal secret, he liked me most because I had the mischievous tendency to argue things out with him and differ from him if necessary. If I had become a cent per cent loyalist, so to say, I do not think I would have commanded his love or confidence. That does not mean that it was an incitement to me to try to differ from him. At no time did I give cent per cent approval to what he said as during the last few weeks of his life-time. He rose, in my opinion, to the height of his glory and eminence and usefulness in the world during those few weeks. He was like a rocket which went up and in a blaze disappeared in the sky. It did not come down to die. It died at its highest illumination. He put his whole soul into his passion for communal amity and disappeared in a glory.

Some people think that regulation can make everything. They talk of Government keeping down inflation as if it were simply a matter of physical control. The forces that are in operation, act according to the law of nature. A patient gets rheumatism because his heart requires some rest and rheumatism compels him to get that rest.



Shri C. Rajagopalachari addressing the journalists at the reception organised in his honour by the Bombay Union of Journalists on January 9. On Governor-General's right are Mr. Maharaj Singh, the Governor and Mr. B.G. Kher, the Premier of Bombay



The Bombay Provincial Jamait-ul-Ulema presented on behalf of the Muslims of the province, an address to Shri C. Rajagopalachari on January 9. Mr. B. G. Kher is translating the Governor-General's reply into Hindustani

better towards the latter part of this year than they are at the beginning of the year.

If Indian industrialists have certain difficulties they share them with all the people in the world. But an additional factor in India is the sum of her political problems. As we solve them, you will gradually find more joy in the work you are doing. The world has had a sudden shake-up of a kind which has deteriorated many things. There have been many elements which we could name as deterioration. People are not as honest as they used to be when I was young. Not only the industrialists, but everybody has deteriorated. We must restore our sense of human values. Otherwise we cannot get on nor shall we improve. But stating the proposition is no remedy. Nothing is achieved in this world by reiteration of words. Everybody is not a Kirloskar. Most industrialists and capitalists are just careful people and nothing more. What is wanted is initiative, imagination, genius for production. There are a few people of that type, but others have thrived on just care and caution. During the last two decades, especially during the swadeshi period, everyone who had some money thrived by just care and caution and a show of patriotism. Hereafter it is not going to be so easy.

The state of affairs now is rather more difficult. We will have to exercise our capacity for invention, production and just distribution and specially the ability to manage men. In the old days, the British Government managed all the men and the caste system was a great and effective resource to draw from. If you threw some money you got work done. Now it is not so easy. The management of men has become more difficult. Everybody is ready to be discontented. Everybody is ready to be angry. Everybody is ready not only to be angry but to combine and do something wrong. We have to acquire more capacity in the management of men. You will be the first to agree with me that men and women are good in our country and that with a little kindness and good treatment, you can get them to work.

There is great talent even in common folk and among the lowest strata of society. They are all patriotic. They are cultured and civilized in all strata, and we are also good people. There is great hope, if we exercise patience and cultivate good feelings instead of cultivating bitterness. Let us be happy. As the Ayurvedic doctors tell you, if we constantly remind ourselves of happiness and contemplate happiness, we will create happiness even without our knowing it.

RAJAJI'S ADVICE TO POONA CITIZENS

While replying to the address of welcome presented by the Poona Municipality on January 8, 1949, Shri C. Rajagopalachari advised the people not to be fanatical. "It is wise," he added "to be a little humble even in our opinons."

Continuing he said: I need hardly tell you, I am very glad to be in Poona. Poona is a familiar place to me. Years ago, even as a boy, I was trained to look upon Poona with awe and delight. When my own place, Salem, became politically active, we took pride in calling it the Poona of South India. You can understand from this how much we looked to Poona. When in a state of subjection India began to look up with self-respect, Poona led the way.

Remember the great people who raised the name of Poona to high reputation. In those days Bal Gangadhar Tilak's name was a magic to all of us boys. He was not called Lokamanya in those days. We did not distribute titles then. We had not the courage to patronise great people. How can I forget the gentleness and the friendliness which the great Tilak extended to me, a young man as I was then?

The British looked upon Lokamanya Tilak as if he were a tiger or a cheeta. But we knew how gentle Lokamanya Tilak was. He would not even hurt a fly. He uttered political theories and slogans which looked fierce but in this personality he was as gentle and sweet as a child. He used to go to prison for long terms and when he came out of it nobody could find out that he had been a prisoner. He never uttered a word about his prison life.

I know that many people are dissatisfied with me some times for being too accommodating, and for making concessions to all, to moderates, to Mussalmans, and to the British. Lokamanaya Tilak was not only a great man but he was also a wise man and I learnt the wisdom of making concessions from him, not from anybody who came after him. I remember very well the bitterness of the political quarrels of those days and I remember equally well that as a young man I thought Lokamanya Tilak was getting too moderate. Now I realise that he was not moderate, but was wise while we were foolish.

I am telling you all this not to entertain you but to remind you again that it is not right to be fanatical. It is wise to be a little humble even in our opinions.

I miss here many old friends who have gone permanently away from us. It is the price that a man pays if he lives very old. How can I fail to remember Kelkar? He was a great man, one with whom I have sat on so many occasions in the Congress. He was a violent opponent of my politics after 1920 and of Gandhii's politics, but he remained a gentleman and a friend up to the end.

Glory of Poona

Here in Poona, not only are these great spirits floating in your memories to inspire you, but here it was that Gandhiji was incarcerated over and over again. Here it was that I and Devadasji saw him in 1922, in prison in India, where he was treated like a common criminal during the first few days. Here it was that Gandhiji was operated upon for appendicitis. Here it was that he lost his dear wife and his Secretary, Sri Mahadev Desai. Here it was again that between Dr. Ambedkar and us all we had a Kurukshetra battle.

You have thus all the honours of the past revolution. You should make, therefore, Poona great again. That is a debt which you owe to your city. Do not imagine that Bombay has become great and Poona is small. Poona has got all the intellectual stamina of the provinces. Bombay may have a lot of money and Government will rob them of it over and over again. But your intellectual eminence cannot be taken away from you. Money when lost is lost. But Saraswati Prasad when given doubles itself.

I am very grateful for the welcome that you have given me. My best wishes to you all.

RAJAJI EXPLAINS SIGNIFICANCE OF KASHMIR CEASE-FIRE

"There is peace in India now. The cease-fire that the Governments of India and Pakistan have declared is a cease-fire not only for the Kashmir campaign. This cease-fire is not only the stoppage of the burning of gun-powder. It is a cease-fire for all ill-will and all distrust," declared H.E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, when he replied to the address presented to him by the Jamiat-ul-Ulema in Kaiser Bagh, Dongri at Bombay on January 9.

His Excellency said:

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind welcome. I need hardly tell you how pleased I am to see you all gathered here with goodwill in your hearts. If hearts are full of goodwill, faces shine like angels' faces. If we entertain ill-will or distrust, we become ugly like the devils painted in pictures for children. I am filled with joy to see faces which indicate confidence, mutual trust and goodwill.

Do not believe that I go about in search of addresses and caskets. I go about the country to see people's faces and guage the state of their mental health. God has endowed us with faces which immediately shape themselves according to the feeling inside. Every momentary change of heart is shown in the face. If we get into the habit of continually thinking well, continually having goodwill in the heart, the face gets permanent beauty. If you want to look beautiful, sisters and brothers, cultivate goodwill. Likewise, if you want India to be beautiful, let us cultivate goodwill.

My Muslim brothers and sisters, do not ask for justice. Do not ask for toleration. This is your own country. Treat it as your own home and your own property. When the great poet sang HINDUSTAN HAMARA, he did not mean to say that the Mussalmans should claim it as their special and exclusive property. He wanted Mussalmans to feel that this was our property, the property of Mussalmans and Hindus alike. Would you be happy if the children of a family ask for toleration at the hands of the parents? They must ask for the parents' entire love and this is what you owe to and what you can demand of this country.

Cultivate Goodwill

This Hall seems to be the best place in the whole of Bombay to sit together for peace and goodwill. Muslim brothers and sisters, whatever may be your age, so far as the State is concerned, you are to the State, like the youngest children of a family. And may the Hindus in Pakistan be similarly treated as the youngest children of that State. To be the younger children of the State does not mean a status of subordination; it is, on the contrary, a status of privilege. The child is the Governor of the house. The wishes of the baby predominate the governance of the house.

I feel confident that there is peace in India now. The cease-fire that the Governments of India and Pakistan have declared is a cease-fire not only for the Kashmir campaign. This cease-fire is not only the stoppage of the burning of gun-powder. It is a cease-fire for all ill-will, and all distrust.

You have referred to my having been a very faithful follower of our departed Leader. May I tell you—and believe me—that the Government of India is a faithful follower of the departed Leader and not I alone. They know very well that the glory of the Government of India rests on their loyalty to Mahatma Gandhi. His dear colleagues, who are now in charge of the Government of India have seen with their own eyes the wisdom of what he taught and have felt in their own hearts the heights to which he rose just before he died. Have confidence, therefore, in your Government.

I thank you once again for the affection you have shown me.

Development Plan For Greater Delhi

THE Government of India have decided that, in future, all major plans for the extension and orderly development of the city of Delhi as a whole should be co-ordinated through a single agency called the Central Co-ordination Committee for the Development of Greater Delhi which was set up last year. Various existing bodies whose functions overlap the work of the Central Co-ordination Committee, are to be abolished or amalgamated with this Committee.

To achieve this object, the Standing Advisory Committee for the Development of New Delhi which was set up in 1940 to co-ordinate the activities of the various authorities concerned with the development of New Delhi, will now function as a Sub-Committee under the Central Co-ordination Committee and will be called the Delhi Development Sub-Committee. The existing Sub-Committee for Allocations will be abolished, and the Sub-Committee for Layouts and the Architectural Sub-Committee will both be amalgamated with appropriate Sub-Committees of the Central Co-ordination Committee.

High-Powered Committee

The Hon'ble Mr. N.V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, is the Chairman of the high-powered Central Co-ordination Committee, with the Chief Commissioner of Delhi and the Chief Engineer of the C.P.W.D. as its Vice-Chairman and Secretary respectively. Twelve other members of the Committee are: The Constituent Assembly Member representing Delhi; Mr. D.L. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Works, Mines and Power; one representative each of the Ministries of Finance, Home Affairs, Relief and Rehabilitation, Defence, and Health, the Railway Board, the Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Committees; the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi; and the Chairman of Delhi Improvement Trust.

The Central Co-ordination Committee has seven Sub-Committees, namely, the Delhi Development Sub-Committee, the Communications Sub-Committee, the Town Planning Sub-Committee, the New Delhi Urbanisation Sub-Committee, and the Sub-Committees for the Extension of Health Services, for the Extension of Electric Supply and for the Demarcation of the Industrial Area and an Area for Offensive Trades.

The Sub-Committees include, besides appropriate technical experts, representatives of the various Ministries concerned, of the Delhi Administration and of the Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Committees.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Honourble Mr. Justice Thakurdas Vasanmal Thadani, a Judge of the Assam High Court, to act as Chief Justice of that Court in the vacancy of the Hon'ble Sir R.F. Lodge, appointed to act temporarily as Governor of Assam.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, addressing the special convocation of Banaras Hindu University when the Degree of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) was conferred on him during his visit to Banaras on December 2. On his left are Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the University and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Governor of U. P.

Rajaji's Convocation Address to Banaras Hindu University

IN his convocation address to the Banaras Hindu University on December 2, 1948, H. E. Shri Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, said :

Your Excellency, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Senators of the University, Ladies and Gentleman,

First of all I must thank the University for the high honour they have bestowed upon me in token of such appreciation as they have been pleased to make of my service. I hope I shall prove not unworthy of the honour bestowed. As I received the honourary degree, the figure of our beloved Malaviyaji was before my mind's eye with the *chandon* on his forehead like the third eye of Sri Mahadev. I hope that with his blessings I shall be able to prove as I said not unworthy of the honour bestowed on me.

Our beloved Malaviyaji built with his own hand and left behind him this great university, this solid and useful memorial of which his people may be proud. This university may be called by any name, but will always be associated with the memory of the great man who built it through untiring effort and force of character.

Kasi is a great place. Ganga is a great river brought down from heaven itself, and this place of instruction for youth situated on sacred ground and on the banks of the sacred river should be the subject of care and concern of all of us but mainly of the boys and girls of India. It belongs to them. It belongs to all of them. It is a national seat of culture in the truest sense. From time immemorial people turned to Kasi for enlightenment and to Ganga for purification, and Malaviyaji has helped to maintain that tradition unbroken, by founding and establishing this great seat of learning here in Kasi. Let us in the years to come, keep the greatness of the Kasi University undiminished in lustre.

Graduates, Kipling wrote some great verses, but a little poem which he wrote with an 'if' before the lines is one of the finest things he or anybody else ever wrote. It is English Poetry born out of the Song Celestial of India.

"If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you

"But make allowance for their doubting too :

"If being hated you do not give way to hating

"And yet, do not look too good nor talk too wise :

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster

"And treat those two imposters (triumph and disorder) just the same :

"If you can talk to crowds and keep your virtue,

"Or walk with kings, nor lose the common touch :

"If all men count with you but none too much :

"If you work hard, honestly filling the unforgiving

"minute with sixty seconds worth of work :

"Yours is the earth

"And what is more you will be a man, my son !"

I have not given the words exactly, but sons and daughters of Kasi, remember the substance of these lines which is the same as what was said in Sanskrit centuries ago by Vyas as the word of God.

We have done well in attaining freedom and in showing a bloodless way of overcoming wrong. Yet let me touch on some unpleasant things. The processes involved in the attainment of freedom through the method of disobedience have left behind certain results along with the attainment of the object. These results, like the incidental harm done to the body when you take drugs for curing a serious disease have to be corrected by convalescent discipline, by effort and determination amounting to religious farvour and faith.

Reverence for the State

We have to throw off the habit of disregarding law and authority. The movement of non-cooperation involved the disregarding of law and authority that had been imposed by a foreign government and it has left behind a habit. We have to take concerted and determined action to get rid of this tendency. We must restore unqualified reverence for the State as there was in ancient times, reverence for law and discipline equivalent to reverence for *dharma* as was insisted in the old days.

In fact we want a revival of feudal manners and chivalry but in terms of modern democracy. Reverence for the State is different from attachment to a party. It is more akin to worship than to party loyalty. The State is different from the majority that rules. Reverence for the State is essential. Otherwise India, vast composed of heterogeneous elements, cannot grow strong.

Again, as a result of what was done during the days when we applied every means that was available in order to get rid of foreign domination, we have developed, I fear, a very undesirable and wide-spread tendency of sabotage. Free and democratic India cannot function in security and prosper and attain strength unless we totally eradicate this tendency to utilise methods of sabotage to attain some immediate object.

Short-sighted hurry to attain an objective, good in itself, may lead to great harm being done to the State and society as a whole. It is absolutely necessary to eradicate the habit of destruction and sabotage that were incidental to the revolution. We should revive a reverence—I cannot use a lesser word—a reverence for roads, for bridges, for all means of communication, for the machinery of production, industrial and agricultural. We should automatically and instinctively feel a horror as we do when we see any living thing being cruely killed. Otherwise modern society cannot hope to thrive. Respect for means of communication and means of production must reach the level of religious reverence. We have to rebuild this reverence.

Doctrine of Love and Trust

Again, as a result of what happened during the struggle and thereafter, we are in danger of maintaining unless we guard ourselves, a frame of mind and an attitude akin to ill-will against nations other than ourselves and communities other than our own. We have to make a supreme religious effort to maintain and strengthen what Gandhiji taught, the doctrine of unilateral effort in the faith that love will conquer. Being hated do not give way to hating, as Kipling said. This great doctrine of love and trust, even where you do not get favourable response atonce, is the pivot on which all that Gandhiji taught rested. That was the fixed doctrine round which all his great activities turned. If we have no faith in this doctrine of unilateral effort for love, we forswear all the homage we paid Gandhiji when he was alive.

Don't be alarmed by delays and failures in our national effort. We have not had sufficient time yet. We had to face complicated, unexpected and extra-ordinary difficulties. Remember that freedom from British rule does not mean freedom from world-opinion. Equal citizenship in the world is a great status. But it carries with it great obligations.

The National Government of India today is of a quality of which we can be proud. Our Prime Minister's credit among the nations and statesmen of the world is very high. We have to be loyal and helpful to him to maintain that high credit and to draw from it. Our Prime Minister is the beloved of the nation. He and his colleagues have been trying scrupulously to be just and fair to everyone, to governments and to communities, to industrialists and to workers. No people have a clearer conscience than those at the head of the Government of India today. They are just and they have faith in the destiny of India and are working hard.

Trust Democracy

As I have said elsewhere, industrialists should adjust their minds to the necessary uncertainties of democratic government. They must not expect in democracy that certainty of policy which can be got only under authoritarian government. Policies in democracy depend upon the people's vote which must be taken from time to time and cannot be made the subject of any permanent proposition.

Workers must realise that the State is the real employer whatever be the economic set up in force. Unless wealth is produced, and continuously produced, no government, no management, no employer can find the resources for distributing the means of securing a good life. Wealth and work form the foundation on which the happiness of the community can be built.

We should trust democracy to ensure just distribution and not look to



Shri C. Rajagopalachari laying the foundation stone of the memorial at Victoria Park, Banaras, the place where the last remains of Mahatma Gandhi are kept for public view. (Right) The Governor-General laying the foundation stone of the Mazharul-Ulum Orphanage at Banaras on December 1

class struggle for salvation. Class struggle means hatred and fouling of the atmosphere and unhappiness for all and submission to the crudest type of tyranny at the end of it. The delays of democracy are after all better than the violence and hatred of class struggle, better for all concerned. There are no doubt class struggles going on, whether we like it or not. Where there is maladjustment, a fever is a necessary concomittant. But we gain nothing by encouraging or adding to the fever that accompanies a diseased condition. We should rather allay the fever even while attending to the root cause. That is the democratic method as distinguished from the method of accelerating class struggle and endangering national life.

Our credit as well as our prestige abroad and our position in the comity of nations is high. It is only among ourselves readjustment is necessary for confidence and co-operation. Let us have faith in our destiny under democracy. All will soon be well.

Graduates, I give you my best wishes, my own as well as on behalf of the Government of India. May you be enabled to serve the Motherland diligently and with reverence.

PROVISIONAL ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on December 31, said:

An Ordinance, which is of an anti-inflationary nature, has been passed today by the Governor-General. It enables the Income-tax Officers to make a provisional assessment on any person who has sent his return of income, and to collect from him immediately the tax on the admitted income, without prejudice to the normal procedure for ascertaining the true final demand later on. All credits for which set-off can be allowed on the basis of the information in the return will be given before working out the provisional net demand. One of the consequences of the new system will be that interest on advance payments made under section 18A of the Income-tax Act will cease to run after the date of the provisional assessment. The Ordinance also enables those who had made short payments under section 18A. to reduce their liability for "penal interest."

As no provisional assessment will be possible without a return of income it is to be expected that stricter adherence to the statutory dates for sending the returns would hereafter be insisted on. Further, as the provisional demands will be related entirely to admitted incomes already earned, not more than a week's time will be allowed for payment. Persons who have made returns of income and whose assessments are pending are expected to make arrangements immediately to meet the provisional demands that will be raised shortly.

NEED FOR REINFORCING MORAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES

Governor-General's Address at Delhi University Convocation

ADDRESSING the annual Convocation of the Delhi University on January 15, 1949, His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari, who is the Chancellor, said, "At no time was there in our country such serious heart-searching as at the present moment agitates all circles as to the need for reinforcing the sense of values, moral and spiritual. Never was it more acutely realized that no effort to improve conditions through laws or through administrative direction can bear fruit unless the moral sense of the intelligentsia is quickened."

The Governor-General said that he spoke as a man who had gone through many trials, defeats as well as successes and added, "I assure you results really do not matter and it is the way in which you struggle that matters. God has manifestly given us all in India a chance and we should prove how good we are capable of being."

His Excellency said: I am grateful to the Vice-Chancellor for having relieved me of the heavier part of today's proceedings. The University is grateful to Mr. Maurice Gwyer for having undertaken the responsibility for another term of office as its academic and executive head. It is our good fortune that a man of his eminence has made himself available for such service in this important and growing university. It is not everyone of his years who will voluntarily choose to work hard after having already achieved what would have served as quite enough laurels to rest on.

Where, in accordance with democratic ideas, we have adopted the procedure of election for filling positions requiring expert qualifications, to which appointments were made in the old days by authority, it is necessary to create an atmosphere which would attract the offer of such services by the most capable and high minded among us. We have seen how those who are best qualified to serve in civic administration stand aside, disliking the vexations attendant on election procedure and leaving third and fourth rate men to manage the affairs of local bodies as best as they can. The same fate should not be allowed to overtake our universities. I hope that these remarks of mine, which deal with a matter of very great and growing importance in many of our affairs, will be understood in the spirit in which I have uttered them.

I remember what a great and exciting occasion it was to me when as a young man I received my degree as a Bachelor of Arts in 1897. In spite of the many changes that have come about in life in general and in India in particular, I do not believe young men receiving degrees today are less excited about it than young men were in those days over fifty years ago. Aspiration and hope and the generous impulses of youth are just the same now, as then. I can guess how your young minds are all charged with noble ambition and hope. May God bless you and give you every chance.

Remember that the battle is the glory and results do not count. I do not repeat empty words. I speak as a man who has gone through many trials, defeats as well as successes, and I assure you results really do not matter and it is the way in which you struggle that matters. God has manifestly given us all in India a chance and we should prove how good we are capable of being. We are children of noble ancestors and there is a great deal in heredity. India has come into its own at a rather bad time in the history of world morality. Had we eliminated foreign care-taking some 25 years ago, we should have fared much better. But we cannot get everything done just as we would like and so we must make the best of it now. Our freedom has been born when the world has in many respects greatly deteriorated, and this is a great handicap for us who have to start now.

Sense of Values

At no time was there in our country such serious heart-searching as at the present moment agitates all circles, high and low, as to the need for reinforcing the sense of values, moral and spiritual. Never was it more acutely realized that no effort to improve conditions through laws or through administrative direction can bear fruit, unless the moral sense of the intelligentsia is quickened.

Precepts lose all meaning if repeated too often. The statements of leaders and their appeals from public platforms are just diagnosis and do not act as remedies for the sickness diagnosed. We have, it is perfectly clear, to make the quickening of the moral sense a definite part of the educational system, even though it may seem to be a slow approach to the problem. And this, not by including in the curricula of schools and colleges, lectures and studies on the subject of morality, but by organizing such activities and such discipline as will infuse, in the minds of our young men and women, a reverence for truth and good and an automatic revulsion from falsehood and evil.

An ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory. It follows that in schools and colleges, we should have men and women whose daily lives inspire and infuse enlightened thought and action in the impressionable minds of the boys and girls brought in contact with them. As much care and caution should be

[redacted] thought and [illegible] for holding [illegible] posts and [illegible] in education over their exqualifications in the realm of knowledge.

The part played by personal contact is great in good as well as in evil. We are imitative by nature. Not only in the early and impressionable years but throughout life, we automatically copy the ways of those we admire. Therefore, a great deal of improvement is possible if responsibility for moulding character and behaviour all round is definitely undertaken by those who are placed in positions of authority and influence. This is the only way and not any set instruction.

In the old days, a sense of values was automatically conserved by widespread beliefs that may be described succinctly by the term RELIGION. But in modern times, when so much has been irretrievably done rightly or wrongly to undo the work of ages in the matter of religion, we have to find new instruments for shaping the minds of men and women so that they may develop attitudes that enable them to live and act to the greatest benefit of one another. The grand secret of social happiness lies in the cultivation of sympathy and unselfishness as an automatic-reaction and attitude on the part of men and women on all occasions.

We should all acquire the habit of abhorring unsocial behaviour. Lying, stealing, deceiving, cruelty and indulgence in animal appetites should become as disgusting as filth or unclean food. The need for cleanliness of mind is as great as, if not greater than, physical sanitation, and we must aim at spreading this habit of cleanliness of mind as a part of enlightened statecraft, as essential as physical public hygiene which is the concern of Health Ministries.

Bureaucratic rule under a foreign power having been liquidated, we have now each to find and fulfil our own responsibility in everything. The need for dynamic patriotism is not over with the attainment of national freedom. But dynamic patriotism no longer consists in irrelevant adherence to past dislikes and inhibitions, but in the crusading spirit of purging out selfishness, and in making men and women constantly keep before their minds the welfare of the State as till recently they kept the elimination of foreign rule.

Culture of Citizenship

Citizenship is not merely a right arising out of birth and domicile. It is a culture developed by training and right emotional direction. Without it, freedom and democracy would be chaos. What I call the culture of citizenship is not to be confounded with nationalism. It is a pattern of individual conduct which alone can help democracy to produce social happiness.

We have eliminated foreign rule; but that does not mean we should let the respect for law grow less or the authority of governments and courts to be reduced. It does not mean a reversal of

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PLAN FOR UNIVERSAL COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Maulana Azad's Address to Central Board

EDUCATION must be given first priority in India's development plans, said the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, Government of India, presiding over the 15th meeting of the Central Board of Education which met on January 7, 1949 at Allahabad.

The following is the English translation of the speech which he delivered in Hindustani:—

Twelve months have passed since we met last in Delhi. That was the first meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education held after the achievement of independence. Naturally we were full of enthusiasm and wanted to proceed with our programme of educational expansion as rapidly as possible. It was in this spirit that the Ministry of Education went ahead with its schemes and prepared a programme for realising our long cherished plan of expansion of education for the country.

Financial crisis.—You are however, aware of the sudden deterioration in the economic condition of the country which faced us during the latter half of the year. The danger of inflation and a rising spiral of prices grew so great that the Cabinet was compelled to reconsider the position and appoint an Economy Committee. That Committee recommended a drastic cut in the expenditure of all the Ministries and pressed that all development programmes must be suspended or at least slowed down. I realise the importance of economy, but at the same time feel that education is a matter which cannot brook suspension or even delay. Nevertheless, as the economic situation grew graver, the Cabinet was forced to give precedence to the resolution of the financial crisis over all other activities of the Government. Much against my will, I, therefore, agreed to slowing down of the tempo in our educational development but insisted that as soon as there was some improvement in the situation, education must be one of our first priorities for the resumption of the full development programme.

Even with this slowing down, the present position marks a great improvement on the condition before 1947. Before the achievement of independence the education budget of the Government of India was in the neighbourhood of two crores. The first financial year of independence has seen a perceptible expansion in the education budget and the next year's budget—in spite of financial difficulties and drastic economy—will be well over twice the amount of pre-independence days. I am glad to say that the New Year has brought with it a gleam of brighter days. I am hoping that I will soon be in a position to announce that the Government would go full steam ahead with the programme of expansion of national education in all its stages.

Basic Education.—The first and foremost task of the National Government is the provision of universal free and compulsory basic education for all. In your last meeting, you stressed its urgency. This was re-iterated by the All-India Education Conference which met immediately thereafter. You will remember that I pointed out to the Conference that the programme of 40 years laid down in the Report of the Central Advisory Board seemed too long and should be reduced. I also suggested that its programme of construction of school houses required fresh scrutiny in order to bring the expenditure within the limits of our financial capacity. I am glad to say that the Conference accepted both the suggestions and recommended that an Expert Committee should be appointed to go into the question in order to suggest ways and means for reducing the period and the cost of buildings.

Committee of Experts

Accordingly a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble B.G. Kher was appointed and it has submitted its interim report. According to this report, universal compulsory basic education can be introduced within a period of 16 years by two five-year and one six-year plans. The first 5-year plan will aim at bringing such education to a major portion of the children of the country within the age group of 6-11. The second 5-year plan will extend compulsion to the remaining children of the same age group so that at the end of ten years all children between the ages of 6-11 will be under compulsory instruction. The six-year plan will then extend the scope of compulsion to 14 so that at the end of 16 years the programme of 8 year's basic education for children between 6-14, as envisaged by the C.A.B., will be completely realized.

The Committee also went into the question of finances and suggested that the Centre should provide 30 per cent. of the expenses while the provinces and local bodies should find the remaining 70 per cent. The total expenses which would be incurred from year to year are given in the table on next page.

The Ministry of Education have accepted this interim report and tried to provide funds in our next year's budget on that basis. In view of the economic and financial dangers to which I have already referred, it has not, however, been possible to provide for the entire amount. Much against my will, I have been compelled to agree to a proposal to postpone consideration of this scheme for the time being. One factor which weighed with me was that the Central contribution would be effective only if the provinces are in a position to provide their share of the expenses. The financial position of the country makes one doubt if the provinces can find the necessary funds. It has been decided to consider the question again sometime before March to find out how far we can

carry out the plan. The Government have, however, provided funds for the training of teachers so that, as soon as the economic situation improves, we can go ahead with the programme of basic education.

Social Education.—We all realise the importance of basic education for the future welfare of the State. Equally important for immediate progress is adult education. In a Democracy, the provision of such education is all the more necessary as, without an educated electorate democracy cannot perform the functions expected of it. for this, we want not merely literacy, but mental development of the adults so that they can take an intelligent interest in the affairs of their country and the world. The scope of adult education has, therefore, been extended and to mark this change it is proposed to call it Social Education in future. The Committee which you appointed to prepare a scheme of adult education for the country has submitted its report and has also suggested this change of name. The Government have generally accepted the recommendations of the Committee and I am glad to announce that, in spite of inflation and its attendant financial difficulties, we have been able to provide funds in next year's budget for the implementation of the plan.

I am also glad to inform you that a beginning has been made in the Province of Delhi with programmes of both Basic and Social Education. Plans for the purpose were approved long ago but for reasons into which I need not enter they were not carried into effect. The Ministry of Education decided that there should be no further delay and the scheme should be worked out in Delhi to serve both as an example and a challange to other Provinces. Accordingly, the Delhi Provincial Post-War Educational Development Board was formed. I have myself attended almost every meeting of the Board to ensure that programmes are put into effect as early as possible.

Year	Expenditure on Compulsory Educa-tion	Incidental Expendi-ture	Total Expenditure
1949-50	9,59,37,077	4,79,68,538 (50% of Col. 2)	14,39,05,615
1950-51	19,64,13,485	7,85,65,394 (40% of Col. 2)	27,49,78,879
1951-52	30,64,13,485	9,19,24,046 (30% of Col. 2)	39,83,37,531
1952-53	41,15,35,224	8,23,07,045 (20% of Col. 2)	49,38,42,269
1953-54	52,53,82,528	5,25,38,253 (10% of Col. 2)	57,79,20,781
1954-55	71,15,48,940		71,15,48,940
1955-56	90,55,60,848		90,55,60,848
1956-57	110,68,46,668		1,10,68,46,668
1957-58	131,54,97,491		131,54,97,491
1958-59	152,67,92,410		1,52,67,92,410
1959-60	11,32,74,558		11,32,74,558
1960-61	23,25,09,739		23,25,09,739
1961-62	35,65,89,211		35,65,89,211
1962-63	50,07,72,242		50,07,72,242
1963-64	64,44,70,337		64,44,70,337
1964-65	79,69,93,965		79,69,93,965

NOTES:

1. These figures take account only of the Provinces and exclude the States.

2. Incidental Expenses are included to cover (*i*) the cost of increased salaries of teachers in existing schools, (*ii*) the cost of educating older children who may join the new schools, and (*iii*) other expenses which would follow from the increase in the number of pupils at all stages. This percentage has been reduced year by year for the reason that as more and more students are covered by the Compulsory Scheme, the excess of expenditure is bound to decrease.

3. These figures have been calculated on the basis that compulsion will be applied to 40 per cent. of the age-group 6-7 during 1949-50 and advanced year by year so that at the end of the first five years 40 per cent. of the age-group 6-11 will be under compulsion. The second five-year plan will start with compulsion to the whole of the age-group 6-7 and 40 per cent. of the age-group 7-11. Here also compulsion will be extended year by year so that at the end of second five-year plan compulsion will be applied to the whole of the age-group 6-11. During the six-year plan, compulsion will be applied in the first year to 50 per cent. of the children in age-group 11-12 and extended year by year so that at the end of three years there will be compulsion for 50 per cent. of all children in the age-group 11-14. The second three years will extend compulsion to the remaining children till in six years all children in the age-group of 11-14 are brought under compulsion.

In order to get over the difficulty of securing a sufficient number of trained teachers, it was decided to take trained refugee teachers from West Punjab and give them a short refresher course at Jamia Millia, Delhi. Two batches of teachers have already received their training and a third batch will soon start its course. Since then we have been able to establish two Training Institutes—one at Ajmer for men and the other at Delhi for women, and we hope that they will help to meet the demand for trained teachers for new basic schools as they are founded.

The first set of 47 schools was started on July 1, 1948, and the second set of 50 schools has started to work from the second half of November 1948. A third group of 50 schools will start from April 1, 1949 and it is hoped that before the end of the financial year 1949-50 the entire area of Delhi Province will be covered by such basic schools.

12-Point Programme

In order to make the programme of basic and social education one of immediate interest and utility to the villagers, it has been decided that these village schools will be not only places of instruction for the village children, but centres of community life in the villages. They will provide instruction to children, adolescents and adults and, in addition, serve as places of recreation and sport. It is also proposed to give the villagers practical training in some craft in order to improve their economic status and to organise sports and other forms of recreation for increasing their social and community sense. We have taken the help of the Ministries of Health, Labour, Information and Broadcasting, and Agriculture and prepared a composite syllabus which will be gradually introduced in these schools. The following 12-point programme will give a brief indication of the aims we have in view in the scheme of social and basic education :—

(1) The village School will be a centre of instruction, welfare work, sports and recreation for the entire village.

(2) Separate times will be allotted to children, adolescents and grown-ups.

(3) Certain days in the week will be reserved exclusively for girls and women.

(4) A number of motor vans fitted with projectors and loud-speakers are being secured to visit the village schools. Films and magic lanterns will be shown and recording of talks played. It is proposed that each school will be visited at least once a week.

(5) Schools will be provided with radio sets and arrangements will be made for broadcasting special programmes

school children, adolescents and own-up people in the light of the eme of Social Education sketched ove. About 140 sets have eady been provided by the Ministry Information & Broadcasting, and re will be supplied as soon as possible.

(6) Popular dramas will be organised the schools and from time to time zes given for the best plays produced.

(7) There will be provision for teach- national and community songs.

(8) Arrangements will be made for ing simple instruction in some craft industry suited to the locality.

(9) Lectures will be arranged in co- ration with the Ministries of Health, riculture and Labour to instruct agers in the simple laws of Social giene, methods of Agriculture, Cot- e Industries and Co-operative ivities.

(0) In co-operation with the Ministry of ormation and Broadcasting suitable films l slides will be shown from time to time. angements will also be made for visits public men to speak to the villagers problems of national importance. help and assistance of public bodies rested in constructive work will be ited to give effect to the programme Social Education.

1) Arrangements will be made for anising group games. Competition be held from time to time between erent schools and villages.

2) Periodic exhibitions, fairs and ursions will be organised.

asic and Social Education in ...—Only a beginning has been de in our scheme of Social and Basic ucation in the villages but this in lf has been a revelation to me and all those who have seen the scheme work. For long it has been said t villagers have no realization of the ortance of education. Their age- g inertia, sloth and poverty have n held as obstacles to the introduc- of a scheme of national educa- . It has been feared that because their ignorance and superstitions, y may even resist any scheme of pulsory education and force may e to be used for bringing education their children. Experience in Delhi completely dispelled these fears. ad always held the view that the ager in India has been misjudged in respect. I have great pleasure in ouncing that from the very first of the programme, villagers in hi have responded with an enthusiasm is beyond all expectations.

ne of the methods we propose to for extending Social Education as kly as possible is the holding of ucational Melas or fairs from time time. It is intended to organize rts during these Melas as well as nge for visits and lectures from promi- t public men. In addition, the agers are to be encouraged to produce nas of their own as well as exhibit ducts of local industry and craft. y are also shown educational films radio programmes are arranged for them. Two such Melas have been held in Delhi—one in the month of November and the other only a few days ago.

Villagers—men, women and children have responded with an enthusiasm that has been most heartening. Villagers have been not only passive spectators but active participants. Each Mela has called into attivity latent energies of not only the village where it was held but of the entire locality. The experience of these two melas has confirmed me in my belief that the Indian villager is on the march to-day and is hungering for knowledge. He is ready and anxious for progress and the fault will be entirely ours if we fail to provide him with the means of education on all fronts. I earnestly hope that the provinces will take up the plan and organise at least one Mela a month in every province.

Scientific Education and Overseas Scholarships.—Since the last meeting of the C.A.B. of Education, the whole question of scientific and technical studies has been surveyed afresh. You will remember the scheme of Overseas Scholarships instituted by the old Government for training our scientific and technological personnel. Experience showed that the Scheme required thorough overhauling and I appointed for the purpose a Committee with Dr. B.C. Roy as its Chairman. I also felt that a general survey of our scientific and technological resources and requirements should be made and charge the Scientific Man-Power Committee with that task.

Technological Institutions

Both these Committees have recommended that immediate steps must be taken for strengthening the existing technological institutions in the country and starting new institutions for imparting instruction of the highest standard. They have rightly pointed out that it would be in the interest of the country to provide for such instruction within the country itself. This would gradually obviate the necessity of sending large numbers of students abroad. Till such time, however, as arrangements for imparting instruction up to the highest standard are complete, the despatch of students abroad must not cease.

The Government have generally accepted the recommendations of both these Committees and drawn up a modified scheme of Overseas Scholarships which will aim both at strengthening the teaching personnel in our Universities and Scientific and Technological institutions and providing the necessary staff for carrying through the industrial development of the country. I have no doubt that you have already examined the papers circulated to you and will, if necessary, make constructive suggestions to strengthen our hands in carrying through the above programmes.

Educational Finance.—I have referred to the great financial difficulty with which the country is faced to-day. This has compelled us to slow down our programme in many aspects of the educational development of the country. This is a contingency which I cannot but regret and the more so when I remember the extremely inadequate provision made for Education of all types in India. When we compare the figures for Educational expenditure in India with those in other countries, I cannot help feeling that we have in fact not yet made a beginning with a programme of national education in the truest sense of the term. I have already referred to the extremely meagre educational budgets of the pre-independence days.

In spite of the progress made since then, I am sorry to say that the provision for Education last year amounted to only Rs. 3,85,00,000, out of a total Central Budget of Rs. 395 crores (excluding the Railways), *i.e.*, less than 1 per cent. During the same year, the total of the Provincial budgets shows a figure of Rs. 2,47 crores of which only about 30.5 crore was spent on Education. Thus in the case of India as a whole, only a little over 5 per cent. has till now been spent for Educational purposes and though the budget for 1949-50 will show a perceptible improvement, I must confess that the expenditure is not yet up to my expectations.

These figures may be compared with the amounts spent on education in countries like the U.K. and U.S.A. In U.K. the State spends on Education £214,896,000 out of the total budgeted expenditure of £2,975,679,000. This represents about 7 per cent. of the total budget, but in addition, another 4 per cent. of the total expenditure is contributed by local bodies. Thus in U.K., the proportion of expenditure on Education to the total budget is about 11 per cent. In the U.S.A. the total national expenditure on Education is the collosal figure of 12,050,000,000 dollars. The total budgeted expenditure of the Federal Government is in the nieghbourhood of 40,000,000,000 dollars. Thus for a population of about 50 millions, the U.K. is spending the sum of about £300 millions, and for a population of about 140 millions, the U.S.A. is spending 12,000 million dollars.

It may also be mentioned that according to the Steelman Report, the U.S.A. propose to spend by 1957 one per cent. of the total national income—not the State Revenue—for purposes of research alone in Universities and industries. This will represent a figure of something like 2,000 million dollars (approximately Rs. 750 crores). In addition, the U.S.A. Government propose to provide a sum of about 300 million dollars (Rs. 100 crores) for equalising the opportunity of secondary and university education for children of comparatively poorer parents. Similarly Great Britain is spending £76.5 million (Rs. 110 corres) for Fundamental and Applied Research.

Not content with this, the British Government have now under consideration a proposal for futher expanding the facilities for Higher Education by which from 1951 onward, over ninety per cent. of the places in the Universities and institutions of higher learning will be free. In other words, the process of compulsory education which started in Great Britain in 1870 by providing universal free Education at the Primary stage and has continued since 1902 by

the provision of free Secondary Education in the Grammar and the County Schools has now been brought to its final fruition by making even University Education for all practical purposes free and universal.

No one can for a moment suggest that Great Britain has not her own financial and economic difficulties. This has not however, prevented the implementation of her Education expansion programmes, and I trust and hope that we in India also will not allow considerations of financial stringency to hold up for a day longer than is absolutely necessary the programme of universal compulsory and free Basic Education which is essential for building up the free and democratic India of our dreams.

University education.—I have so long spoken to you about Basic and Social Education. University Education is, however, of equal importance for the future progress of the land. The recent world war has raised in every country of the world new questionings about the aims and objects of higher education. Such enquiry is of even greater importance to us in the context of our newly won freedom. I will not, however, go into this question to-day, as we have appointed the Universities Commission to examine the problem of higher education in all its aspects. You have pressed for the appointment of such a Commission for the last three years, and rightly so, for there has been no comprehensive survey of higher education in India since the Sadler Commission submitted its report

Even the Sadler Commission confined itself primarily to one University but the Indian Universities Commission 1948, has been charged with an enquiry into the whole structure of our higher education in Universities and other institutions of study and research. I am glad that we have as Chairman of the Commission so eminent an educationist as Professor Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

He is being assisted by able colleagues from India and abroad. I am particularly happy that distinguished educators of the U. K. and the U. S. A. have offered us their services in this venture. I am hoping that the Commission will submit their report before the end of the year.

Medium of instruction.—Before concluding, I will draw your attention to one other burning problem of the day. You recommended and the Government of India agreed that the medium of instruction in the Primary Stages must be the mother tongue. All Provinces have accepted the principle, but I think you will agree that as yet only the general principle has been laid down. Difficulties have, however, been felt in working out the details and giving a practical shape to the principle. There is no problem where the mother tongue of the pupil is also the state language, but where this is not the case, doubts have arisen on several points.

Problem of Lingua Franca

It has not been clearly laid down at what stage the State language should be introduced as a second language. Nor is it clear when it should replace the mother tongue as the medium of instruction in schools. These and allied questions should be examined in detail; and fair and practicable solutions found so that nobody may have any ground for grievance. The Government of India could have taken a decision themselves, but I feel that your advice in the matter will be invaluable as you represent not only the Provinces and the States but also the enlightened opinion of the country.

I trust that you will give special attention to the problem during this session and define in a clear and unambiguous manner the detailed procedure for giving effect to an agreed principle. By doing so you will not only solve one of our most difficult Educational problems but also render a real service to national unity.

AFGHAN NATIONALS IN INDIA

Restrictions Withdrawn

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on January 5, 1949 said :—

In view of the friendly relations existing between India and Afghanistan, the Government of India have issued fresh orders in respect of Afghan nationals (including money-lenders and petty traders) residing in India.

Under these orders, which supersede all earlier ones on the subject. (1) All notices served on Afghan nationals to leave India will be withdrawn with immediate effect and no Afghan national will be required to leave the country against his will pending a review of his case.

(2) Afghan nationals who have already returned to Afghanistan in compliance with notices served on them will be permitted to return to India for a period not exceeding six months. The Indian Embassy at Kabul has been authorised to issue limited visas for this purpose, provided it is satisfied ;

(*i*) that the applicant has some business in India which he could not complete before returning to Afghanistan and which requires his personal attention ;

(*ii*) that he will not set up new business while in India, or prolong his stay beyond the period allowed to him except with the specific sanction of the Government of India ;

(*iii*) that his financial status is fully assured ; and

(*iv*) that he has not been deported from India for criminal or other undesirable activities.

All Afghan nationals in India, who are not already in possession of a valid passport and visa, are required to obtain it before February 28, 1949.

After March 31, the Government of India intend to review the cases of Afghan nationals whose activities have brought them to adverse notice, and decide, on the merits of each case, whether the person concerned should be allowed to remain in India and if so, for how long.

The Government of India are confident that these measures will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between India and Afghanistan and will dispel any apprehensions that may have been felt by Afghan nationals in India.

ORDINANCE FOR ISSUE OF DUPLICATE SECURITIES TO HYDERABAD

AN ordinance was issued on December 31 authorising the Reserve Bank to issue duplicate securities to the Hyderabad Government in lieu of the securities of the value of Rs. 20 crores purported to have been transferred by the officers of the Hyderabad State in favour of the Pakistan Government last year, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of States on December 31, 1948.

It added : It will be recalled that this transaction came to the notice of the Government of India in December, 1947, and ever since they have repeatedly made it clear that the transaction was in clear breach of the Standstill Agreement inasmuch as it was tantamount to entering into relationship with a foreign Government which the Hyderabad Government was not competent to do. The Pakistan Government were not unaware of the position and the Government of India's stand in the matter. By entering into this invalid transaction the Pakistan Government have not acted in a manner conducive to the promotion of friendly relations netween the two Governments. Nevertheless, the Government of India had hitherto refrained from taking any action beyond restraining the transfer of securities held by the Hyderabad Government.

H. E. H. the Nizam recently declared that the transaction was unauthorised and beyond the competence of the Hyderabad Government and therefore invalid and of no effect. The Hyderabad Government accordingly addressed the Pakistan Government through the Government of India and requested them to return the securities to the Hyderabad Government, but the Pakistan Government have refused to comply with the request. The Government of India have therefore been constrained to take action to vest these securities in the Hyderabad Government and to direct the issue of duplicate securities to the Hyderabad Government.

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF EAST PUNJAB

The Governor General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das, of the Calcutta High Court, as Chief Justice of the East Punjab High Court on the retirement of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ram Lall, says a Press Communique issued by Ministry of Home Affairs on January 14, 1949.

STEPPING UP EXPORTS TO HARD CURRENCY AREAS

PROPOSALS aimed at stepping up India's exports to hard currency areas are contained in a report submitted to the Government of India by a committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Sri Ram, appointed in November 1948 by the Export Advisory Council. This report, which in general favours the removal of restrictions on exports, is being considered by the Ministry of Commerce. It discusses the question of promoting tourist traffic and of increasing exports to dollar areas of raw jute, jute goods, oils and oil seeds, tea, cloth, mica and shellac, gums and resins, hides and skins, manganese and other ores, etc.

Tourist Traffic

In order to attract tourists to India, the committee recommends the easy and prompt grant of visas, special facilities for the booking of railway accommodation, hotel accommodation of a suitable standard, establishment of a Governmental organisation (working through travel bureau at important centres) to deal with this traffic and the provision of amenities of a social and sporting nature. The need for publicity and propaganda abroad to attract tourists is also recognised.

Regarding the export of raw jute to hard currency areas, the report favours a target of 9 lakhs bales, but if in the interests of the Indian jute industry the supply position should become critical, a specified order of priority in the matter of export should be observed. The present licensing policy in regard to export of jute goods has been approved by the committee.

The committee feels that, with the export duties, Indian groundnuts and groundnut oil have become unsaleable in hard currency areas; and, in the case of linseed and linseed oil, even in certain soft currency areas. Various remedies are recommended. Among these are suggestions that exporters should be given the option to export an equivalent quantity of seed instead of oil to hard currency areas, which generally prefer to take kernels or seed, and also that exporters to hard currency countries should be given additional licences for export to soft currency countries which pay better prices.

Tea Exports

Pointing to a decline in the export of tea from India to the U.S.A., the committee feels that a reduction in export duty and an increase in the excise duty might better serve the needs of revenue as well as of export to dollar areas. Other recommendations are : improvement in transport arrangements, increased storage space at the port of Calcutta and a possible change in the 2 per cent commission at present charged by auctioneers of tea.

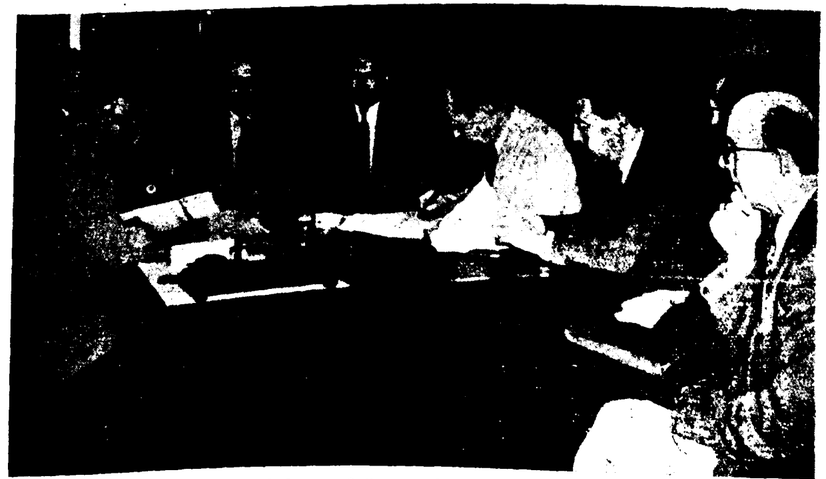
It is recommended that the export of cloth to hard currency areas should be free from restrictions regarding quality. The quota of 77 million yards should be available for the export of manufactured piecegoods, mill products and handloom goods alike. It is suggested that the export duty of 10 per cent be removed and a heavy excise duty on fine and superfine cloth be imposed to make up the loss in revenue.

Some countries seem to be importing from India certain commodities for re-export to dollar countries. The committee, therefore, suggests that control be exercised over export, but an open general licence should be issued for export to hard currency areas.

Light varieties of hides are the only ones that would interest hard currency countries, but present prices are reported to be unattractive. It is felt that the export of light hides to hard currency areas, if at all possible, should be permitted. The transport position should also be improved.

Indian artware and curios, as a class, are decontrolled. But in the case of some metal items, particularly brasswork, control is still exercised. The report advises putting these commodities immediately under an open general licence for export to hard currency areas.

The committee expresses the opinion that many fine products of Indian art and handicrafts could readily be sold in America if a special effort were made to acquaint the American market with their quality and availability. Towards this end, it suggests the sending of three delegations—two to America and one to Canada—with a large stock of samples. Simultaneously, American tastes should be studied in the matter of Indian carpets and textile products. The Government should also consider the advisability of setting up a directorate to see to the development of cottage industries, art and handicraft products, and also that goods exported are up to the standard.



A trade agreement being signed between India and Yugoslavia by their respective representatives on December 29 at Calcutta

NEW PROJECTS APPROVED BY STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

PROPOSALS for installing a wireless network between Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and New Delhi, a 12-Channel Carrier telephone system between Calcutta and Patna, an automatic telephone system for the coalfields area of Bihar, establishing a telephone factory in India and constructing terminal buildings at Santa Cruz were approved by the Standing Finance Committee recently. The Hon'bie Dr. John Matthai, Finance Minister, presided.

Telegraph communication between various places in India is at present mainly by overhead land lines. As they pass through country for several hundred miles, they are subject to interruption from various causes. It is now proposed to supplement the telegraph system by installing high-powered high-speed wireless transmitters at Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Madras. Each transmitter, it is explained, will be capable of disposing of 1,500 to to 2,000 messages per day. The project provides for the installation of 10 transmitters and 10 receivers. Transmitters and receivers will be fitted with the latest equipment to work teleprinters. The non-recurring cost will be 43.58 lakhs.

Calcutta-Patna Link

The installation of a 12-Channel Carrier telephone system between Calcutta and Patna is required to provide additional telephone circuits between these two places, Calcutta and Assam, Calcutta and North Bengal and Calcutta and Bihar and the U. P. Demand for these circuits is urgent because the Assam and North Bengal traffic is now being routed *via* Patna, instead of Pakistan territory.

The 12-channel system will replace two three-channel systems, making two lines spare as a standby. It will also provide six additional circuits. The total non-recurrent expenditnre is estimated at Rs. 6.75 lakhs, and recurring Rs. 1,40 lakhs annually. A revenue of Rs. 2.5 lakhs per annum is expected from this proposal.

In the Bihar coalfields, it is proposed to replace the present telephone systems, which are partly manual and partly automatic, by five new automatic exchanges. The non-recurrent expenditure is estimated at Rs. 49.12 lakhs and recurring Rs. 8.30 lakhs per annum.

Telephone Factory

It is proposed to establish in India a telephone factory for the manufacture of automatic telephone and carrier equipment. There is an ever-increasing demand for telephones in the country, and the number of telephones is expected to double itself within the next 3 or 5 years.

The Government of India has accordingly entered into an agreement with the Automatic Telephone and Electric Company for a period of 15 years under which the Company will allow the Government full use of its existing and future patents and of other technical information of which it is in possession. The Company will also assist the Government in the early establishment of a fully equipped telephone factory in India, both by acting as consulting engineers and providing technical personnel, until trained Indians are available. The Company will train Indian nationals in their works in England.

The factory will, for the present, be wholly owned by the Government and administered by a Board of Management until a company has been formed to take over the concern. Action is being taken to float a company to run the factory.

Total capital expenditure over 15 years is estimated at Rs. 2.5 crores. The non-recurrent expenditure in the first 3 years is estimated at Rs. 1.45 crores and recurring at Rs. 2 lakhs in the first year, rising gradually after 10 years or so to Rs. 50 lakhs.

Santa Cruz Airport

The loss of Karachi airport as a result of the partition has made it necessary for Santa Cruz airport to be developed as the first port of entry into India for aircraft from the west. Meanwhile, the increasing congestion of air traffic, both international and internal, in Bombay has made the provision of a Terminal Building at Santa Cruz aerodrome a matter of urgency. The proposal involves an expenditure of Rs. 62,88,400 non-recurrent.

EXPANSION OF INDIAN SHIPPING

The Committee approved a proposal to form one of three shipping corporations immediately for the expansion of Indian shipping and its participation in overseas trade. The necessary preliminaries in respect of this corporation, which will be managed by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., are complete. An understanding has been reached with the Company as to the terms on which they will act as the Managing Agents of the Corporation.

In the case of each corporation, the ultimate capital liability of the Government will be between 61 per cent and 74 per cent. of Rs. 10 crores. The probable sum required for the first corporation will be Rs. 7 crores, of which Rs. 3 crores may be spent in 1948-49 and Rs. 4 crores in 1949-50. The scheme involves no regular recurring expenditure, except that the Government of India undertakes to make good any losses incurred by the corporation during the first five years. Such losses, it is expected, will be confined to the first two or three years and are not likely to exceed Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs per annum per corporation. The subsidy involved will be repaid to Government by the corporation out of profits made in subsequent years.

A preliminary proposal in connection with the laying out of a park and the construction of a memorial column at Rajghat on the site where Gandhiji's body was cremated was also approved by the Committee.

The cremation site comprises an area of about 95 acres which, due to its low level, is liable to inundation. It is proposed to isolate about 12 acres by means of two bunds running along the north and east of the plot. This area, which is to be raised 3 feet by earth filling, will be enclosed by wire-fencing along which trees and hedges will be grown on the slopes of the bunds. It is proposed to construct two terraces, one above the other, inside the plot. The platform of the Samadhi will be surfaced with marble stone, with a railing all round at a distance of 20 feet.

The cost of this preliminary scheme, which will form part of a bigger scheme for the laying out of the park, is estimated at Rs. 5,23,000. Various plans for the general lay-out of the park and for design of the memorial column have been prepared, but the actual design and shape of the latter have not been definitely determined. Meanwhile, however, it is necessary to proceed with preliminary work so that there may be no delay later in completing the project.

RIVER PROJECTS

Other schemes sponsored by the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power and considered by the Standing Finance Committee relate to the development of multi-purpose river projects for irrigation, hydro-electric power generation, navigation and flood control.

The Standing Finance Committee last year referred to an Expert Committee proposals relating to investigations in connection with the Kosi Dam, Assam Valley, Narbada and Tapti and other projects. In the light of this Committee's report, revised estimates have now been approved for these and other new projects.

Ganga Barrage Scheme

The most important of the new projects is the Ganga Barrage scheme in West Bengal. This is of all-India importance in that, apart from providing a road and rail bridge over the proposed barrage across the Ganga, it will provide irrigational facilities in West Bengal, improve navigational facilities from Calcutta to the site of the barrage and reduce the distance by river considerably.

Another new scheme on which investigation will now be taken up relates to the development of facilities provided by the Sabarmati river and rivers in the Central Provinces.

But for some minor anicuts, the Sabarmati system has not so far been utilised for irrigation or generation of water power. Flood damage to Ahmedabad and the country south of it is great and occurs at fairly frequent intervals. With full development of the system's resources, it is calculated that roughly 250,000 acres of land could be brought under irrigation, a fair amount of power generated, domestic water supply to Ahmedabad and other riparian areas assured, navigation extended inland and the flood problem mitigated.

The proposed schemes in the Central Provinces and Berar are expected on maturity to provide permanent irrigation for about 1,350,000 acres and produce power to an extent of 200,000 k. w. The power could be utilised for exploiting the mineral resources of the Province. Industries including steel, cement, paper, plywood, bobbins and matches could be developed in the area.

HEALTH CENTRES IN DELHI VILLAGES

A scheme to construct two primary health centres at Narela and Najafgarh, in Delhi Province, was approved by the Committee.

The scheme is in accordance with the Bhore Committee's recommendations regarding the establishment of Health Centres in rural areas and is intended to serve as a model for centres elsewhere in India.

Each centre will have two medical officers—one male and the other female—public health nurses, midwives and other medical and public health personnel. A dispensary will be attached to each centre, which will also contain a 6-bed hospital.

EXPORT OF CONTROLLED HIDES AND SKINS BANNED

Exports from India of controlled varieties of hides and skins will not be allowed in future, but in view of the need to earn hard currency, the Government of India has decided to set apart a quota of 2,000 tons of light weight raw hides and 150 tons of raw sheep skins (export of which has been hitherto prohibited) for export to hard currency areas only, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on January 11, 1949.

So far established shippers have been allowed to export limited quantities of light-weight raw hides up to a maximum of 15 per cent of their basic years' performances, notwithstanding the tight supply position in India. This procedure is cancelled with immediate effect.

The hides and skins supply position considerably deteriorated as a result of the country's partition and the question whether export should be continued on the scale hitherto allowed was discussed at a conference in New Delhi to which the Government invited representatives of exporters and tanning interests. It is in the light of these discussions that the Government has taken the decisions announced above.

Licences for the exportable quotas will be issued by the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta, on the basis of the principle of "first come, first served." Firms and individuals interested should apply to that officer with evidence of sale.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR CEMENT INDUSTRY

TRANSPORT provision for the cement industry, one of the three selected basic industries for which the Government recently decided to provide 100 per cent. transport facilities, was discussed at a special meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport held at the Central Secretariat, New Delhi on December 31. Mr. S. Chakravarti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Transport, presided, and those present included Mr. V. P. Bhandarkar, Member (Transportation) Railway Board, Mr. M. D. Sethna, Chief Controller of Railway Priorities, representatives of the Associated Cement Concrete and Dalmia Cement Companies and the operating heads of the B. N. and G. I. P. Railways.

It will be recalled that the Central Board of Transport at its meeting held in November under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar accepted that certain topmost national priorities or objectives should be satisfied in full by a 100 per cent transport provision, the balance of capacity being rationed among other competing demands according to priority under the existing procedure. These national objectives in relation to transport should, inter alia, subserve the achievement and maintenance of full production and distribution in industries accepted to be of national importance, and one such industry is cement.

Opening the meeting the first of a series to be held with industrialists, Mr. Chakravarti said. "The Railways cannot concurrently carry all the traffic offering, but even so certain national objectives must be satisfied in full, One such is the achievement and maintenance of full production, in basic industries. In this category, we have included cement, steel and textiles. In the case of cement, though we have endeavoured to provide full transport facilities, we have not always achieved the target partly because of certain difficulties, more often beyond our control, on the rail transport side, and partly because we have not always received that amount of co-operation from industry". The new procedure that has been evolved, he added, was to remedy this lack of co-ordination. It was hoped that their discussions would enable them to evolve an integrated programme which would be fulfilled in practice. The intention was that for each quarter, they should prepare programmes in advance and finalise them at a meeting of the Standing Committee well ahead of the commencement of the quarter.

Movement Programme

The Committee then examined in detail the cement movement programme for the first quarter of 1949. The transport requirements of each factory both in regard to clearance of finished products and inward movement of raw materials were discussed and wagon quotas fixed. It was also decided that in order to enable the Standing Committee to watch the progress in fulfilment, ten-day statements of movements etc., should be submitted both by the Railways and the factories concerned to the Standing Committee.

According to the time-table fixed for the formulation of transport requirements for the second quarter, the next meeting of the cement industry will be held on March 24, 1949.

Railwaymen's Demands: Understanding on Main Points Possible

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on January 4, 1949 said :

The Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Transport and Railways, assisted by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways, Mr. K.C. Bhakle, Chief Commissioner of Railways, Mr. I.S. Puri, Financial Commissioner of Railways, Mr. K.P. Mushran, Director, Establishment, Railway Board and Mr. R. Ramaswami Iyer, Director of Finance, Railway Board, conferred with Shri Jai Prakash Narayan, President, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, assisted by Mr. R.A. Khedgikar, Vice-President, Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary and Mr. Peter Alvares, Assistant Secretary, A.I.R.F., on the situation created by the proposed strike ballot and on the problems relating to railway workers which have been under dispute between the Federation and the Railway Board.

The following issues were discussed :— (1) Dearness Allowance; (2) Grainshops; (3) Matters relating to the application of Pay Commission's recommendations; and (4) The creation of a machinery for the examination of Pay Commission anomalies.

All these matters were discussed in a cordial and friendly spirit and it was felt that an understanding on these matters was possible. The discussions will be continued at a date to be fixed later on. Meanwhile, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan will take an early opportunity of convening his Working Committee for purposes of consultation.

The Transfer of Property (India) Ordinance, 1948, (III of 1948), which was promulgated in February 1948, was replaced by the Payment of Taxes (Transfer of Property) Ordinance, 1948 (XXI of 1948) on August 6, 1948, and the provisions of the latter Ordinance are still effective. It is notified for general information that the production of a tax clearance certificate is, according to the latter Ordinance, still a statutory requirement to be fulfilled before registration of any transfer of property is allowed.

SECOND ALL-BURMA INDIAN CONFERENCE

DR. RAUF'S ADDRESS

ADDRESSING the second All-Burma Indian Conference which met in open session in Rangoon on December 25, the Indian Ambassador, Dr. M. A. Rauf spoke in Hindi and stressed the necessity for unity amongst Indians resident in Burma. Most of the difficulties of Indians in Burma, he said, were due to the lack of co-ordinated effort, and such difficulties would continue so long as complete harmony within the community was not realised. He pointed out that the honour and prestige of their country was in their keeping and that the fair name of India could only be maintained by closing the gaps in their ranks.

Dr. Rauf reviewed briefly India's cultural heritage, and pleaded strongly for the establishment of an organisation on the lines of the British Council where Indians in Burma, irrespective of whether they were Burmese or Indian citizens could find ample opportunity to know and understand all about things like art, sculpture, music and philosophy which had made India great.

He assured the Conference that the Government of India was fully posted with the problems and difficulties of Indians in Burma and that these were being tackled with the greatest sympathy. Dr. Rauf asked the Conference to bear in mind that both India and Burma were free and independent nations, and that the necessity to maintain the traditional and old ties of friendship should not be lost sight of in attempting to solve their problems which, in the ultimate analysis, were among the legacies of British rule.

The Conference, organised by the All-Burma Indian Congress, was attended by delegates from 23 branches spread all over Burma and by several distinguished people. The Prime Minister, Thakin Nu, also addressed the Conference. He said that the All-Burma Indian Congress was the premier Indian organisation in Burma and that it had done a great deal to bring about closer understanding between Indians and other people living in Burma.

Messages were read out from the Governor-General of India; Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. The Conference adopted a resolution of condolence on Gandhiji's death, with all present standing.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IRELAND

To maintain and strengthen the friendly relations already existing between them, the Governments of India and Ireland have agreed to exchange diplomatic missions, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on January 10, 1949.



Dr. M. A. Rauf (centre) India's Ambassador in Burma, photographed with Mr. Bannerjee (extreme right) President of the All Burma Congress at the reception given to him by the Indian community during his recent visit to Mandalay.

India's Greetings to Burma

Following is the text of the messages exchanged between His Excellency the Governor-General of India and His Excellency Sao Shwe Thaik, President of the Union of Burma on the occasion of the first anniversary of Burma's independence on January 4, 1949.

From H. E. the Governor-General :

"On my own behalf and on behalf of Government and people of India I send cordial greetings to Your Excellency and to Government and people of Republic of Burma on the first anniversary day of your Independence and hope that the bonds of friendship between the peoples and the governments of our two countries will continue and grow in strength."

From H. E. the President of the Union of Burma :

"I thank your Excellency for the cordial message sent on the occasion of the First Anniversary of Burma's independence and warmly reciprocate the sentiment that the bonds of friendship and understanding that exist between our two countries will be further strengthened."

Pandit Nehru's Message

The following telegram was sent by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, to His Excellency Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of the Union of Burma :—

"I send you my hearty felicitations on the completion of the first year of Burma's independence and best wishes for the future. As with India, the first year of Burma's independence has been a difficult one but it is a matter of great satisfaction that the troubles that usually accompany the birth of freedom are being successfully overcome by your Government and the people of Burma. The firmness of the Burmese people and the wisdom of their leaders make it certain that Burma will march to a bright and prosperous future. In this she can count on the warm friendship and sympathy of the Indian people."

INDIA GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN NEW YORK

The Government of India have bought a large building in New York for housing the India Delegation to the U. N., the Indian Consul-General in New York and Government of India Information Services now operating from Washington, D. C.

The building, 65X100 feet, is located at 2, East Sixty-Fourth Street, and contains 40 rooms. A large reception room in the building will be set aside for conferences, lectures, exhibitions, movie shows and similar cultural functions. Another large room will accommodate a Library for public use.

It is hoped that Indian visitors to the United States, as well as Americans bound for India, will call at India House for information and assistance.

PLANS FOR PRODUCTION OF CAUSTIC SODA

WITH the implementation of the plans envisaged by the Heavy Chemicals and Electrochemical Industries Panel for the production of caustic soda, India will be faced with the problem of utilizing 48,000 tons of chlorine, which will be produced along with caustic soda as a by-product. Fears have been expressed that such enormous quantities may not find a market in India.

Chlorine is an important industrial chemical in other countries, particularly in America, where the production in 1940 rose to 500,000 tons. Nearly 60 per cent. of this quantity was consumed in the manufacture of chlorinated hydrocarbons. Based on the American experience, the possibilities for the production in India of solvents and other industrial chemicals based on chlorine have been discussed in an article appearing in the January 1949 issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

Apart from the bleaching powder and bleaching liquor industries, the main outlets for utilizing chlorine are classified under four heads: (1) Chlorohydrocarbon solvents, (2) Chlorine compounds needed for military use, (3) Inorganic chlorine compounds needed for industrial purposes and (4) chlorinated oils, resins and rubber. The article surveys the raw materials needed for the production of chemicals, their availability, methods of manufacture and uses and technical applications of the finished products. It is pointed out that most of the raw materials needed for the manufacture of the products discussed in the article are available in the country and can be produced in the Chemical works in India.

Producer Gas Engines

The possible causes of increased wear in producer gas engines are discussed in another article appearing in the *Journal*. The investigations carried out at the Physical Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research show that more frequent use of lower gear ratios in the converted engine, the abrasive action of dust drawn in along with the producer gas and the deterioration of the lubricating oil are some of the important causes contributing to excessive wear. Other possible causes listed are corrosive effects of certain impurities in producer gas and inadequate protection from atmospheric dust at the air inlet to the gas carburettor.

An increase in the iron content of the lubricating oil was observed when spirit was used in conjunction with producer gas. There was, simultaneously, an increase of more than 50 per cent in the sludge consisting of fine sand and dust. These findings go to show that the sand dust in the sludge was responsible for the excessive abrasion.

To eliminate the fine dust and to bring the dust content of the gas to within 5 milligrams per cubic foot, the usual cyclone filters containing Sisal felt were found ineffective, and an additional cotton waste filter of the cartridge type was devised to effectively check dust entry.

Of special interest and great practical importance, is the article bearing on the effect of salts on water-logging and soils. Water-logged soils which have become alkaline and unfit for sustaining vegetation can be reclaimed by the addition of calcium chloride. Treatment with small doses of the salt render the soils permeable to water, the alkalinity can be leached out, and the soils made fit for cultivation. This important result is the outcome of investigation carried out in the Agricultural Meteorology wing of the Weather Office in Poona.

UNESCO FELLOWSHIP FOR INDIAN SCIENTIST

An Indian professor, Mr. D.D. Kosambi of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research of Bombay, has been given a UNESCO fellowship to work on the new types of electronic calculating machines, for setting up a modern calculating laboratory in Asia.

Mr. Kosambi has been invited as a visiting professor by Chicago University. He will also visit the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton and serve on a committee of mathematicians to select the recipients of Field Medals which will be awarded at the Forthcoming International Congress of Mathematicians (Massachusetts).

Awarded a Research Fellowship by the Federal Security Agency of the U.S. Public Health Service, Dr. V.S. Waravdekar, Assistant Research Officer of the Indian Research Fund Association, Government of India, is doing research in cancer at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. His special field of study is the activity of enzymes in animal tumors screened with different compounds.

In pursuance of Section 10 of the Employers' State Insurance Act 1948, the Government of India has constituted the Medical Benefit Council consisting of representatives of the Central Government, Provincial Governments, employers, employees and medical profession.

The Director-General of Health Services in India is the ex-officio chairman of the Council which consists of 20 members. Each Governor's province has one representative on the Council. The employers and the employees have three representatives each. From the medical profession out of three representatives one is a lady doctor.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

A team of Australian scientists consisting of Sir John Madeson, Sir Ker Grant, Professor J.S. Prescot, Mr. R.G Thomas and Mr. G.B. Gresford visited India in January-March 1948 and were the guests of the Government of India. That visit cemented India's friendly relations with Australia. The Australian Government have requested the Government of India to send out a team of Indian scientists on a return visit to Australia as their guests.

The Government of India have decided to send out the following team of scientists to Australia for a period of six weeks. The scientists will emplane from Calcutta for Australia on February 19th, 1949. All arrangements in connection with the visit are being made by the Department of Scientific Research.

Dr. S. Krishna, Ph. D., D. Sc., F.I.C.,F.A.Sc., Director, Forest Products Research, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. (Leader)

Lt.-Col. M.L. Ahuja, M.B.,Ch.B., M.D.,D.P.H., Director, Central Research Station, Kasauli. (Member)

Dr. B.P. Pal, M.Sc.,Ph.D.,F.L.S., F.N.I., Joint Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (Member)

Mr. V.P. Sondhi, M.Sc., F.G.S.,F.N.I., Deputy Director, Geological Survey of India, Calcutta (Member)

Dr. K.N. Mathur, D.Sc., F.N.I., Assistant Director, National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi. (Secretary)

The team of scientists will tour Australia as the guests of the Australian Government and will visit different research organisations and scientific institutes which are of particular interest to each of them. The visit of our scientists to Australia will lead to the exchange of valuable scientific information and help to strengthen the already existing ties of friendship between India and Australia.

INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES

The Government of India have revised the quotas of seats allotted to the various Provinces and States in the Indian School of Mines and Applied Geology, Dhanbad.

The quota for the Centrally Administered Areas, which will now include Cutch, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur and Mayurbhanj, has been raised from two to three seats. The quota for the States has been raised from five to six, one seat each going to Saurashtra, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Patiala and Matsya, and Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner.

The total number of seats in the School now is 48, out of which nine are reserved for Geology students. Out of this total number, half the students are recruited strictly on merit and from the remaining half deficiencies in quotas allotted to Provinces and States are made up.

INDIAN RESEARCH ON COKING COAL

TWO pieces of research investigation conducted under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have now shown that India's supplies of coal and coke, if properly used, are by no means in a precarious position. The results of these investigations are subject of two valuable reports published by the Fuel Research Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. These two reports make a positive contribution to the progress of iron and steel industry, in particular, and to the industrialisation of the country in general.

The report on "The Blending of Coals for Coking" has given an indication that the rapid exhaustion of the coking coal supplies of the country (which a short while ago seemed likely) need not be envisaged, and has shown the possibilities of using coals hereto considered unserviceable for coke manufacture. With the implementation of the findings of these reports, and also by preventing the utilisation of good coking coal for non-coking purposes, the country's resources of coking coal can be considerably extended.

Blending of Coals

Towards the end of 1940, a joint scheme of research of the blending of Coals for coking was initiated by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., Jamshedpur. The chief object of the investigations was to assess the extent to which various non-caking or feebly caking coals could be blended with good coking coal without damaging seriously the quality of the metallurgical coke produced. If weekly coking coal can be incorporated into blends in reasonably large quantity, considerable economy can be effected in the use of caking coal, and the life of the reserves of coking coal may thus be proportionately increased. The experiments carried out have consisted in laboratory work, pilot-scale tests, and full scale even tests.

The main conclusion reached so far is that considerable quantities of feebly caking coal can be mixed with good coking coal to yield sound metallurgical coke. According to the report, the experiments as a whole show that "when mixed with good coking coal of caking index 15 or over, coals of a caking index of 13 or 14 may be used to the extent of 30 to 40 per cent; coals of caking index 8 to 12, to the extent of 20 to 30 per cent; and coals of caking index below 8, to the extent of 10 to 20 per cent."

Indian coking coals, in general, are short of those bituminous constituents which help in the caking process. These constituents are largely to be found in the bright coal (vitrain and clarain), and, in the main, Indian coking coals do not contain any large surplus. Nevertheless, it is clear that, if we exclude coals with caking index below 8, we can use on an average 25 per cent of semi-caking coal and 35 per cent of moderately good caking coal in blends with good coking coal. It is important, of course, in all cases to use coal whose ash content is not excessive, as the maximum amount of ash which can be tolerated is about 23 per cent in the coke—say 16 or 17 per cent in coal. The present report is an interim one and further study and large scale verification tests are now being carried out.

Earlier in the year the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research issued a report on the wash ability of Indian coals which indicated that many of the high ash coals in the Jharia field could be separated into two or more fractions—one of which could be suitable for the manufacture of coke.

Dr. Bhatnagar on Work of National Institute of Sciences

IN his Presidential address to the Annual meeting of the National Institute of Sciences at Allahabad on January 4, Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar gave a brief survey of the work of the National Institute of Sciences and of the scientific activities in the country, including the formation of the Department of Scientific Research, the creation of the post of Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, and the importance of co-ordination for organised team work, avoidance of duplication and planning of new scientific projects.

Referring to the recently appointed Universities' Commission, Dr. Bhatnagar mentioned the urgent necessity of an even and constant flow of scientific workers and leaders imbued with zeal and zest for research. He put in a strong plea for sufficient financial and material resources, appropriate to each stage of development and stressed the necessity of bold and flexible thinking in framing the policy of the Universities.

While industrial research is the prime necessity for development, a vigorous pursuit of fundamental research is vital, being the source from which extraordinary applications are likely to emerge. It was necessary for young men to follow in the wake of great scientists and blaze the path of the better world of tomorrow.

National Register

Other points brought out in the address were the importance of the National Register of Scientific and Technical personnel being compiled by the C.S.I.R. and the necessity in India of a "Science Talent Search" on the lines of the Science clubs organised in 14,000 junior and senior High Schools in U.S.A., whereby promising youths are selected for further technical training, taking into account their school records, aptitudes and merits of essays on research subjects. This step was advocated to inspire youngsters with a love of science with the ultimate object of providing India's need for scientists and technicians.

U.K. TOKEN IMPORT SCHEME

In a Press Note issued on January 8, the Ministry of Commerce said:

Main features of the United Kingdom "Token Import Scheme," which aims at eliminating import licensing difficulties in that country in regard to goods exported from India, were announced in Press Notes issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 2, and June 16, 1948. As a result of subsequent negotiations between the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom it has been agreed that:

In the case of sports goods, token shipment vouchers may be issued on the production by exporters (in the absence of shipping documents relating to the basic period) of audited statements of exports to the U. K. during 1936-38, either on the basis of records in their possession or of figures available with their associate importers in the U. K.

Carpets and coir "mats and mattings" will be included in the scheme, quotas in regard to the latter item being allowed up to the volume of average annual exports to the U. K. during the three years 1937 to 1939.

The benefits of the scheme may be extended in special cases to manufacturers who were not pre-war exporters to an extent made possible by pre-war exporters not fully utilising their quotas under the scheme.

Although the quotas now being allowed by the U. K. Government under the scheme are limited, the present scheme is expected to develop into licensing on a larger scale. It is, therefore, important that Indian exporters should take advantage of the scheme to the fullest possible extent. Export Trade Controllers at ports are being instructed to facilitate this in every way possible.

COTTON TEXTILE MACHINERY INDUSTRY

In a Resolution dated August 2, 1947, the Government of India decided to authorise the Tariff Board to hold a fresh inquiry into the cotton textile machinery industry in 1948 when the industry would attain a sufficient volume of production to enable the Board to estimate costs of production.

Accordingly, the Government of India have now requested the Tariff Board to hold an inquiry into the claim for protection or assistance to the textile machinery (spinning rings, ring frames and spindles) industry. The Board is also requested to inquire into the question of protection to looms and parts along with the main inquiry.

Firms or persons who desire that their views should be considered by the Board should address their representations (with 11 spare copies) to the Secretary, Indian Tariff Board, Contractor Building, Nicol Road, Bombay

Low Clouds Over Bangalore—A Danger to Aviation

LOW clouds in a hilly country like Mysore are a source of danger to aviation, says a paper published by the India Meteorological Department.

The low clouds over Bangalore are noted for their high frequency of occurrence as well as for their formation at very low heights above ground level. Their high frequency of occurrence is partly accounted for by the high altitude as well as the peculiar orography of the place. During the monsoon season extensive layers of stratus cover the entire plateau for the major part of the day. During the other seasons, particularly in winter, these clouds form early in the morning, drift gradually to the neighbouring places and finally disperse before noon.

The general height of the base of these clouds is a little over 1,000 feet above ground. But on many occasions they form below 1,000 ft. and sometimes even at a few hundred feet above the ground. On such days the tops of the many hillocks in the country remain obscured with these clouds. There have been occasions when these clouds have come down to touch the high grounds and persisted as fog. Sometimes, the fog that forms at night or early morning, instead of dissolving after sunrise, gets lifted up and remains as low stratus clouds for two or three hours. Generally these clouds have been found to attain their lowest height and the maximum amount just after sunrise.

It has been found that the direction and strength of the wind up to about 5,000 ft. (above sea level) have direct influence on the formation of the stratus clouds. The most favourable directions of these winds are from E to SE and SW to W. The stronger these winds, the better are the chances of development of stratus clouds. This is because strong winds from these directions are likely to contain more moisture and also they help a great deal in the rapid vertical lifting as well as the vertical mixing of the air layers at the lower levels.

Very seldom is there any rain from these stratus clouds although in appearance they are sometimes as threatening as the other types of rain-giving clouds. However, there have been a few occasions when thick layers of these stratus clouds have given light rain or drizzle.

Forecasting Cloud Formation

The second section of the paper "Low Stratus Clouds Over Bangalore" deals with the physical phenomena involved in the formation of low stratus clouds and the way in which upper air conditions can be utilized in forecasting the development of these coluds. In addition to a thorough knowledge of the synoptic situations, a correct idea about the humidity content and temperature distribution of the upper air is essential for the purpose of forecasting the formation of clouds. The required upper air data can be obtained from the soundings of the upper air done with radio sonde instruments. Several typical days during the course of one year have been selected to show how such data obtained about the upper air conditions on a particular day are utilised in forecasting the formation of low stratus clouds on the next day.

ALL INDIA POSTAL AND R. M. S. UNION

Mr. Khurshed Lal's Appeal for Co-operation

SPEAKING as a "Comrade" and not as the Deputy Minister, Government of India, Mr. Khurshed Lal asked those gathered in the annual conference of the All India Postal and R. M. S. Union, Lucknow, on January 2, 1948, that each one of them should feel that they had a share in the Government of the country as also in its responsibilities. He was replying to an address presented to him by the Conference.

Referring to the grievances of the Postal employees, he assured them amidst cheers that the question of compensatory allowance would be decided at an early date. He further told them that the Expert Committee Report which they wanted to be published, would be taken up by him in a day or two on his return to New Delhi.

As for their demand about the increase in the dearness allowance, he said that the desired increase in the allowance of Posts and Telegraphs employees would mean additional expenditure of Rs. 8 crores, of Railway employees Rs. 30 crores and of all Central and Provincial Governments' employees another fifty crores—a total about of Rs. 100 crores yearly. So long as there is no increase in the production, the increases in incomes would only mean further expansion of already expanded currency, decrease in value of the rupee and no relief to the consumer.

He referred to the situation in China and said that the solution of difficulties lay only in stabilisation of prices and increase in production. The Government's efforts were directed on those lines. He appealed to them for their help and co-operation and also for their patience and hoped the Government would succeed in solving problems resulting from economic crisis, as it had succeeded in solving other multifarious problems.

Zoological Survey of India

The Zoological Survey of India returned from its wartime home at Banaras to Calcutta with effect from January 1, 1949.

As large quantities of chemicals are used in the preservation of the standard zoological collections of the Indian Dominion, it was apprehended, on the outbreak of the Japanese war in December 1941, that there was not only risk of serious damage by enemy action to the collections, but the safety of the whole of the Indian Museum where the Survey was housed and the neighbourhood was also threatened. The difficulty of finding large enough accommodation was solved by Commanding General Sir Kaiser Shemahere Jung Bahadur Rana who placed his "Kaiser Castle" at Banaras at the disposal of the Government and the move was completed by May 11, 1942.

The Zoological Survey is a direct descendant of the Zoological Section of the Asiatic Society of Bengal which was started in 1814, though the Survey itself came into being on July 1, 1916. Besides conducting surveys of the animal life of India in all its aspects, the survery looks after the huge National Zoological collections made in the course of the last 134 years. It also acts as a Bureau of systematic Zoology for India. Its Zoological Library is perhaps the best of its kind in the East.

IMPORTED GOODS HELD UP AT KARACHI

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) on January 6, said:

Foreign goods imported into India from Pakistan on which import duty had been paid in Pakistan before March 1, 1948, were exempted from payment of duty in India, provided the Customs Collector or the Assistant Collector of Central Excise concerned was satisfied as to the identity of the goods, that import duty had actually been paid in Pakistan before the said date and that no drawback had been obtained at the time of export from Pakistan. The above concession was initially granted to cover goods shipped or despatched from Pakistan up to September 30, 1948. Later, as a measure of relief to importers who could not secure despatch of their goods from Pakistan by that date, the period of the concession was extended up to December 31, 1948.

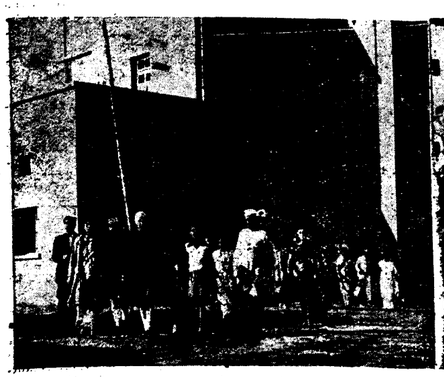
It has been represented to the Government of India that there is still a large quantity of goods held up, awaiting export to India. In order, therefore, to save importers of such goods from having to pay duty over again in India, the Government of India have decided further to extend the period of concession so as to cover goods shipped or despatched from Pakistan up to March 31, 1949, subject to the existing terms and conditions governing the exemption.



PANDIT NEHRU'S VISIT TO ALLAHABAD

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, inaugurating the 36th Annual Session of the Indian Science Congress Association held on January 3 at Allahabad. On Pandit Nehru's right are Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Governor of U.P., and Dr. K. S. Krishnan, President of the Session. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier of U. P., is on Pandit Nehru's left.

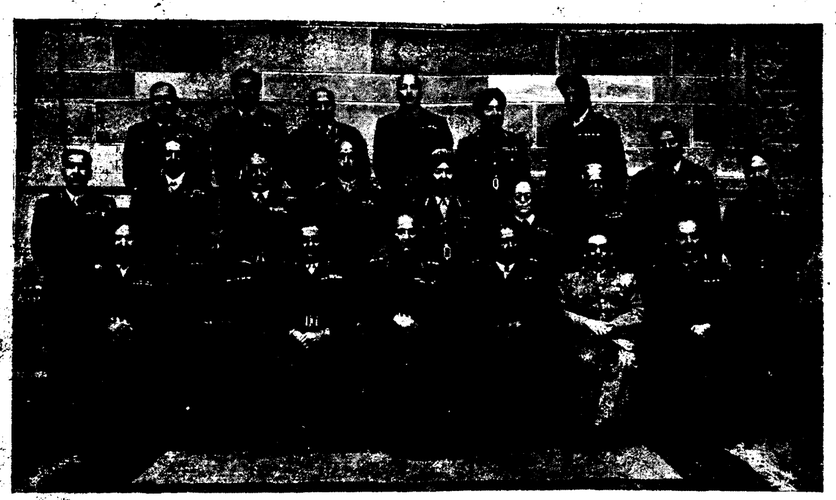
(Below, left) Pandit Nehru going round the newly constructed block of the Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital during his recent visit to Allahabad. The hospital is named after his deceased wife. (Below, right) Pandit Nehru addressing the refugees at the opening ceremony of the Refugee Colony on January 4 at Allahabad. The quarters for refugees were recently constructed by the Allahabad Improvement Trust.





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Senior Officers of the Indian Army photographed with General K. M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army

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Cover Picture :—Pandit Nehru (right) and Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan (Pakistan's Foreign Minister) photographed during the recent Asian Conference on Indonesia.



Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister of India, inaugurating the Asian Conference on Indonesia held at New Delhi on January 20

ASIAN CONFERENCE ON INDONESIA

Pandit Nehru's Inaugural Address

WELCOMING the delegates and representatives of the Asian countries to the Conference on Indonesia, which met in New Delhi on January 20, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, said that this conference had been called. "because the freedom of a sister country of ours has been imperilled and the dying colonialism of a past age has raised its head again and challenged all the forces that are struggling to build up the new structure of the world."

Pandit Nehru emphasised "the historic significance of this unique gathering" and observed that it represented "the ancient civilisations of the East as well as the dynamic civilisation of the West." "We meet in this Conference," he added, "to consider the present situation in Indonesia."

The following is the full text of Pandit Nehru's address :

Your Excellencies and Gentlemen, I bid you warm welcome on behalf of the Government of India and on my own behalf and I should like to express my deep gratitude to your Governments for having responded, at short notice, to the urgent invitation that we extended to them. That response itself is witness to the deep feelings that have been aroused all over Asia and in other parts of the world at recent happenings in Indonesia.

We meet today because the freedom of a sister country of ours has been imperilled and the dying colonialism of a past age has raised its head again and challenged all the forces that are struggling to build up a new structure of the world. That challenge has a deeper significance than might appear on the surface, for it is a challenge to a newly awakened Asia which had so long suffered under various forms of colonialism. It is also a challenge to the spirit of man and to all the progressive forces of a divided and distracted world.

Historic Significance

The United Nations Organisation, symbol of the one world that has become the ideal of men of thought and goodwill, has been flouted and its expressed will set at naught. If this challenge is not met effectively, then indeed the consequences will affect not merely Indonesia but Asia and the entire world. That would represent the triumph of the forces of destruction and disintegration, and the certain sequel would be ceaseless conflict and world disaster.

Although we meet to consider a vital problem of immediate importance, my mind is filled with the historic significance of this unique gathering. Here we are, representatives of the free nations of Asia and our friends of Australia and New Zealand, as well as of Egypt and Ethiopia, met together for the first time to consider a matter of common concern to us. We represent from Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines on the one side to Egypt and Ethiopia on the other, a vast area embracing half of the circumference of the globe and for the greater part of its population.

We represent the ancient civilisations of the East as well as the dynamic civilisation of the West. Politically we symbolise, in particular, the spirit of freedom and democracy which is so significant a feature of the new Asia. This long sweep of history passes before my eyes with all its vicissitudes for the countries of Asia and, standing on the edge of the present, I look to the future that is gradually unfolding itself. We are the heirs of these long yesterdays of our history, but we are also the builders of tomorrow that is shapping itself. The burden of that tomorrow has to be borne by us and we have to prove ourselves worthy of that great responsibility. If this gathering is significant today, it is still more significant in the perspective of tomorrow. Asia, too long submissive and dependent and a play-thing of other countries, will no longer brook any interference with her freedom.

We meet in this conference to consider the present situation in Indonesia, and I would suggest to you that we should concentrate on that issue and not divert our attention to the many other issues which undoubtedly demand our attention. The story of Indonesia during the last three years has been a strange and revealing one. It should be remembered

GEN. CARIAPPA'S ORDER OF THE DAY

ON assuming the appointment of Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, on January 15, 1949, General K. M. Cariappa issued the following Special Order of the Day to all ranks of the Indian Army :

"The appointment I assume today is the result of the sacrifices made by our leaders led by our great Mahatmaji. It is also the result of the excellent work of all officers, Junior Commissioned Officers, other ranks and non-combatants who have worked under me in the various Commands and appointments I have held so far in the Army, without which I would not have been what I am today.

"I feel greatly honoured that our Government has placed its confidence in me by selecting me as your Commander-in-Chief. I have an onerous and sacred duty to perform and in this duty everything else in my life will be subordinated to the service of my country. I feel confident that you will all continue to give me the splendid service which you have given so far.

"I hope every one will work as a team to make this Army of ours a glorious one. It is good teamwork that produces good results. We do not want to live merely on past traditions and on past reputations. We must all contribute our best to further enhance the great name of our Army. It can be done. Nothing is impossible. The welfare of those we command, of whatever rank, must be foremost in our minds at all times. Discipline, moral integrity, loyalty not only to our seniors but equally to our subordinates of all ranks, and sense of duty will be of the highest standard possible. Remember the Army, and every thing in it, is the property of the taxpayer and we are the custodians of this property. We must all see that we look after this property—which is composed of men, animals, vehicles, food, clothing, accommodation and military stores—with the highest degree of honesty. We must ensure that there is no misappropriation of any of these for our personal use in any manner or means.

"It is my desire that every one of us should live up to the principles of the "Cadet Prayer" which is published as an annexure to this Order.

"We will all serve our country selflessly and efficiently at all times, to provide that measure of security to our motherland, both from internal disorders and external aggression, which is so essential to help our Government in its important work."

On being appointed Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, Lieut.-General K. M. Carippa, assumed the rank of General, with effect from January 15, 1949, according to a Notification in the Gazette of India Extraordinary published on January 14, 1949.

CADET PRAYER

"O GOD, our Father, Thou Searcher of men's hearts, help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of Thee be natural.

"Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretence ever to diminish. Encourage us in our endeavour to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy.

"Guard us against filippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer. May we find genuine pleasure in clean and wholesome mirth and feel inherent disgust for all coarse minded humour.

"Help us, in our work and in our play to keep ourselves physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight, that we may better maintain the honour of the Corps untarnished and unsullied, and acquit ourselves like men in our effort to realize the ideals of our Army in doing our duty to Thee and to our Country. All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of men."



General Roy Bucher (right) the last British C.-in-C. of the Indian Army, welcomes General K. M. Cariappa when the latter took over charge of the C.-in-C's. office on January 15 at New Delhi

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ADDRESS

(*Continued from page* 133)

all the good things that have been built up during the period of foreign rule. What has been found useful and built into national life should be conserved. Nine-tenths of the technique of progress is conservation of what has been found good on trial.

More than anything else, patriotism as well as education must most seriously concentrate on restoration of a sense of values and the development of a habitual attitude of sympathy and unselfishness. If this work is steadily and faithfully done for some time, there will be a marvellous change in the face of things and there will be joy instead of anger in the minds of men, and work instead of despair and helpfulness instead of faultfinding.

Nowhere in the world does evil continue except for a while. Good sense asserts itself after some time and good replaces evil. This will happen also in our country. So, my young friends, be confident, trust in God and be brave. Work towards the establishment of the culture of citizenship which will operate as an inner law making people think and act rightly without any external sanction.

My best wishes to you all once again. Delhi is a noble and historic place, one of the great places of the world. Your University has the honour of being housed and looked after in the Metropolis of India where the relics of past greatness are all about you and you live in daily contact with the central springs of future greatness. Be worthy of Delhi.

GEN. ROY BUCHER'S LONG SERVICE IN INDIAN ARMY

GENERAL Roy Bucher relinquished the post of Chief of the Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army on January 15, 1949, after 34 years, and 5 months service in this country.

General Bucher's military and administrative experience has proved invaluable during the formative period of independent India's Army. When the partition in 1947 led to the division of the Armed Forces, the country's whole defence machinery was thrown completely out of gear. It meant, more or less, starting from scratch, involving a wholesale reconstitution of the Army.

The completion of the movement and exchange of Muslim and non-Muslim units itself constituted a major operation. Then came problems of refugee evacuation following communal disturbances and despatch of military aid to Kashmir for defending that State against the raiders. Notwithstanding these commitments, effective steps were taken for the nationalization of the Army.

Under General Bucher's able guidance and direction these unprecedented difficulties were overcome without a breakdown of the Army organisation.

In August 1947, General Bucher took up the important appointment of Chief of Staff of the new Army Headquarters, India, and exactly year ago became Commander-in-Chief in succession to General Sir Rob Lockhart.

Early Career

First Commissioned to the Indian Army Unattached List in August 1914, General Bucher actually joined the Indian Army in November 1915 after having served in France with the 1st Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). On arrival in India, he was posted to the 55th Coke's Rifle F.F. and later transferred to the 31st Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers.

General Bucher mainly served on the North-Western Frontier of India until 1919, and in the campaign against Afghanistan he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

After serving as Adjutant and Squadron Commander with the 31st D.C.O. Lancers, later re-named 13th D.C.O. Lancers, he passed into the Staff College, Camberley, in 1926, and in 1929 was posted to his first staff appointment as GSO III, Deccan District. A year after, he was appointed Brigade Major, 4th Cavalry Brigade, and later on became Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General, Deccan District. He returned to regimental duty in 1933 and earned a brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in 1937.

After a spell as Second-in-Command, General Bucher succeeded to the command of Sam Browne's Cavalry (F.F) in 1939. Next year, he became Assistant Commandant of No. 1 Armoured Corps Training Centre, Ferozepore, which he had himself raised. Thereafter, as a full Colonel, he organised and commanded No.2 Armoured Corps Centre, Lucknow.

After serving as Assistant Adjutant-General at Army Headquarters, India, for a short period, General Bucher went to Iraq as Colonel on the staff with Iraq Forces H.Q. later renamed 10th Army H.Q. He returned to India in June 1942 to take over as Major General-in-Charge of Administration, Southern Army, where he helped considerably in the task of bringing India's war potential to the maximum required for the successful termination of the campaign in the East.

In January 1946, General Bucher became Commander of the Bengal and Assam Area, and then officiated as G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, for six months from August 1946. It was during this period that serious riots broke out in Bengal and Bihar, and on General Bucher's shoulders fell the responsibility of restoring order in the troubled areas, which he carried out with rare tact and skill.

Substantive General

As from January 1, 1949, Major-General (actg. Lieut.-General) Mr. Roy Bucher, British Service (Special List) has been promoted to be Substantive General in the Army of the Dominion of India, according to a Notification in the Gazette of India Extraordinary published on January 14, 1949.

FLAG DAY COLLECTIONS

The Defence Minister's Flag Day Fund Committee has agreed to place an initial sum of Rs. 10,000 at the disposal of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board for arranging the marriages of disabled ex-servicemen.

Representations had recently been made to the Board about grave apprehensions in the minds of members of the Armed Forces who have had an arm or a leg amputated on account of injuries sustained by them while on active service in Kashmir and elsewhere that their disability might considerably jeopardise their chances of matrimony.

The amount set apart from the Flag Day collections is not intended to be paid to any ex-serviceman wishing to get married or spent on his wedding, but will be made available to the District Sailors', Soldiers and Airmen's Boards to meet certain essential expenditure such as that involved on touring and advertisements in local newspapers.

The Boards will maintain registers of suitable ex-servicemen and endeavour, in collaboration with the local civil authorities, to give effective assistance to those desiring to get married.

PRIME MINISTER'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO R.I.A.F.

The Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, sent the following New Year Message, in a letter to Air Marshal Mr. Thomas Elmhirst, Commander-in-Chief and Chief of Air Staff, R.I.A.F. :—

"I shall be grateful to you if you will convey to the Officers and men of the R.I.A.F., the Government of India's as well as my high appreciation of the fine work they have done in Jammu and Kashmir State and elsewhere. Also my good wishes to them for the New Year."

SERVICES ART EXHIBITION

Oil and Water-colour paintings and pencil sketches, produced by men of the Western Command serving from Mhow in the south to the snowy hill-tops in Kashmir, were on display on January 14, 1949, when Gen. K. M. Cariappa performed his last official act as G.O.C.-in-C of the Western Command by declaring open the Services Art Exhibition organised by the Education Branch of HQ, Western Command.

The portraits of Mahatma Gandhi by Hav. S. Narayanan, Congress President Pattabhi Sitaramayya by N.K. Krishna of the Western Command Signals Regiment, Subhas Chandra Bose by Lance-Naik R. Krishanan of the 22nd. Fileld Company, RIE, were among the exhibits calling for special mention. The soldier's impression of the Dal Lake in Kashmir and several other scenes with which Indian troops were recently associated were represented in a number of sketches and paintings. Among the exhibits from the Delhi Cantonment was "Romantic Krishna" depicting Lord Krishna seated on a hillock surrounded by animals.

Declaring the exhibition open, Gen. Cariappa said that it was organised in order to ascertain the artistic talent available amongst all the ranks in the Western Command and the response was gratifying. He was pleased to find that soldiers possessed considerable aptitude in the art of painting, and invited the visitors to see for themselves what had been done by men under his command. He hoped to make this art competition in the Indian Army an annual event, as art, he said, was a necessary adjunct to education needing every encouragement amongst the troops.

TROOPS WELFARE FUND

Recently inaugurated by Maj.-Gen. K. S. Thimayya for the benefit of Indian troops serving in Kashmir, the G. O. C's Troops' Welfare Fund now amounts to Rs. 13,000.

An appeal issued by Gen. Thimayya for donations to the Fund met with ready response and handsome contributions from individuals were received. Money was also collected at a magic performance and by organising dramatic shows and sports.

that Indonesia was reconquered from the Japanese by the Allied Forces and then handed over to the Dutch. Therefore a special responsibility attaches to the Allied Nations.

Many remarkable things have happened in Indonesia during these past three years and these are detailed in the papers supplied to the Conference. It is a long story of broken pledges and continuous attempt to undermine and break the Republic of Indonesia. On December 18, last year, the Dutch Forces launched an offensive, practically without warning, against the Republic while negotiations for a peaceful settlement were still going on. Even the dulled and jaded conscience of the world reacted to this with shock and amazement. The leaders of the Republic were imprisoned, separated from one another, and treated with inhumanity.

The Security Council of the United Nations passed a series of resolutions asking for the release of the public leaders and a cessation of hostilities as an essential preliminary to the resumption of negotiations for a peaceful and honourable settlement. The directions of the Security Council have not yet been carried out and the Dutch authorities seem to be concentrating all their efforts on the formation of a so-called interim government which, they hope, will be subservient to their will.

Any person who is acquainted with the spirit of the Indonesian people or of Asia today, knows that this attempt to suppress Indonesian nationalism and the deep urge for freedom of the Indonesian people must fail. But if open and unabashed aggression is not checked and is condoned by other powers, then hope will vanish and people will resort to other ways and other means, even though these might involve the utmost catastrophe. One thing is certain; there can be and will be no surrender to aggression and no acceptance or reimposition of colonial control.

It was not without deep thought and earnest consideration that we decided to hold this conference. Believing as we do that the United Nations must be strengthened as a symbol of the new order, we were reluctant to take any step which might appear to weaken its authority. But when the will of the Security Council was itself flouted, then it became clear to us that we must confer together to strengthen the United Nations and to prevent a further deterioration of a dangerous situation.

Our Primary Purpose

We meet therefore within the framework of the United Nations and with the noble words of the Charter before us. That Charter itself recognises regional arrangements as a means to further international peace and security. Ours is therefore a regional conference, to which we invited both Australia and New Zealand whose interest in the tranquility and contentment of Indonesia is as great as that of any of us. Our primary purpose is to consider how best we can help the Security Council to bring about a rapid and peaceful solution of the Indonesian problem. We meet to supplement the efforts of the Security Council, not to supplant that body. We meet in no spirit of hostility to any nation or group of nations, but in an endeavour to promote peace through the extension of freedom. It must be realised that both freedom and peace are indivisible.

I should like to make it clear that we do not wish to consider this or any other problem in a spirit of racialism. Racialism has been, and is even today, the policy of some other countries. We in Asia, who have suffered so much from it, are not going to encourage it, but will combat it, believing as we do that not only is it a negation of democracy but is also the seed of conflict.

Our task will be threefold. First, to frame and submit to the Security Council proposals which would, if accepted by both the parties concerned, restore peace immediately to Indonesia and permit the early realisation of freedom by the Indonesian people.

(2) Also to suggest to the Security Council what action it should take if either party to the dispute fails to act according to its recommendation.

(3) To devise machinery and procedures by which the Governments represented here today can keep in touch with one another for purposes of mutual consultation and concerted action for the achievement of the purposes for which this conference has met.

Immediate Objective

I do not think it would be proper for me to offer at this stage any detailed proposals. That will be for the Conference to consider. But it seems to me clear that our immediate objective should be to produce, as far as possible, conditions which existed before this recent Dutch aggression, so that the Republic may be able to function freely and to negotiate as a free government, without military or economic pressure. The next step should be to aim at the elimination of colonialism. It must be remembered that so long as any form of colonialism exists in Asia or elsewhere, there will be conflict and a threat to peace.

The situation in Indonesia is full of dangerous possibilities and requires urgent action. We have to aim, therefore, to complete our work as quickly as possible so that the Security Council, which is still considering this difficult problem, should be in possession of our views within the next few days. All of us who meet here have, I believe, this community of outlook and our deliberations should bear fruit soon.

We are living in a revolutionary age of transition. On the one hand we see a divided and disintegrating world, a multitude of conflicts, and an ever-present fear of world war. On the other hand we see creative and co-operative impulses seeking a new intergration and a new unity. New problems arise from day to day which, in their implications, concern all of us or many of us. The Americans have already recognised a certain community of interest and have created machinery for the protection and promotion of common interests. A similar movement is in progress in Europe. Is it not natural that the free countries of Asia should begin to think of some more permanent arrangement than this conference for effective mutual consultation and concerted effort in the pursuit of common aims, not in a spirit of selfishness or hostility to any other nation or group of nations, but in order to strengthen and bring nearer fulfilment the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations ?

In this world of hatred, conflict and violence, let us endeavour to work jointly and in co-operation with all others of goodwill to further the cause of peace and tolerance and freedom. We shall not succeed in our mission if we follow the path of violence or seek to divide the world further. But we may well make a difference to the world if we fashion ourselves in accordance with the old spirit of Asia and hold up the torch of truth and peace to a war distracted world.

May I, in all humility but also with pride, remind this conference of the message of the Father of our Nation, who led us through the long night of our subjection to the dawn of freedom. It was not through hatred or violence or intolerance to each other, he told us, that nations grow in stature or attain their freedom. It was by following his lead in some measure that we attained our independence through peaceful methods.

The world has got caught in a vicious circle of fear and hatred and violence. It will never get out of that vicious circle unless it seeks other ways and practises other means. Therefore, let us adhere to the right means with the conviction that right means will inevitably lead to right ends. Thus we shall help in the process of integration and synthesis which is so urgently needed in the world today.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

After Pandit Nehru's speech, His Excellency Sardar Najibullah Khan, Afghanistan's delegate, proposed that the Prime Minister of India be elected chairman of the Conference. The proposal was seconded by His Excellency U Win, Burma's delegate, and was unanimously adopted by the Conference.

The following are the texts of speeches delivered by the delegates and representatives to the Conference at its first open plenary session on January 20 :

AFGHANISTAN

His Excellency Sardar Najibullah Khan (Afghanistan) :

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is a matter of great pleasure for me to have received the privilege of representing Afghanistan in this International Conference of Asian Countries which may truly be reckoned as the first gathering of the free nations of the East.

In reality, this is the first time, when, by the admirable initiative of His Excellency Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, and his Government, we, the representatives of the Eastern countries, from China to Ethiopia, and from Lybia to the Pacific and Australia, find ourselves gathered here for consulting ourselves about a problem of a great and general importance and of common interest to all of us and for helping a people, struggling for her legitimate freedom and being oppressed by a tyrannic treatment.

So, our gathering has a double significance, that of being the first of its kind and that of having a sacred aim before it, namely, the restoration of the unquestionable rights of freedom and self-determination to 70 million Asiatics.

As the representative of a free nation of Central Asia, which always places her freedom above her existence and which sincerely wishes to live in peace and on good terms with all in a world of liberty, equality and fraternity of peoples, I thank His Excellency the Prime Minister of India, our eminent President, and his Government for their kind invitation to the Government of His Majesty the King of Afghanistan to participate in this Conference.

Peaceful Settlement

We, the Afghans, believe, in freedom, not of ours alone, but also in the freedom of others. We believe that the primordial conditions of the world security, the one, compact and indivisible security we so much cherish, is to recognise the rights and liberties of all nations and peoples. The fundamental bases of our policy are the very principles of the United Nations Charter and the Right of man.

Being animated with the spirit of the United Nations and having a conscience alive to the duties that its principles impose on us, we are participating in this Conference. In other words, the aim of our participation is to help the U.N.O. in the realization of its principles particularly in assisting a multitude of suffering humanity, oppressed and tortured for their consciousness of their full rights to freedom.

It is not with the intention of creating an Asiatic bloc antagonistic to others, that we answered to the generous appeal of India. It is also not for manifesting any anti-Dutch, anti-European or anti-occidental feelings that we are here.

We are here only to help a people, which has the right to be free, like ourselves, and which has been attacked in contravention of the previous and already concluded agreements and the U. N. Charter, to which all the free and freedom-loving countries adhere. This point has been explained several times by His Excellency Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Chief of the Indian Government, and I am certain that it is the unanimous point of view of all the Governments represented here.

The Afghan Government hopes that after a careful study of the situation and a common consultation, we shall be able to present our points of view, to the Security Council, which is dealing with this case, and to expose to it the ways and means that may seem to us necessary and effective for a peaceful and just settlement of this problem.

Afghanistan also hopes, that we shall attract the attention of the Hague



Sardar Najibullah Khan (second from left) Representative of the Afghanistan Government to the conference with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (left) India's Education Minister, and Pandit Nehru (second from right) at a reception held by the latter in honour of the delegates

Government, to revise its policy of armed intervention and to remind it that the Imperialism is out of date today and that no power can impose in any people of the present world, a condition which is not acceptable to it.

We have a good many precedents in this respect and among others one that can be mentioned is the realisation of Independence by this hospitable country, which fortunately took place more than a year ago, in an atmosphere of comprehension and good understanding.

Today Great Britain enjoys not only the precious friendship of the great people of India, but also the esteem and sympathy of the other nations.

We believe that it is in the interest of the Dutch themselves to follow this example.

We are not hostile towards the Dutch people. We had a great sympathy for them when they themselves struggled, only some years ago, for their own freedom, but we condemn their policy of armed intervention. that has added another difficult problem to the already existing ones agitating and disturbing the present world.

International Problem

A people that has itself suffered from the foreign occupation and has been able to forbear great sacrifices for her own freedom may possibly be expected to respect the rights of others.

Afghanistan is considering the Indonesian problem as an International one, affecting the security of the World, and she recognised more than a year ago, the Indonesian Republic, as the only national authority of that country. She is well disposed to help the United Nations Organisation and to take part, in the spirit of the Charter of the U. N. O., in the action that may jointly be undertaken by the Asian Countries, for a just and peaceful settlement of the Indonesian problem.

In the end, I have to express, my Government's appreciation of the convocation of this Conference, and the participation of most of the Oriental and Far Eastern countries, which is in itself a real proof of the solidarity of these peoples to assure the rule of Right, Justice and Peace.

Charter on Basis of Solidarity

Solidarity, which, has roots in the past centuries of our history and which has been shaped, by the common sides of Culture and even the adversities of time.

If on the basis of this solidarity, we, Eastern Countries can organise an institution of Cultural, Social and Economical charter with a body for the exchange of views about the common problems, it will not be only useful for the good understanding and elimination of the occasional differences between ourselves, but also of a great utility and help to the International Peace and security of the World and the U. N. O.

Also I like to take this opportunity to thank on behalf of my Government those member States of the U. N. O., other than the Oriental countries, who have tried to help Indonesia in this difficult hour, and who have extended



The representatives of Arab countries with their host, Pandit Nehru, at a reception given in honour of Delegates to the Conference. (From L. to R.) Mr. Isa Nakhleh (Yemen), Mr. Mohd. Ali Hamade, Leader, Lebanon Delegation, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Madame and Dr. Nazim El Kudsi, Leader, Syrian Delegation, Pandit Nehru, Kadi Mohammed El Amry, Leader, Yemen Delegation, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi, Mr. Mohammed Shami (Yemen), Mr. Jawdat el Mufti (Syria) and Mr. Henry Abu Fadil (Lebanon)

at this stage. We shall develop them more fully in the course of the discussions upon which this Conference will presently enter with reference to specific proposals designed to speed forward a happy settlement of the Indonesian problem in accordance with the purposes of the United Nations and the principles set out in its Charter.

The point I desire to stress at this stage is, as you have made perfectly clear this morning, Sir, that we are gathered together here on this occasion not to short-circuit in any manner the United Nations or its organs, but to support and reinforce the organization to take such action as the organization might deem adequate in the circumstances or to suggest to the United Nations action that might appear to us to prove likely to be more effective and adequate.

I also desire to make it clear that however much we are grieved and distressed over recent Dutch action in Indonesia, we are not the least inspired by hostility or ill-will towards Holland or its people. We recognize and admire their great qualities and the valuable contribution that they have made in the past towards the advancement of learning and culture in various fields, particularly in the sphere of the development of international law.

It will be recalled that the struggle of the people of Holland itself to secure freedom feom a;en rule was characterised by grim determination and was inspired by the spirit of the highest patriotism and furnished to the world over a long period of 80 years a spectacle of heroic struggle carried to a successful conclusion after a protracted course of suffering and sacrifice.

That Indonesia should have to struggle for its freedom against Holland is a tragedy and an irony. The tragedy is enhanced by the reflection that during the last war, Holland proved utterly unequal to the discharge of its primary obligation towards the people of Indonesia to defend them against the invader and incontinently abandon them to their fate. That Holland should now seek to subjugate Indonesia once more to its political domination is something so incongruous as to have provoked a ridicule were it not that the attempt is so fraught with suffering and tragedy to the people of Indonesia and constitutes a serious threat to the restoration of peace in South East Asia and the maintenance of international peace.

Concrete Steps

Sir, I hope that before this Conference brings its deliberations to an end, it will have placed on record its deliberate view not only of the conflict that is going on in Indonesia but also of the concrete steps that must be taken by the United Nations and if the United Nations should fail to take them, by such Member-States as may be more immediately concerned, as would speed forward the solution of this unhappy problem at a very early date.

The world unfortunately has recently witnessed too many *faits accompli* based on military force and aggression and as I had occasion recently to remark, the United Nations is beginning to acquire a very unhappy reputation of becoming more or less an instrument of stamping with its active—and if not active at least its tacit—approval the results of military aggression. That must not be permitted to continue.

Round this table here are gathered today representatives of 17 Member-States of the United Nations and representatives of another Sovereign country which we hope will soon be admitted to that fellowship. That constitutes an exact 30 per cent of the membership of the United Nations and as you have pointed out, Sir, the representatives gathered round this table represent at least half the human race. Surely, the conclusions to which this Conference may deliberately come would deserve the most earnest and serious consideration of the United Nations and the other Member-States who are present here today.

SYRIA

His Excellency Dr. Nazim El Kudsi (Syria) :

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: Holding this Conference in India, the country that inspires peace and calls for upholding ideal human principles, is a happy augury presaging greater hopes of peace.

We thank the people of India and their Government represented here by His Excellency Pandit Nehru for having taken the initiative in summoning this first Asian Political Conference, which enables the honourable representatives here present to meet and discuss a matter of mutual interest.

We also thank the beautiful city of New Delhi which once again has extended a warm welcome and afforded facilities for this Conference.

As we meet here we remember with great grief and deep sorrow Mahatma Gandhi whose loss is shared by the entire humanity. We pay tribute to the ideals he practised and preached openly. He taught us how to become world citizens and to love humanity irrespective of race, colour, language or religion. Though Gandhi is dead, his example is ever alive.

The Indonesian question taken in the light of his principles becomes clear. Similarly the principles of the United Nations Charter signed by us and by the Netherlands Government too, state plainly the right of peoples to freedom and independence. However, any comparison between events and written principles shows us how great is the difference and the contradiction. Any comparison would shake the faith of millions in international justice. To consolidate this faith is our duty, and we are here to find the means to do so.

We all remember that among the arguments advanced by Hitler to wage the last war was: How can it be possible that the Dutch who are a few millions should rule 70 million Indonesians, when Germany with a population of 70 millions has not a single vital space? The use of this argument is not confined to the Nazis, but it can equally be used by every Big Power intending to embark its people on similar ventures. The continuation of the Dutch aggression in Indonesia is tantamount to helping those who intend to wage new wars. It is worthy of mention that the statements made by the Good Offices Committee to the Security Council plainly show the extent of the injustice done to Indonesia. These statements proved to what *limits* the Indonesians made concessions to reach a peaceful solution.

Yet all these sacrifices did not prevent further unwarranted aggression.

Similarly, the solution advocated for Palestine is no less dangerous than the Dutch aggression, for it has enabled the Zionists to compel nearly one million Arabs to leave their hearths and homes and seek refuge in the wilderness and replace them with outsiders. History does not recall a greater injustice, felt by 70 million Arabs in Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Tripolitania, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq and Syria.

Solutions of this kind cannot help the cause of peace which we seek and for which we signed the United Nations Charter.

San Francisco Conference

The World today is in a crisis. It appears that some did not benefit from the lesson and the price paid by mankind for peace. If one had listened to speeches in the San Francisco Conference he would have thought that the world had finally removed war from human activity, but the meetings, speeches and discussions that followed would lead to the belief that years have passed on the spirit of the San Francisco Conference and that man's capacity to forget has set a new record in speed.



Pandit Nehru greets Madame Kudsi at a social function held during the Conference

For this reason we look with interest and hope to the invitation extended by India, who shares her worthy sister Pakistan's ancient culture and modern struggle for freedom. This interest is due to the fact that several big and small nations are not always in a position to have their own views and plan to safeguard their security and neutrality of opinion. To be able to do so, they have to come together on a baisa of understanding and mutual interest to determine a policy that would safeguard their position in the international field.

This unity and co-operative action within the principles of the United Nations Charter does not hinder the United Nations but will add to its strength and activity. Such regional grouping, within the United Nations Organization, will help solve the problems it faces, in a spirit closer to justice and more opposed to aggression. It will strengthen the faith of millions of mankind in the United Nations.

PHILIPPINES

His Excellency General Carlos P. Romulo (Philippines) :

Mr. President, I would like to begin my brief statement by conveying to you, Sir, the warm fraternal greetings of His Excellency the President of the Philippines, and to the distinguished representatives here gathered, the solemn assurance that the people and Government of the Republic of the Philippines are ready and determined to do their part in helping the people of Indonesia to achieve their freedom through measures that may be agreed upon by this Conference in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Upon my arrival here two days ago, I was asked what I thought the Conference could accomplish. My reply was brief. We have a job to do here, I said, and I hope we shall do it. Our task is of the most urgent kind, and may be divided into two parts; namely, concrete measures that may be recommended to the Security Council which will assure to the people of Indonesia the fullest exercise of self-determination, and, in the event of continued defiance by the Netherlands or of the Council's failure to act, other concrete measures that may be taken pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Charter by the States here represented that will make unmistakable our profound condemnation of aggression and our stout refusal to recognise the fruits of aggression.

The Conference might consider further certain measures for the establishment of continuing machinery for the implementation of proposals that may be adopted, including a small permanent Secretariat in New Delhi to serve as a clearing-house of information essential to concerted action by our various Governments, and a method of consultation on matters of common interest between the permanent representatives of our States to the United Nations. It is to be hoped that out of such methods of co-operation in nuclear form, we shall be able to evolve a potent permanent Organization of Asian States, functioning as a regional body alongside similar associations, as contemplated by Article 52 of the Charter.

We are gathered here representing nations that belong to many races, speak numerous languages and believe in all the principal religions of the world. This is not a Conference of States representing a monolithic political, economic or cultural system. We are not met to pool our material resources, our army divisions, our navies and air armadas in pursuit of motives of power. We are met here in order that, by methods of



Pandit Nehru, India's Prime Minister, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi, India's Ambassador in Moscow, with U Win (second from right) Burmese Representative, and Dr. M.A. Rauf, India's Ambassador to Burma

their efforts to find out an equitable outcome of this problem.

Lastly, I have to add that we, the Afghans are happy to witness that the first international gathering of Oriental States is being held in the territory of a country, with whom we have had many thousands of years of friendly and brotherly relations, the country which is animated with the humanitarian spirit of the late Mahatma Gandhi, the Great Asian.

BURMA

His Excellency U Win (Burma) :

It gives me no end of pleasure to see that the suggestion made by my Prime Minister, Thakin Nu, to call a conference of this kind has been accepted by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru with enthusiasm and with an intuitive perception of Asia's needs. In calling this conference, he has demonstrated to the world the truth of the warning that he gave in Cairo, on his way back to India from the Conference of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, to the effect that if there was another instalment of aggression in Indonesia, the result would be to the detriment of peace not only in Asia but in the whole world.

The protest that we, the Asians gathered in this conference, are able to register at this so-called 'police action' of the Dutch which, in essence, is an attempt supported by the Dutch military might to retrieve its lost ground in Indonesia, should be forcible enough to check a repetition of this type of aggression on the part of any other foreign power making a last minute bid for a revival of Imperialism. Talking of aggression in other parts of Asia, it reminds one of our neighbour, Viet-Nam, which is similarly placed and makes one feel her absence at this conference.

From a careful study of recent happenings in the Security Council and the reports of the continued struggle in Indonesia, it is more than obvious that if the Security Council did not take effective steps and satisfied the honest nationalist aspirations of the Indonesian people in ordering the Dutch to implement their obligations which they have accepted under the Charter of the United Nations as one of its members, this conference would have no alternative but to bring the weight of its concerted opinion to bear upon the Security Council and the United Nations by way of demonstrating that Asia will not accept any halting or half measures. The world already knows that this conference has been called to reinforce the purposes of the United Nations and the Security Council and not to obstruct the fulfilment of the hopes of mankind which are centred in this great body.

We in Asia and certainly a good number of other European and Pacific countries have felt that the deliberations of the Security Council up-to-date have not given the correct lead. The firmness that one expected from the Security Council has unfortunately been absent. This itself is enough provocation for this Conference, demanding of us, as it does, that we Asians should be vigilant, united and concrete in the measures that we take in helping our sister country, Indonesia.

The time factor is of paramount importance because every day means the loss of more precious lives in this struggle. Agreements honourably reached have been violated and the United Nations and the Security Council have not only been by-passed but the latter's recent directives have been defied. Information given to the world with regard to the freedom that the detained Indonesian leaders were supposed to be enjoying has been more than a cajoled joke, from all accounts.

Burma's Proposals

Burma is convinced that the action that this Conference will ultimately decide upon should be concrete and effective. She desires to place the following lines of action for the consideration of this Conference :

1. As a demonstrable gesture of our goodwill, all Asian Governments should forthwith accord *de jure* recognition to the Republican Government of Indonesia as the authentic government of its people.

2. To approach the Security Council with the request for the immediate release of all leaders of the Republican Government who are under detention.

3. To move the Security Council immediately to order the lifting of the blockade on Indonesia which has resulted in untold suffering of the Indonesian people.

4. The range of sanctions that have been spontaneously applied by some of us already should be widened immediately after we have concrete proof that the Netherlands Government have failed to implement the directions given to them by the will of the countries represented in the United Nations.

5. The setting up of machinery, say, in the shape of a Standing Committee, to watch the progress of the future decisions that may be taken by the Security Council and to implement any combined decisions to be taken by this Conference and subsequent conferences that may have to be called in this connection.

6. A move must be made, here and now, by this Conference to appeal to the United States of America to withhold all aid to the Netherlands Government.

The so-called cease fire has not resulted in cessation of fire in Indonesia. The position demands of us, Asians, gathered at this Conference, that we should express our minds in unmistakable language by urging the Security Council that the basis for peaceful negotiations must be created and the only way in which it could be created is to get the Dutch to withdraw to the position they occupied before they shocked the world by their so-called 'Police Action' and that all the arguments that have been advanced by the Dutch spokesmen have left us completely cold; it is more than obvious that the Indonesians have been placed at a disadvantage not only by the present cease-fire but also due to absence of their accredited leaders to represent their case.

The Security Council is primarily an arbitral body and, in the fitness of things, the Indonesian leaders who are the only persons competent to place their case before the bar of world public opinion should be invited to participate in the future deliberations of the Council. As it is, it is not too late to do so.

We have faith in the Security Council. We shall support it in all ways given to us but this Conference should be alive to the realities of the international scene and envisage the possibility of failure on the part of the Security Council to take steps which in our opinion would be effective. What steps should be taken in that eventuality should also be within the range of this Conference. On behalf of my Government I wish to assure brother Asian countries that whatever action may be necessary would have the full support of my Government which I have the honour to represent at this Conference.



Kyaw Nyein, Burmese Delegate, and Madame Kyaw Nyein with Pandit Nehru, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi and others



Mr. Nowry Esfandiari, Iranian Delegate, Syed Abdul Kader El Gilani, Iraqi Delegate, and Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan's Delegate, photographed with Pandit Nehru during the Conference

PAKISTAN

His Excellency Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan (Pakistan) :

Mr. President, Fellow Delegates. It is a very happy augury that representatives of so many States and regions, which have so many problems common to themselves should have gathered together here to ponder over one particular acute problem that has so suddenly presented itself. One is encouraged to express the hope that this will not be the only conference of its kind, and that from time to time such of us as have common problems to ponder over and to resolve shall continue to meet, to consult among ourselves as to how best to resolve them.

Mr. President, I have very little to say this morning on the particular question with which we are at the moment faced beyond emphasizing the points that you have, with so much dignified eloquence, presented to us this morning in your opening address.

The views of Pakistan on the situation in Indonesia in the recent Dutch action are well known and need no reiteration



Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandernaike (second from right) and Mr. K. Vaithianathan (extreme left) Ceylonese Delegates, with Shrimati Vijayalakshmi and Pandit Nehru

IRAQ

Mr. Syed Abdul Kader El Gilani (Iraq):

Mr. Chairman, my honourable colleagues; It is my great honour to represent the Iraqi Government in this distinguished gathering. We are gathering here today to deal with the Indonesian question, which would have been so simple to deal with had not the United Nations Charter been violated. We are gathering here not as a separate body or organisation, but as Members of the United Nations entrusted in the application of the Charter and the realization of justice among the nations.

These aims are the first objectives of the United Nations Charter. Unfortunately the United Nations Charter was violated and the Security Council's decision was broken by the use of arms. So it is our desire to support the United Nations in solving the question of Indonesia which is within the letter and the spirit of the Charter and in respecting the will of the self-determination of the nations in order to have a peaceful and democratic world.

This is not the only question before the United Nations Organisation. We have the Palestine question also, which should have been dealt with in the same spirit, that is to say that the will of the Arabs of Palestine should be respected and no chance should be given to foreigners to establish a state in lands which do not belong to them. It is a very dangerous precedent and the nations should consider this question very carefully.

We the Arabs, as a free nation, believe that if the United Nations Charter is fully applied in letter and spirit, it will be the only refuge for a permanent world peace, which is the hearty desire of every individual of this world and we believe that this world peace cannot be realised except by applying the United Nations Charter.

In order to deal with the Indonesian question, as members of the United Nations we stress upon the United Nations Organisation the importance of dealing with this and similar problems within the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter. We do hope that with our co-operation with the United Nations Organisation we shall arrive at a successful conclusion.

Before concluding my short speech, I would like to express my thanks to the Indian Government and to the Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India for their kind hospitality towards us.

CEYLON

His Excellency Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandernaike (Ceylon):

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: The invitation which you, Mr. Chairman, extended to the Government of my country to participate in this conference we accepted most readily and gladly. This is the second occasion on which India has afforded us, the countries of Asia and of this particular region, the opportunity of meeting and discussing problems of a common interest.

In 1947 we assembled at Delhi at the Asian Relations Conference to discuss in a friendly way matters of common interest to us. That process has today been taken a step further. We owe to the hospitality of yourself, Mr. Chairman, and of India the opportunity of again meeting and discussing here on an Asiatic as well as a regional basis a specific issue of great importance, may I say of almost crucial importance to us all.

We are not met here today to decide whether or not a wrong has been done. We are met here as those who, convinced that a wrong has been done, wish to discuss amongst ourselves the ways and means of helping in a satisfactory and happy solution of the problem that has arisen.

May I say in passing that my own country of Ceylon had the privilege of taking the first practical and concrete step in dealing as far as we were concerned with the situation that had arisen. We banned from our harbours and air ports Dutch ships and planes bearing to Indonesia Military or warlike personnel or material in their conflict with the people of Indonesia. We were the first country to take that step.

Far-reaching Implications

The happenings in Indonesia, in my opinion, have far-reaching implications beyond the question of the struggle for liberty on the part of the people of Indonesia. Those implications have been referred to by you, Mr. Chairman as well as other speakers.

I wish to draw attention to a few of them myself. They are implications, in one aspect, of world importance. Those of us who believe in the democratic way of life and who would wish therefore to establish close and friendly collaboration and co-operation with other democratic countries, particularly of the West—I should like to say and say quite frankly—have suffered a grievous disappointment in the action which the Government of the Netherlands has taken in Indonesia. I know of no single happening since the conclusion of the last war, which has dealt a more grievous blow to the co-operation and friendly relations of all democratic countries engaged in the common task of defending one way of life than what has happened in Indonesia.

In the context of the United Nations Organisation—the world instrument for the preservation of peace and security—there are also serious implications. One more item has been added to a long and melancholy list of failures or partial failures on the part of the United Nations Organisation to deal, with reasonable effectiveness, with serious problems that have faced that organisation in recent times. As far as we are concerned—and I am speaking as one who is still waiting in the ante-chamber of the United Nations Organisation for admission—may I say still that we all recognize the immense and incalculable value of the United Nations Organisation, that whatever may be its present shortcomings it still continues to be the only lifeline of mankind for the preservation of peace, and that it is certainly not the intention of anyone of us

in any way to weaken that Organisation but really to assist it and to support it by whatever deliberations we may have here?

With regard to many of our own countries assembled here the Indonesian incident has also serious implications. This action, which cannot be characterised in any other terms than a flagrant and provocative attempt to reintroduce a principle, and evil thing which we thought was dead—the principle of Imperialism and Colonialism—is a situation that can have most unfortunate repercussions in the countries of good many of us.

May I say here and now that once for all, without any question or doubt, Imperialism and Colonialism must be considered to be dead and that, as far as we are concerned, on no pretext or excuse whatsoever can we permit any attempt at a recrudescence of these principles?

I do not intend on this occasion to enter into any detailed discussion of the problem that we are met to discuss. The more appropriate occasion to do so will be when we meet later on to discuss those details.

But, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, there is only one point that I would like to stress here, which I think is one of very great, fundamental and primary importance to a consideration of all other details—one indeed which has not escaped attention: attention has been drawn to it. I wish to re-emphasize it and it is this. Beyond the general question of helping the people of Indonesia to regain their freedom is the important question of the position of the Republican Government of Indonesia. It is not possible to proceed to any discussion of this matter without recognising the fundamental importance of that position.

Important General Issues

The Republican Government, recognized *de facto* by the world in general, by the U. N. O. and by the Government of the Netherlands itself, has suffered an entirely unjustifiable assault. That Government must be restored in whatever way is practicable, and the procedure of negotiation between, in effect, two sovereign States must be reinstated before any satisfactory solution can be reached.

I stress this point for this reason, that everything else depends upon this first issue. All the steps that may be suggested also flow from the attitude one adopts with regard to this matter. Is that Government to be restored, in whatever practical way is possible, or are we to proceed on the basis that no such Government now exists, that the situation for negotiations is past, and all that remains is for the Government of the Netherlands, in the exercise of its sovereignty of the whole of Indonesia, and in whatever spirit of liberality the Netherlands choose to exercise, form some provisional interim Government or make some other arrangement? I stress therefore the primary importance of that point of view in considering the entire problem.



M. Ismail Kamal Bey, Egyptian Ambassador in India, and Delegate to the Conference, addressing the concluding session on January 23

Let us finally proceed to the task that faces us with a clear understanding of the important general issues involved, without forgetting at the same time the stark realities of the case and what steps are in effect likely to be practicable and what steps are not likely to be practicable. Let us also bear in mind the obligations which we have in our relations to international organisations which, I repeat, it is not our intention to weaken but to strengthen. Within the ambit of such considerations and without as some of the honourable delegates have said, any bitterness or recrimination—the issues involved, believe me, are too important for the indulgence of mere recrimination in this matter—let us proceed to consider what action we can take that is really effective in giving assistance to the sorely tried people of Indonesia and their Republican Government.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my country may I assure you and all Honourable Delegates here that we shall give our whole hearted co-operation to you in the endeavour to achieve those high objects.

EGYPT

His Excellency M. Ismail Kamal Bey (Egypt):

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen—I see that we have taken too much of your time and so I will be very brief. I am only raising the spirit of the meeting to the terms redolent in the words of our dear Chairman and specially in the reference he made to those most highly inspiring principles of the Great Mahatma.

We are now taking in hand the question of Indonesia as supporting the United Nations in their endeavour to arrive at a very friendly and peaceful solution. But in the meantime it is an occasion for us to stress the vital importance of all efforts tending towards the establishment of real peace between nations. If it is a recommendable thing to the leaders of every country to ask for determined will to continue wars, I think it is a nobler task for every country, for every man and woman in this wide world, to join hands and to claim without shame that peace and happiness are absolutely our own right on this earth, and no effort will be spared and no effort will be too expensive towards the achievement of this end. But this problem of Indonesia will be one of the cases which at this Conference will be very easily put to a very happy conclusion.

I want to draw a parallel between the tentative efforts made by humanity to establish organisations for paving the way to Human Brotherhood. In 1898, the nations of the world sought to set up the Internal Court of Justice at the Hague; but the background was always vicious and all the Powers who signed the treaty armed themselves and led the world to the first World War in 1914. After that war came to an end. Humanity led by the Fourteen Points of President Wilson, cherished the hope that the League of Nations, which was the result of so many protracted negotiations, would bring about Human Brotherhood. But the same background persisted and the same fate, to which all efforts were doomed, was there; the desire to arm and the desire to solve the problems by war were there. We have now our last hope in the world-wide organisation of the United Nations and the Security Council.

May we all join hands and ask for the most lofty detachment and for the sincerest efforts towards the fulfilment of that ideal and then, Ladies and Gentlemen, we can implore for the time which consumes our lives, to ring out a thousand years of war and ruin in a thousand years of peace.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCE

The Asian Conference on Indonesia met in private session on January 20, at New Delhi, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

It added: There was a general discussion on the recommendations to be made to the United Nations Security Council

or an early settlement of the Indonesian question with special reference to (1) the restoration of full liberty of action to the Republican Government; (2) the return to the Government of the territories held by it before the 18th December and the withdrawal of Dutch troops from this territory; (3) the formation of an Interim Government; (4) provision for elections to a Constituent Assembly and the transfer of power to the United States of Indonesia and (5) the creation by the Security Council of a Commission or other body vested with adequate power to give effect to these recommendations.

Drafting Committee

The Conference decided to set up a Drafting Committee composed of representatives of Australia, Ceylon, India and Pakistan to prepare a resolution on the points covered by the discussion.

The Conference met again in private session on January 21 and discussed recommendations to be made to the United Nations Security Council for energetic action by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the U. N. Charter so as to ensure a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the Indonesian dispute.

The Conference also discussed means of consultation amongst the Governments represented after the Conference had adjourned.

The Conference met twice in private session on January 22. It considered drafts of the Resolutions submitted by the Drafting Committee, and adopted Resolutions relating to the recommendations to be made to the Security Council and provisions for future consultation among the participating Governments.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

The following three resolutions were adopted at the Asian Conference on Indonesia on January 22:

RESOLUTION I

THIS CONFERENCE of representatives of the Governments of AFGHANISTAN, AUSTRALIA, BURMA, CEYLON, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, IRAN, IRAQ, LEBANON, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA and YEMEN

Affirming their support of the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the obligation of all member States to accept and carry out the decision of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter;

Having considered the situation in Indonesia in the light of all available data and, in particular, the reports submitted by the Good Offices Committee of the Security Council;

Being of the opinion that the Dutch military action launched on the 18th December, 1948, constitutes a flagrant breach of the Charter of the United Nations and defiance of the efforts of the Security Council and its Good Offices Committee to bring about a peaceful settlement;

Noting that the Netherlands authorities have failed to give full effect to the resolutions of the Security Council adopted after that date;

Finding that this action is directed against the very existence of the Republican Government which the Security Council and several member Governments of the United Nations, including the Netherlands Government itself, have recognised;

Conscious of the danger to the peace of South East Asia and of the world through the continuance of hostilities in Indonesia;

Recognising that the people of Indonesia are entitled, according to the principles of the Charter, to independence and the exercise of full sovereign rights;

Recognising further that the maintenance of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, constitute the high and steadfast purpose of the United Nations;

Firmly convinced that the Security Council is properly seized of the Indonesian question, as a breach of the peace and an act of aggression, under Article 39 of the United Nations Charter;

RECOMMENDS to the Security Council of the United Nations.

A. (1) THAT members of the Republican Government, other Republican leaders and all political prisoners in Indonesia, be immediately restored to complete freedom,

(2) THAT the Republican Government be enabled to function freely and, to this end;

(*i*) the Residency of Jogjakarta be handed back immediately to the Republic and the Netherlands authorities refrain from taking any action that may interfere with the effective functioning of the Government of the Republic. That Government should also have facilities for communication and freedom of consultation throughout Indonesia;

(*ii*) such areas of the islands of Java, Sumatra and Madura as were held by the Government of the Republic on the 18th December, 1948, be restored to the Republic not later than the 15th March, 1949;

(*iii*) Dutch forces be withdrawn (*a*) immediately from the Residency of Jogjakarta, and (*b*) progressively from the rest of the Republican territory mentioned in (*ii*), such withdrawal to be effected in stages and under conditions to be prescribed by the Good Offices Committee or any other body to be appointed by the Security Council and to be completed not later than the 15th March, 1949;

(*iv*) all restrictions imposed by the Netherlands authorities on the trade of the Republic be immediately removed;

(*v*) Pending the formation of the interim Government referred to in (3), the Republican Government be afforded all facilities for communication with the outside world.

(3) THAT an Interim Government composed of representatives of the Republic, and representatives of territories in Indonesia other than those under the authority of the Republic commanding the confidence of the Indonesian people, be formed not later than 15th March, 1949, with the approval and assistance of the Good Offices Committee, or any other body that may be appointed by the Security Council. Pending the result of the deliberations of the constituent Assembly referred to in paragraph (6) below, no new regional governments shall be formed or recognised.

(4) THAT, subject to the provisions of paragraph (5), such interim Government shall enjoy full powers of government including control over its armed forces. To ensure this, all Dutch troops shall be withdrawn from the whole of Indonesia on a date to be determined by the Good Offices Committee, or any other body appointed by the Security Council. Pending such withdrawal, Dutch forces shall not be used for the maintenance of law and order except at the request of the Interim Government and with the approval of the Good Offices Committee or any other body that may be appointed by the Security Council.

(5) THAT the Interim Government shall have such freedom in external affairs as may be determined, in consultation with the Interim Government and the Netherlands authorities, by the Good Offices Committee or any other body that may be appointed by the Security Council.

(6) THAT elections for the Constituent Assembly of Indonesia be completed by 1st October, 1949.

(7) THAT power over the whole of Indonesia be completely transferred, by the 1st January, 1950, to the United States of Indonesia whose relationship with the Netherlands shall be settled by negotiation between the Government of the United States of Indonesia and of the Netherlands.

(8) THAT the Good Offices Committee, or any other body appointed by the Security Council, be given authority to secure the application of the foregoing recommendations under the supervision of the Security Council to whom it shall report as frequently as may be necessary.

B. THAT, in the event of either party to the dispute not complying with the recommendations of the Security Council, the Council shall take effective action under the wide powers conferred upon it by the Charter, to enforce the said recommendations. Member States of the United Nations represented at this Conference pledge their full support to the Council in the application of any of these measures.

C. THAT the Security Council be pleased to report, for consideration by the United Nations General Assembly at its adjourned session commencing in April, 1949, the measures taken or recommended by the Council for a solution of the Indonesian problem and the action taken by the parties concerned to give effect to these measures.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Chairman of the Conference, addressing the final session on January 23

RESOLUTION II

In order to ensure close co-operation among themselves on matters dealt with in resolution I, this Conference recommends to the participating Governments, whether member States of the United Nations or not:

(*a*) That they should keep in touch with one another through normal diplomatic channels;

(*b*) That they should instruct their representatives at the Headquarters of the United Nations or their diplomatic rerepresentatives to consult among themselves.

RESOLUTION III

The Conference expresses the opinion that participating Governments should consult among themselves in order to explore ways and means of establishing suitable machinery, having regard to the areas concerned, for promoting consultation and co-operation within the frame-work of the United Nations.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS AT SECOND SESSION

Addressing the Second Open Plenary Session of the Asian Conference on Indonesia on January 23, at New Delhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Chairman remarked that "the most significant feature of the Conference has been the friendly and co-operative approach of all those who attended it as delegates or as observers. We wanted to achieve something and we have laid the foundation of that achievement because of this approach of ours. I think that this conference may well serve as a model to others."

The following is the full text of the Chairman's address:

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Three days ago we met here to confer together about recent happenings in Indonesia. For these three days we have laboured and now we meet again in open Session to conclude the work we had undertaken. It is perhaps not correct to say that this is a conclusion of that work. It would be more correct to say that this is the beginning. Yet we have completed one stage, and an important stage.

During our private sessions after full consideration, we passed three resolutions and I have already, as your Chairman, communicated the principal resolution to the President of the Security Council at Lake Success. The other two resolutions are for us to act upon and they indicate the beginning of that close consultation and co-operation which, I hope, has come to stay among the nations represented at this conference. All these resolutions will be communicated to the participating Governments for their approval.

Historic Meeting

Our meeting at this conference has been called a historic one and rightly so. May I, with all respect, congratulate all the delegates to this conference on the success they have achieved and on the way they have risen to the height of this great occasion. It is not difficult for each one of us to express our feelings or our opinions forcibly on any issue. But when representatives of many Governments meet together, it is not easy for common agreements to be arrived at, for not only is there a variety of opinion but also each independent Government is reluctant to commit itelf to any particular course of action in the future. That is why international conferences, more especially on political issues, prolong themselves indefinitely and seldom lead to satisfactory conclusions. Yet all of us have succeeded in a short space of time in coming to an agreement on a vital issue affecting not only Indonesia but the future of peace in Asia and the world. That is an achievement which we can justly praise.

But the manner of our doing so seems to me even more important. Results and ends have importance and have to be achieved. But the means and manner we adopt are at least equally important.

I think it may be said that the most significant feature of this conference has been the friendly and co-operative approach of all those who attended it as delegates or as observers.

We worked together smoothly, efficiently and in a business-like manner. We wanted to achieve something and not merely to talk about it, and we have laid the foundation of that achievement, because of this approach of ours. I think that this conference may well serve as a model to others.

Vital Question

This could only be so because of the community of interest and outlook that all of us had on this vital question, and also because, I think, there is a still wider community of thought and interest amongst us. I am deeply grateful to all the delegates and observers and to the Governments that sent them for their courtesy and co-operation.

There are a multitude of problems facing us and each one of us is interested more specially in some of them. The whole world is a question mark today. It was natural that, having met together, many of us should desire that we should discuss some other problems also. Yet it was a wise decision, I think, that in this conference we should concentrate on the issue for which this conference was summoned. That not only emphasises the vital character of that issue but also demonstrates our business-like approach to a particular problem. Success in co-operation in one matter leads inevitably to further co-operation in other fields.

We have passed our first resolution indicating what, in the opinion of this conference, should be done immediately and in the course of the next few weeks and months in Indonesia. This is a recommendation to the Security Council, and a recommendation coming from a large number of members of the United Nations must necessarily have great



The Australian and Philippine Delegates to the Conference photographed with Officials of the Government of India on their arrival at New Delhi. (L. to R.) Mr. C. T. Moodie (Australia), Dr. J. W. Burton (Australia), Mr. C. S. Jha, Gen. Romulo (Philippines), Miss Chandralekha Pandit, Mr. Natrajan and Mr. Salvador P. Lopz (Philippines)

selfhelp, we may strengthen the forces of democracy and prevent other ideologies from capturing the faith of Asia by default.

This is the first inter-governmental Conference on the political level to be held in Asia. Although it may be considered historic for that reason, it will have real meaning in the perspective of history in this part of the world only if we shall accomplish what we have come here to do, and can look back to this point in time as the genuine beginning of our realization of a common destiny.

SAUDI ARABIA

His Excellency Shaikh Mouvaffak El Aloussy (Saudi Arabia):

(English translation of the Speech in French).

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, I must confirm here the interest that His Majesty the King takes in the present unfortunate conflict between Holland and the Republic of Indonesia. His Majesty has been feeling particularly hurt at all the destruction, at all the suffering that has been perpetrated throughout this unfortunate incident.

The first measure that His Majesty has taken to avoid this suffering is that no Dutch plane should be allowed to fly over the territory of the State. The second measure that His Majesty has been trying to find is that there should be a peaceful settlement of this conflict. We are sure that a peaceful solution will be found by the Security Council and we are here gathered today in order to help the Security Council to find that peaceful solution.

YEMEN

His Excellency Mr. Isa Nakhleh (Yemen):

Mr. President, Sir, His Excellency the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs for the Yemen who is unable to address you in English asked me to convey to you the message of His Majesty King Ahmed of the Yemen, to you personally and to the great State of India, and to state that he wishes that this Conference will meet with all success.

The Yemen Delegation, Sir, associates itself with the eloquent remarks which you made regarding the right of the Indonesian people to independence and freedom, and that the aggression of the Netherlands on that country must be condemned by all peace-loving nations. The Indonesian Republic have rightly acquired their freedom and they declared their independence as far as the 17th of August 1945 when the people of Indonesia declared that they were enjoying their birth right to freedom and independence; and the Netherlands Kingdom itself did recognise that independence by their Lingadjati agreement in 1946 which agreement was ratified by Parliaments of both the countries.



Shaikh Mouvaffak El Aloussy, Saudi Arabian Delegate, with Pandit Nehru

In the face of such a position in international affairs, Sir, the Yemen Delegation feels that any use of force by the Netherlands against the Free Republic of Indonesia is definitely an aggression and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and, therefore, any action which this Conference sees fit to recommend to rectify that wrong done to the Indonesian Republic and people will be supported by the Yemen.

We take this opportunity, Sir, to say that we are grateful for your leadership in calling this Conference and we hope that this Conference will be able to lay the foundation for the future co-operation of the Asiatic and Oriental nations, on all problems whether political, social or economic.

There are in the world many Unions—we have the Pan American Conference every year, the nations of both North and South America meet to discuss points of common interest and we never heard that these nations are making any block against anybody; they are discussing matters of common interest. So also, we have the Atlantic Union, the Scandinavian Union and so many other Unions. If the Asiatic Nations come and try to make a machinery for consultation, for study and for co-operation in all problems, this I hope will bring a new era to the Oriental people.

We, Sir, in agreeing among ourselves, have no imperialistic motives or intentions of agression against any nation. What we want to do in this Conference and for future consultations between the Asiatic nations is how to be able to stand together with the purpose of preserving the freedom and independence of the Oriental people and trying to help those which have been until now denied that freedom to gain that freedom. I think any arrangement in this regard will be in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations because the United Nations Organisation has been formed in order to preserve international peace and justice, and in order to solve all problems in accordance with international law and justice, and we, the Oriental nations here, desire no more than to see that the rules of international justice have been applied to all problems.

We do not intend in this Conference to take any action contrary to the United Nations; on the contrary, article 52 of the Charter of the United Nations allows regional arrangements or agencies to sit for consultation in order to help solve problems in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

If, Sir, we are to co-operate as neighbours, as members of one family, that is the Oriental family, we hope this co-operation will not be construed by other Powers that it means that we are forming one bloc against the other. As I said, we have no purpose other than to work within the Charter of the United Nations and we work for liberty, for the freedom, for the independence of nations and for preserving international peace in the world.

AUSTRALIA

Dr. J.W. Burton (Australia):

Mr. President, as the Prime Minister of India you have already clearly expressed thoughts which are so much in accord with our own, that there is little that I might add. You have convened us here to discuss the problem which has been presented to the United Nations, and in particular to the peoples of the United Nations in this area, by the failure so far of the Security Council effectively to deal with the situation which has been brought about in Indonesia.

We are all agreed on the general principles involved, that is the principles of the United Nations, and in particular the principle of the encouragement of self-government.

No Vindictive Spirit

At this Conference, we are more concerned with detailed suggestions for the consideration of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations as to how these agreed principles might be implemented in the case of Indonesia and as you pointed out, Sir, in this case only.

We do not meet in any vindictive spirit, we do not contemplate reprisals or restraints as an objective; our attitude is rather that a mistake has been made which has cost life and which has brought about suffering not only to the peoples of Indonesia but also to the peoples of the Netherlands who have themselves already suffered too much at the hands of an aggressor. A mistake has been made from the point of view of the future of the United Nations, and a mistake has been made from the point of view of world peace and the development of independent political institutions which alone can withstand the infiltration of undemocratic influences.

So, we have only one objective at this Conference, and that is to try to offset or remedy these grave errors, to find a way in which peace can be restored in Indonesia, a peace which is just and which therefore can be lasting, to endeavour to remedy the damage already done to the prestige and standing of the United Nations and of the Security Council without which we can have no security.

We here can make a real contribution to the solution of this problem, as a regional conference assisting the Security Council in accordance with the Charter. Wisdom does not reside only in countries having great economic or military power.

We assembled here, therefore, with our special knowledge of the area have a duty to advise, and if our deliberations are characterised by objective thinking, persistence of thought for the principles and purposes of the United Nations and by constructive planning, then our advice must ultimately be accepted by by the peoples of the United Nations. As is well known, Australia, as a Member of the Security Council, representing this area at the time of the Dutch action, has from the first made every endeavour to obtain a settlement to this dispute, and we will not rest content until peace is restored.

Our Australian Foreign Minister, who is well-known to you, and is at the moment President of the United Nations General Assembly, just a few days ago observed that not a single Member of the Security Council had justified the action of the Dutch and he added: "I sincerely hope that, in view of the Security Council discussions and the general feeling, the Dutch will desist as far as possible from the action taken and release Indonesian leaders from captivity with a view to a quick settlement of the new constitutional set-up for the United States of Indonesia." That I am sure is the hope of all of us at this Conference and we are meeting therefore for a specific purpose, viz., that of assisting the United Nations in settling finally and justly the problem of Indonesia.

The countries represented here are in general agreement on the question and it is for the Conference in later sessions to clarify in greater detail our thoughts so that we can make positive and helpful suggestions, and even at this last moment endeavour to retrieve the position, so that not only the people of Indonesia will look forward to a nearer freedom, place and increasing prosperity, but also that the prestige and standing of the United Nations which are so vital to us all, will be maintained.

The Australian Government's policy, as is well known to you, is to carry out its obligations to the United Nations with sincerity and earnestness, and it will give immediate and earnest consideration to the reports and observations which will be taken back to it at the conclusion of this Conference by its officials attending it.

I might say, Sir, in conclusion, how grateful we are for the consideration and hospitality which has been shown to us by the Government of India, yourself in particular, and your very able officers who by their careful planning and preparation have already assured the success of this Conference.

MAURITIUS' SYMPATHY WITH INDONESIA

Seventeen out of nineteen elected members of the Mauritius Legislative Council on January 17, 1949, asked the Colonial Secretary to forward on their behalf the following protest to the Secretary of State for Colonies, London, regarding the Dutch request for facilities for their aircraft at Mauritius:—

"Sympathising with the freedom-loving people of Indonesia, we elected members of the Legislative Council protest against the move to allow the use of our aerodrome and to ask our men to feed and fuel planes of the Dutch Imperialist Power trying to crush the freedom of Indonesian Colonials contrary to the U. N. O. decision."

LEBANON

His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Ali Hamade (Lebanon):

In the name of my Government, I address the Government of India and its Chief and thank him for the opportunity given to us to meet in this historic town. I also bring to you the sympathy of my people.

We have assembled together to find a solution to the problem confronting us. The problem is one of peace and stability in this important part of the world. Therefore, we can neither ignore it nor neglect it. It is a grave problem, a problem which brings us face to face with the the present condition of the world that affects the wise equilibrium which must reign if humanity is to live in an atmosphere of peace and not be drowned in anarchy.

This meeting gives us confidence in the future because it illustrates the will of the people of the East to find a way, and to contribute, to the edification of a world built on peace and justice. The meeting here will be an indication of the desire of our people to have peace which must be durable and just.

Peace cannot be a reality unless it is sincerely willed by all the nations without exception. It cannot be a durable peace unless we all believe in a common principle of international justice. Peace cannot become a reality unless we all contribute towards it and towards the re-establishment of equilibrium based on international justice. It is therefore the profound conviction of my people, that we who are gathered here today will help towards finding a solution of the problems which will be based on international justice.

weight. This first resolution has been drafted by us with the greatest care and after full and prolonged deliberation.

We have taken especial care to say something which is definitely practicable and feasible. It was easy for us to say much more and we would have been justified, in the circumstances, to say more, because injustice has been done and it is our right and duty to remedy that injustice fully. But we have considered this question in the larger context of the world and of the many forces that are in operation today and have recommended something which is eminently feasible. Anything less than we have said would fail to meet the requirements of the situation.

I trust that the Security Council will appreciate our approach and realise the strength of feeling that lies behind it. Yet this is not a matter of emotion but of cold and calculated thought. For the issues before us are of the most far-reaching character and a failure at this moment will bring disastrous consequences.

No Hostility to Any Nation

Our second resolution reminds us that we have to remain vigilant and to take counsel together on this issue whenever need arises, so that we might take joint action to achieve the ends in view. We have not met in this conference just to pass a few resolutions but to follow them to the end.

Our third resolution indicates that wider sphere of co-operation which is becoming more and more necessary for us. We have to explore that and devise such methods for consultation and co-operation within the framework of the United Nations as are to our common advantage and the advantage of the world.

I would repeat that we have not met here in hostility to any nation or group of nations, not even to the Netherlands, who have done injustice to Indonesia. We believe that even from the point of view of the Netherlands, it is urgently necessary and desirable that this injustice be rectified, or else other evil consequences will follow. For evil breeds evil and an evil action leads to evil consequences.

Asia's Role

Europe and America have played a great part in world history and they will no doubt continue to play an important part. But it must be realised that Asia also wants to play her part and fully intends doing so. That part will be one of peace and co-operation. We have too much of division and conflict in this world already. Let none of us add to that division or that conflict.

I must thank you again and your Governments and express the hope that this historic conference is a fore-runner of a period of close co-operation between our respective countries. To that co-operation India will gladly devote herself and may I say that all of you or other representatives of your countries will always be welcome in India.

SPEECHES AT SECOND SESSION

The following are the texts of speeches made by the delegates of Iran, the Philippines and Egypt at the second and concluding session of the Conference on Indonesia on January 23.

IRAN

His Excellency Mr. Mussa Noury Esfandiari (Iran) :

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

During the debates of this Conference and the plenary sessions, I expressed to my colleagues the serious concern of my countrymen over the events in Indonesia. I am thankful to our Chairman for having given me this opportunity of expressing publicly the feelings of my country over this problem.

The people and the Government of Iran sincerely deplore the events in Indonesia, which are contrary to the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations. We feel that events of this kind are all the more regrettable as they are likely to do harm to the United Nations, whose object is to repress acts of aggression and other breaches of peace. I need hardly say that when one collaborates with the work of maintenance of peace, one should desist from any act likely to undermine the confidence of people in international organisations. The organisation of the United Nations was created for the purpose of preventing humanity from experiencing again the atrocious sufferings brought about by the last war. What would happen to this organisation if the fundamental principles on which depends its very existence were to be flouted by its own members ?

As I said before the 3rd session of the United Nations last September, it is not enough to gloat over the existence of this organisation. It is imperative that each member, by every means at its command, must help to make it more efficacious in its work, which is to make it possible for humanity at large to have a peaceful existence based on right and justice.

Our Conference, the deliberations of which were so skilfully conducted by our President, has justified its work and has approved a series of Resolutions which will be communicated to the President of the Security Council. I hope that the result of this Conference of which the purpose is, as our President put it, not to find a substitute for the Security Council but to help that organisation, will bring about a solution in conformity with the natural aspirations of the Indonesian people.

My country, which on several occasions has affirmed its unshakable faith in the United Nations, ardently hopes that taking our inspiration from the high ideals of the Charter we shall abide by the decisions of the Security Council. The field chalked out by the Charter is that of peace and we shall make our countries great by determining ourselves to make a sacrifice of selfish interests in the service of universal peace.

PHILIPPINES

His Excellency Gen. Carlos P. Romulo (Philippines) :

Mr. President, Your Excellencies,

After the close of this historic Conference, I should like to express our profound gratitude for the hospitality and friendship of our hosts, the Government and people of India, who have made us feel completely at home here in New Delhi; and to you, Sir, for your wise, patient and far-seeing leadership, to which we all in great measure owe the fruitfulness of our deliberations.

We have demonstrated here the new strength and unity of Asia. Out of this Conference a new political factor of great weight and significance has come into being. Nations comprising more than fifty per cent of the world's population, inhabiting a geographical area extending halfway round the globe and constituting fully one-third of the membership of the United Nations have got together on the basis of common interests and in pursuit of common aims. That is a massive political fact frem any standpoint, and it must count heavily in the future consideration of any problem, or the formulation of any policy affecting the peace, freedom and prosperity of mankind.

Real Co-operation

The Conference very wisely confined itself to the consideration of the problem of Indonesia. But even now many members look beyond it to the formation of a permanent organisation, a regional association strictly within the framework of the United Nations. Political co-operation among the nations of Asia has passed from a dream to a reality. Dignity and restraint have marked our meetings here, as well as the resolutions that we have adopted. We have been firm without being harsh, uncompromising without stooping to threats and recriminations. We have championed, and I think we have advanced the cause of Indonesian freedom without losing friends or antagonising anybody. We have reason to feel satisfied, Sir, over a job well done.

We should, however, guard against complacency. The Indonesian problem still awaits solution. We have merely recommended a course of action which, if carried through, will assuredly lead to a just and speedy settlement of the dispute. It should be our earnest concern to follow up our decisions, and to exercise unceasing vigilance against new dangers to peace, independence and security of our part of the world.

This is the first inter-governmental Conference in Asia on a matter of common concern to all of us. Let us hope that it is only the forerunner of other conferences convoked in accordance with a generally accepted mode of consultation among those of our countries that genuinely feel the strong gravitational pull of common interest and the internal compulsion for common action.

After many centuries of bondage, Asia is casting off her chains and claiming her lost heritage of freedom and power. Let it be our common endeavour to help Asia achieve her rightful place in the new world which we are striving to build through the United Nations—One World at eace under a rule of just law.

EGYPT

His Excellency M. Ismail Kemal Bey (Egypt) :

Mr. Chairman and Your Excellencies,

No more gratifying task could have befallen me than being asked by my honourable colleagues to extend and put in words the heartfelt gratitude of all of us for the most genuine generosity of our Chairman and of all the Members of the Cabinet and of all the collaborators who helped the Conference to achieve its aim.

I must make mention of the painstaking efforts taken by the Secretariat to prepare long files containing every wished-for document and offer precise and accurate information concerning the background of the Conference—the problem of Indonesia. Every thing seemed as if we were rubbing Solomon's Ring. We formulated a wish or a desire and it was entirely fulfilled. So, whatever we may say, we may not give full credit to all the eminent members of the Indian Delegation, under the Chairmanship of our dear President, and of the Secretariat.

Allow me to say, Mr. President, that three weeks ago there was a worldwide talk about the Conference and, more than any nation in the world, those more keenly interested—our friends of Indonesia—were cherishing hopes, as His Excellency said and as our dear and distinguished General Romulo said too, those hopes can be more or less considered fulfilled. For, we gave moral support and, in the meantime, made plain that our determined will and Justice will have its way.

Before concluding I want to thank the President for the opportunity afforded to us by the great Head of the State. It was certainly soul inspiring to see that in his palatial home the man who was presiding over the destinies of one of the greatest nations of the world was symbolising the sacred principles of the Mahatma for the freedom and glory of the soul. He was moving without the petty considerations of human judgement about sartorial elegance. In the simplest attire he was full of dignity and full of love. He was giving us what Asia gave to the world, the glory of the spirit, and in this Conference there was no more befitting spectacle than seeing the two men leading the destinies of this country to its glorious future symbolising both meditation and action.

CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

Pandit Nehru, Chairman of the Conference, in his concluding remarks said :

"I am grateful to Your Excellencies for all the kind sentiments that have been expressed in regard to my government and myself. Our work is now over and all that remains for me is to wish you and your governments and countries good fortune, and to express the fervent hope that the work we have begun in this Conference will be carried to a successful conclusion."

LETTER TO U. N. SECURITY COUNCIL

The following is the text of the letter dated January 23, from the Prime Minister of India and the Chairman of the Conference to the President of the Security Council, United Nations Headquarters, Lake Success, New York, U.S.A.:

As you are aware, a Conference of Representatives of the Governments of Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Ceylon, Egypt, Ethopia, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yeman, met in New Delhi on the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd January to discuss the present grave situation in Indonesia. The Governments of China, Nepal, New Zeland and Siam sent observers to the Conference.

A set of the speeches delivered by the Representatives of the participating Governments at the opening Session of the Conference is enclosed. These pronouncements bear witness to the strength of feeling among the participating Governments about Dutch action in Indonesia and to their earnest and urgent desire that this dispute between the Netherlands Government and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, which endangers the peace of South East Asia and of the world, should be rapidly settled in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

Further evidence of the active sympathy of these nations with the Republic is furnished by the action already taken by the Governments of Burma, Ceylon, India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to deny to the Netherlands Government facilities of transit by land, sea and air.

2. Of the resolutions passed by the Conference, one contains recommendations to the Security Council. The text of resolution has been telegraphed separately to your Excellency. It will be observed that this resolution has been framed in full recognition of the authority of the Security Council and mainly with a desire to assist it in the solution of the Indonesian problem. The member States of the United Nations represented at the Conference recognise their obligation to give effect to any measures which the Council may take in order to bring about a solution of the Indonesian problem.



Mr. Getahoun Tessemma, Ethiopian Delegate to the Conference talking to Pandit Nehru



Mr. Inglis, New Zealand Observer to the Conference, with Pandit Nehru

features of the Conference were the vast extent of the countries represented and the speed with which agreed conclusions were reached. The nineteen participating Governments represented more than half the population of the world, spread out over an area extending from the Mediterranean to the South Pole and from the 20th degree of East longitude to the 180th.

The fact that all these Governments came together at short notice to discuss the Indonesian problem is itself an indication of a community of interests. The fact that they virtually completed their deliberations in two days, namely at the private sessions on the 21st and the 22nd, shows that they approached their task not only with consciousness of its urgency but also with mutual understanding.

These facts are of vital significance to the region in which we live and, indeed, to the whole world. They show that the countries of Asia and of the Pacific area, though by instinct peaceably inclined and still lacking in the attributes of physical power, can in time of crisis stand together to point out the path of wisdom to a distracted world.

Historic Conference

Attention has already been drawn to the fact that the Conference, in the Prime Minister's words, was historic in that it brought together for the time representatives of the free nations of Asia and of Australia and New Zealand as well as of Egypt and Ethiopia. There can be no doubt that this meeting will stimulate the urge, which is already apparent, for close co-operation in all the fields of human endeavour. The Conference, in its third resolution, has for the first time given united expression to a hope that has often been voiced by individual statesmen, that these countries will consult among themselves with a view to establishing suitable machinery for promoting consultation and co-operation within the framework of the United Nations.

Apart from the immediate problem which brought them together, that aspiration furnished the keynote of their deliberations. They made no threats, they gave no excuse to others to charge them with setting up a new bloc in opposition to any Power or group of Powers. On the other hand, they made clear their fervent wish to work together for the fulfilment of the common aspirations of mankind which are simply, yet eloquently stated in the Charter of the United Nations.

With that aim in view, they will no doubt seek an early opportunity of consulting together as to the best way of establishing, in concrete form and on a permanent footing, some sort of organization which will from time to time bring them together in conference and will act as a clearing house of ideals. They will thus—as good neighbours should—get to know one another better and be better able to work together for the common good.

Finally, if I may end on a personal note, I think I can say on behalf of all the officials connected with the Conference that they have valued greatly the opportunity of participating in this unique and historic gathering. It was this feeling, and the indulgence and kindly support of those with whom they worked, that lightened the trials and the fatigue of those supremely busy, sometimes anxious, days. I have no doubt that, when another opportunity arises of working together for the success of a great venture like this, each one of us will welcome it.

AUSTRALIA DAY: PANDIT NEHRU'S MESSAGE

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, sent the following message to the High Commissioner for Australia in India on the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day on January 26:

"On the occasion of the anniversary of Australia Day, I have great pleasure, in extending to you and, through you, to the Government and people of the Commonwealth of Australia, the cordial greetings of the Government and people of India.

I feel confident that the identity of ideals and interests, so recently and refreshingly shown by our two countries in matters of moment, is a good augury for the establishment of peace and justice which we all so ardently desire."

From the Prime Minister of Australia to the Prime Minister of India:

Many thanks for your kind message for Australia Day and for the expressions of goodwill conveyed therein. You may be sure that we greatly appreciate and most heartily reciprocate your good wishes.

We consider it a happy omen that Australia Day should coincide with India's Independence Day and we are happy to think that our two countries will, in the future as in the past, continue to work shoulder to shoulder in the interest of freedom and justice.

May 1949 bring to you and to the Government and people of India every good fortune.

HONORARY REGIONAL ADVISERS

With a view to expediting the implementation of rehabilitation schemes, the Government of India have appointed Mr. Shankar Rao Deo, Shrimati Sucheta Kriplani and Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, members of the Constituent Assembly, as Honorary Regional Advisers in Bombay, the United Provinces and East Punjab and Patiala and East Punjab States Union respectively. With their appointment, it is expected, rehabilitation schemes will be prepared and finalised at an early date and implemented more expeditiously.

Transport for Basic Industries

Representatives of the Iron and Steel Industry and of the Textile Commissioner and senior officers of the Transport, Railways and Industry and Supply Ministries of the Government of India attended a special meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport held on January 20, 1949, in New Delhi to finalise movement programmes relating to steel and textiles for the first quarter of 1949.

The meeting—the second of its kind to be held during the last one month—is in pursuance of Government's decision that 100 per cent transport provision should be made for the three basic industries, namely, cement, steel and textiles. It will be recalled that at its meeting in December, the Standing Committee approved the cement movement programme for the first quarter of 1949.

Mr. Y. N. Sukthankar, I.C.S. Secretary Ministry of Transport, who presided over the morning session, inaugurated the proceedings.

Taking up the iron and steel industry first, the Committee examined the optimum transport requirements for each of the producing units and, after a full and frank exchange of views, fixed wagon quotas not only for the inward movement of raw materials, but also for the clearance of finished products and accumulated stocks. It was also decided that 10-day progress reports should be submitted to the Standing Committee to enable the latter to watch the fulfilment of the approved programme.

Textile Industry

Reassembling in the afternoon, Mr. S. Chakravarti, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Transport, presiding, the Committee reviewed the general position regarding textile movements and the optimum transport requirements for the first quarter of 1949. It was noted that the railways were fully meeting the load placed on them and that there would be no difficulty in fulfilling the programme for this quarter.

This completes the planning of the transport needs of the three basic industries, namely, cement, steel and textiles, for the first quarter of 1949. Machinery exists to watch the progress in fulfilment of the programmes. Planning for the next quarter will begin sufficiently early to enable the programmes for all the three industries to be finalised before the end of March.

The Government of India have decided to open a Consulate at Khorramshahr in Iran and to appoint Mr. K.D. Bhasin as the first Indian Consul there, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on January 26, 1949.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Governor-General's Message

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NEW DELHI.

January 29, 1949.

Tomorrow, the first anniversary day of our beloved leader's passing away from us, let us all devoutly turn our thoughts towards him. Unilateral effort in love irrespective of the other party's failures was the fundamental of his mission. Never before was such full meaning and intensity of faith poured into the doctrine as during the last few months of Bapu's life. Let us remember that there is God in every living thing and it is God and His Light we get a glimpse of whenever we see kindliness, sympathy, compassion or other manifestation of love flowing from one to another. When love disappears, we close the window against the light of God. Every act of love and helpfulness is a Sraddha ceremony for Bapu, as well as the best form of worship of God.

C. Rajagopalachari

Pandit Nehru's Broadcast to the Nation

"LET us today open our eyes and ears and hearts and think of him with all reverence and think, above all, of what he stood for and what he wanted us to do," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, in his broadcast to the nation from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30.

Following is the text of Pandit Nehru's broadcast:

Friends and Comrades, A year ago I spoke to you from here, a year ago to a day and an hour, and announced to you that the light that had illumined our lives had gone out and darkness seemed to envelop us. And now I address you again after you and I have shouldered the burden of this fateful year.

That light had not gone out for it shines more brightly than ever, and the message of our beloved leader rings in our ears. And yet often many of us, led away by passion and prejudice, close our eyes to this light and our ears to that message.

Let us today open our eyes and ears and hearts and think of him with all reverence, and think, above all, of what he stood for and what he wanted us to do.

This evening many of us all over India, in city and town and village, have heard the message of Gandhiji repeated and we have pledged ourselves anew to work in its light. At no time was this message more necessary than in the distracted and disintegrating world of today. Again and again this world has tried to solve its problems by methods of violence and hatred. Again and again it has failed and faced disaster. It is time we learnt the lesson from our own bitter experience. That lesson is that we cannot ignore moral values except at peril to ourselves that not by conflict and hatred shall we put an end to the ills of India and the world, but by peaceful methods and co-operation and disinterested service of freedom and truth; that we must promote unity and goodwill among all the people of India, and endeavour to abolish class distinctions and those based on birth or caste or religion. Even and to those who may think ill of us we have to stretch out the hand of friendship and win their goodwill.

To the nations of the world we say we have no quarrel with any of you, we seek only your friendly co-operation in the great task of ensuring freedom and well-being, to all the peoples of the world; we seek no domination or advantage over others, but we shall guard our own freedom at all cost and with all the strength in us. Our voice may be feeble today but the message it conveys is no feeble message. It has the strength of truth in it and it will prevail.

With this thought and pledge let us pay homage to our Master and beloved leader who has left us, and yet is so much with us. May we prove worthy of him and his message, and of India, our dear motherland, to whose service we have dedicated ourselves again this day. Jai Hind.

MISS MURIEL LESTER'S TRIBUTE

Broadcasting from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on January 30 on the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Miss Muriel Lester said:

On this day, January 30, last year, more tears were being shed than had fallen on any previous day.

From among you, Indians, God had raised up a Prophet such as the world had not seen for 19 centuries. Even in orthodox ecclesiastical circles in the West, he has been named a saint.

His power was such a challenge to the forces of evil that they had to kill him.

Sixteen months ago, a group of students in Calcutta roused to fury by false stories about him surrounded the house where he was staying and yelled for his death. He took no notice of their threats until a brick came through the window-pane. Up he got, went out to face them. 'Here I am,' he said in his usual even tones. "You can kill me if you like, but it wouldn't stop my work."

One had only to spend a few days in the exhibition in Jaipur last week to see that much of his work is being carried on with more determined vigour than in his life time.

Yet it is no use merely copying him: Our job is to make contact with that same source of Truth that supplied him every day with energy and joy.

Travelling with him in Switzerland in 1931, I heard him talking about this on a very early walk with Pierre Ceresole, one of Europe's leading pacifists. Gandhiji said 'A leader must have no personal ambition. He must seek



Dr. Lo Chia Luan (China) and Madame Luen (second from right) with Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Vijayalakshmi

But they wish to point out that the Council, which has been vested under the Charter with the primary responsibility to ensure prompt and effective action for the maintenance of international peace and security, acts not merely on behalf of the member States represented on the Council but on behalf of the Nations as a whole. The member States represented at this Conference constitute a substantial proportion of the membership of the United Nations and I have been asked to request that the Council will, therefore, give the weight to the resol tions adopted by the Conference.

3. The Council has given proof of its awareness of the dangers of the Indonesian situation and of its desire to bring about a satisfactory solution. The Conference has asked me to point out, with respect, that effective action by the Council to bring this situation to an end is overdue.

The Conference earnestly hopes that such action will not be further delayed and assures the Council of the full co-operation of the member States represented at this Conference in any measures that it may decide to take.

Messages and Greetings

The following telegram was received by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, from Mr. Walter Nash, Acting Prime Minister of New Zealand :

"May I express in the name of the New Zealand Government and on behalf of myself personally the earnest wish that the Conference in which the Nations of Asia and the South Pacific are now engaged is productive of beneficial results. We in New Zealand are deeply anxious that peace should be restored in Indonesia and we have been greatly encouraged by your personal initiative in this matter and by the knowledge that your wise leadership is being directed towards seeking a sol tion of this grave problem.

"The New Zealand Observer, Mr. Inglis, has no doubt explained the unfortunate misunderstanding which prevented the Observer from New Zealand from making transport arrangements in time to enable him to reach New Delhi before the conclusion of the three-day meeting. I know Mr. Fraser would wish me to express his regret as I do my own that we were unable more fully to avail ourselves of the invitation extended to New Zealand by your Government to participate in this meeting."

Other messages from eminent persons, organisations and associations in foreign countries received by the Prime Minister of India in support of the Asian Conference on Indonesia were :

From Emir Abdul Kerim at Cario :

"On behalf of 25 million Moroccans, Tunisians and Algerians, I wish to support wholeheartedly the Conference called by the distinguished India Government on the tragic situation in Indonesia and the shocking renewed aggression by Dutch imperialists against the freedom and peace of our Indonesian brothers.

"It is my prayer and belief that the Conference will reach unanimous positive decision on this grave matter which the Arabs and peoples of Asia can no longer tolerate ; and that the Conference will extend its sympathy and support to the peoples of Indo-China and North Africa still struggling single-handed against the evil of another European oppression and domination. The East will be happy and peaceful only when its peoples from Casablanca to Jogjakarta are helped to stand free and proud against any of their external enemies.'

From the Wafd at Cairo :

"In the name of the WAFD, mouthpiece of the Egyptian people and expression of her views and tendencies, I greet the Conference of peace and freedom called up at New Delhi, wishing it every success in its important task. The despotic and imperialistic spirit of imperiousness and domination which discards the rights of others has from time immemorial been the prime cause of the trends, discords and wars which rent the world asunder and weakened and impoverished it, obstructing humanity's progress towards the goal of peace and happiness.

"No doubt the present Dutch aggression in Indonesia is an example of that destructive imperialistic spirit. This is why all well-wishers and peace-loving people in every part of the world welcome the New Delhi Conference and entertain great hope in it, not only by denouncing Dutch imperialism and unveiling its evils but also by adopting practical measures to combat and overcome it. By so doing you will be serving the cause of right and justice and will present to international organizations an example which they must take into consideration if they are sincerely anxious to maintain international peace and security. I avail myself of this opportunity to present to Your Excellency and to all the members of the Conference my best wishes and the expression of my highest consideration. Wishing you every success.

Moustapha el Nahas
President of the WAFD."

From the National Student Conference in Philippines :

"Greetings from Philippine youth. We hope for the success of the South East Asia Conference under your leadership and urge the formation of an Asian Federation to support Indonesian independence and safeguard freedom, and promote the welfare of the Asiatic people as a step towards the maintenance of world peace. We suggest the calling of an Asian Youth Conference to promote unity and understanding among Asian youth.

Teddy Abueva.

Polly Soleded.

Chairman National Student Conference , Philippines."

From the Editors "United Asia"

"The United Asia Magazine, Bombay, greets the Delegations to the Asian Conference and hopes they will pave the way for a permanent Asian unity and co-operation against imperialism.

Editors."

From the Indonesian Association for Independence at Cairo :

"On behalf of thousands of Indonesians in the Middle East in particular, and the people of Indonesia in general, we beg to express our heartfelt thanks and sincere regards for Your Excellency's incessant efforts to defend Indonesia against the Dutch brutal actions in re-enforcing their evil system of colonialism in our country.

"We have no doubt that the Asiatic Conference under the auspices of India will adopt practical resolutions to end the Dutch colonial activities in Indonesia and to show the whole world that Asia could no more be made a plaything by the European imperialists, capitalists, and colonialists.

"We hereby beg to submit to Your Excellency, among others, the following appeals to be discussed at and adopted by the Asiatic Conference.

1. To render Indonesia immediate military assistance especially battleships, aeroplanes, arms and ammunition.

2. To render Indonesia monetary help on whatever practical and convenient basis.

3. To take every possible step to force the Dutch:

(*a*) to withdraw their troops from the whole of Indonesia ;

(*b*) to release forthwith President Soekarno and his colleagues.

"Having full confidence in Your Excellency's wise assistance and once again thanking Your Excellency. Yours etc.

H. A. Djabbar
President

Z. Hakim
Secretary"

From the League of Indonesia Youth Movement at Makasser :

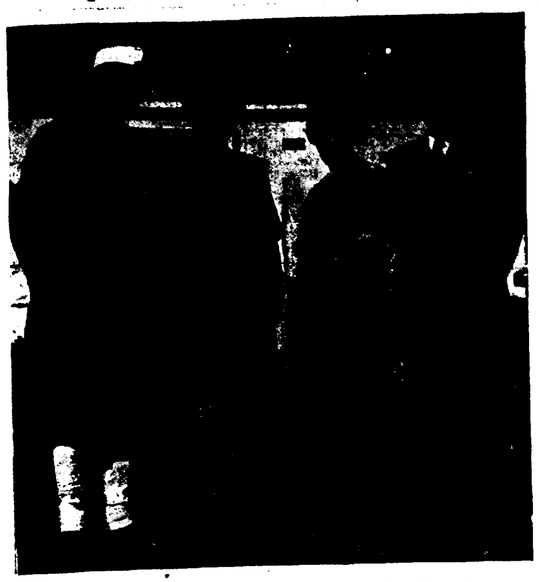
"Our immense gratitude for the sympathy and action taken on behalf of the Indonesian people who are struggling for the achievement of National Independence. May the Inter-Asian Conference be successful in asserting Asia's right.

President Suyatim."

From the Indonesian Independence Aid Committee at Singapore :

"On behalf of the Singapore Indonesian community, Indonesian Independence Aid Committee appeals to you to urge U. N. O. for a quick and peaceful settlement of the Indonesian dispute. We call for economic and communications sanctions by all States in Asia and the Middle East against the Dutch, and request U.N.O. to expel the Dutch from membership and demand withdrawal of Dutch troops from Indonesia.

D. R. M. GAUS
Chairman"



Commanding General Singha Shamshere Jang Bahadur Rana (right) Nepalese Delegate, and his wife (second from left) with Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Vijayalakshmi

From the India League of America at New York :

"We extend cordial greetings to the Conference on the Indonesian crisis. We trust the Conference will take such steps as will strengthen the hands of the Security Council to apply sanctions against the Netherlands and will adopt such practical measures as will give material, and moral support to Indonesian patriots. Please assure the Conference that progressive and liberal organizations in United States are being mobilized to bring continued pressure on the United States Government to strengthen its opposition to Dutch action by stopping E. O. A. aid to the Netherlands and lending material support to the Indonesian Republic.

J. J. SINGH
President"

From the W.F.T.U. Executive Bureau at Paris :

"On the occasion of the New Delhi Conference the W. F. T. U. Executive Bureau at its meeting of January 21, 1949, decided to ask you in the name of organised workers of the world to take all effective measures to stop Dutch aggression against the Indonesian nation. Also asks you to intervene for the liberation of the Trade Union Republican and Democratic leaders in Indonesia and for the establishment of a democratic regime truly representative of the Indonesian people and workers.

"The W. F. T. U. Executive Bureau declares that national independence can be ensured particularly by serious efforts in the field of economic reconstruction and industrialisation of all countries. This is the meaning the W.F.T.U. gives to its participation in E. C. A. F. E. and the Economic Social Council of the United Nations in which bodies the W. F. T. U. has consultative status in category of non-governmental organisations.

"To be fruitful and to guarantee real national independence, these efforts must be used with the aim of democratic development and social progress with the active participation of Trade Unions, free and representative of the working class. The workers must enjoy the full exercise of trade union rights and participate actively in the determination of the economic and social policy of their country.

LOUIS SAILLANT
General-Secretary

For and on behalf of the W. F. T. U. Executive Bureau."

From the Greater India Society at Calcutta :

"Greater India Society congratulates Asia Conference unanimity. Requests formation of permanent body.

KALIDAS NAG."

From Mr. Raza Ali at Karachi :

"Indonesian Conference only hope of regenerating Asia and Africa and strengthening United Nations Organisation if that body is willing to work in co-operation. Offer you my warmest congratulation.

RAZA ALI."



Dr. Thanat Khoman (right) Siamese Observer, and Mrs. Khoman (second from left) with Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Vijayalakshmi at a reception given by the Prime Minister

From the Secretary, Free Cambodians Committee, Bangkok, Siam :

"On behalf of the Free Combodians, who are still fighting for Independence, allow us to present to you our willingness to co-operate with the South-East Asian countries for suppressing Dutch Imperialism against our brother Indonesians. We pray you to convey the decision of all Cambodians to the South East Asian Conference sponsored by Your Excellency. We disdain the aggression of the Dutch against the sovereignty of Indonesia which violates the Charter of the United Nations."

From the West Indian Society, McGill University, Montreal, Canada :

"Members of West Indian Society, McGill University, heartily endorse aims of your Conference and extend sincerest wishes for success."

From Mr. M.S. Massoud, Canadian-Arab Friendship League, Montreal, Canada :

"May your noble progressive efforts to unite all Asiatic peoples and to defend their vital interest against intriguing power politics be successful."

From Mr. M. Abdul Kadir, Indonesian Representative at Kabul :

"Being unable to be present at Delhi during Conference as other Indonesian Representatives, please allow me to express my heartfelt desire as follows: India, Leader of Asia and champion of Indonesian freedom will strain every nerve and leave no stone unturned to stress every need in achieving fruitful and effective solution for the Indonesian problem in the Asian Conference."

From Mr. M. Kaddara, General Secretary, Council for the Liberation of Libya, Cairo :

"On my own behalf and in the name of the Libyan people still groaning under the stranger's yoke, I send Your Excellency and Honourable Members, Delegates to the Conference, on this memorable occasion heartfelt greetings and express wholehearted support for their Indonesian brethren in their present gruelling struggle and bid Your Excellency Godspeed in your historic undertaking."

From Mr. Soekemi and Mr. Setia, Joint Secretaries, Indonesian Artists Association, Singapore :

"On behalf of the Indonesian Artists Association, Singapore, we ask Your Excellency to accept our congratulations for your efforts in convening the Conference of Asian Nations."

From the Korean National Assembly :

"We wish to give full support to the Asiatic Conference intended for the freedom and emancipation of all the weak nations of the world and hope earnestly and respectfully that your anticipated results will be gained. We are convinced that on this occasion the firm unification and persistent struggle of one billion Asiatic peoples will result in crushing the aggressive Imperialism and in achieving the independence of the Indonesian Republic as soon as possible It is our earnest hope to have the opportunity to co-operate with all the friendly nations for the permanent freedom and peace of Asia and of the rest of the world."

From the Secretary of the Indonesian Labour Party of Cairo, Egypt :

"It is with the deepest feeling of gratitude that we, The Indonesian Labour Party of Cairo, Egypt, receive the news of the active sympathy manifested by the Government and the People of India towards Indonesia.

"We sincerely hope that our brother-Indians will utilize every possible means to thwart the cruel Dutch from achieving their unjust imperialistic ambition in Indonesia.

"They are trying to re-enslave us, but your inestimable co-operation with us will do much to negate that unthinkable plan of theirs."

From General Romulo, Manila :

The following telegrams were exchanged between Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, Philippine Representative to the Indonesian Conference, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:—

"Please accept this expression of my appreciation and that of my Government for the generous hospitality you extended to the Philippine Delegation during our stay in your city. May I also reiterate my admiration for the remarkable ability, prudence and dignity with which you steered the deliberations of our Conference. Your initiative in calling the Conference is one of the boldest strokes of world statesmanship."

Pandit Nehru's Reply :

"Many thanks for your telegram. You are far too generous in your references to my contribution to recent conference on Indonesia. Such success as the Conference achieved was the result of joint effort by representatives of all participating countries. If I may say so, your own share in the successful outcome of the Conference was appreciated by all. We were happy to have you with us and hope that you may visit India again. You know that you will always be welcome."

Banquet to Delegates

The entire Diplomatic Corps with the exception of those who were absent from Delhi, were present at the Banquet given by H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India to the Delegates to the Indonesian Conference, on January 23, at Government House, New Delhi.

Others present were Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, Ministers of the Indian Cabinet, Shrimati Vijayalakshmi, India's Ambassador to Moscow, Mr. Girja Shankar Bajpai, Secretary-General, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations and Mrs. Bajpai, Mr. K. P. S. Menon, Foreign Secretary and Mrs. Menon, and the Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The delegates of all the eighteen countries represented at the Conference attended the Banquet.

The guests assembled in the brilliantly decorated Ball Room where they were presented to His Excellency the Governor-General. Then they moved to the Banqueting Hall where probably for the first time such a large international gathering sat down to Dinner.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, with Madame Lo Chia-Luen (extreme right) Madame Kyaw Nyein and M. Ismail Kamal Bey, at the banquet given by the Governor-General in honour of Delegates on January 23

Among those who attended the Banquet were: Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Ceylon), Sardar Najibullah Khan (Afghanistan), Dr. Lo Chia-Luen (China), M. Ismail Kamal Bey (Egypt), Mr. Mussa Noury Esfandiari (Iran), Syed Abdul Kadir el Gilani (Iraq), Mr. Mohammad Ali Hamade (Lebanon), Com.-Gen. Sir Singha Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana (Nepal), General Carlos P. Romulo (Philippines), Shaikh Nouvaffak el Alousay (Saudi Arabia), Dr. Thanat Khoman (Siam), Dr. Nizam el Kudsi, (Syria), Kadi Mohammad el Amry, (Yemen,) Mr. A. Maramis, Minister of Indonesian Republic, Mr. Inglis (New Zealand) Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan (Pakistan), U. Kyaw Nyein and Mrs. Kyaw Nyein and U Win (Burma), Mr. Getahoun Tesemma (Ethiopia), The High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs. Kearney, The Netherlands Ambassador and Madame Lamping, the U. S. S. R. Ambassador and Madame Novikov, the Czechoslovakia Ambassador and Madame Sejnoha, the High Commissioner for Pakistan, the High Commissioner for Ceylon, the Turkish Ambassador, the U. S. A. Ambassador and Mrs. Henderson, the Australian High Commissioner and Mrs. Gollan, Dr. Armin and Mrs. Daeniker, the Most Rev. Leo Peter Kierkels (Holy See), Dr. Gunner and Madame Jarring, Sardar and Mrs. Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Count Renzo and Countess d' Carrobio, U. Kyaw Khine, Senor Jose Cochrane de Alencar, and Monsieur and Madame Dowlatshahi.

SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF CONFERENCE

Reviewing the work of the Conference on Indonesia, Mr. Harishwar Dayal, Secretary of the Conference, in a broadcast from All India Radio on January 25, said :

As you know, the Conference on Indonesia called by the Prime Minister met in New Delhi from the 20th to the 23rd January. As the Prime Minister explained in his opening address, the aim of the Conference was three-fold :

First, to frame and submit to the Security Council proposals which would, if accepted by both parties concerned, restore peace immediately to Indonesia and promote the early realisation of freedom by the Indonesian people.

Secondly, to suggest to the Security Council what action it should take if either party to the dispute fails to act according to its recommendations;

Thirdly, to devise machinery and procedures by which the Governments represented at the Conference can keep in touch with one another for the purposes of mutual consultation and concerted action for the achievement of the purposes for which the Conference met.

You are by now familiar with the resolutions adopted by the Conference. I shall not allude to them in any detail, but shall draw attention to some of this more significant aspects. The first resolution, which has already been communicated to the President of the Security Council, contains specific proposals for the settlement of the Indonesian dispute, which threatens the peace of South East Asia and therefore of the world. It proposes a definite and practicable time-table for the restoration of the Republican Government, for the withdrawal of Dutch troops from newly occupied territory and the establishment of an Interim Government commanding the confidence of the Indonesian people, as well as for the holding of election to a Constituent Assembly and for the transfer of power.

Two Outstanding Features

There is nothing startling in this programme, but if it is carried out, as we hope it will be, there should by this time next year be a new independent State in South East Asia, namely the United States of Indonesia. It is impossible for the aspirations to freedom of the Indonesian people to be suppressed, and the wise course would surely be to bring about a peaceful transfer of sovereignty with the assistance and under the supervision of the Security Council.

Apart from its historic aspect, to which I shall refer later, the two outstanding



H. E. Dr. Vasco Vieira Garin, Portuguese Minister to India, presenting his credentials to H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, at Government House, New Delhi, on January 27

PORTUGUESE ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

THE new Minister for Portugal and Envoy Extraordinary, His Excellency Monsieur Vasco Vieira Garin presented his Credentials to His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House on January 27, 1949. Mr. K. P. S. Manon, Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, presented the new Minister to the Governor-General.

Dr. Garin said, "I am extremely honoured to present to Your Excellency the letters which accredit me as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Penlipotentiary of the Portuguese Republic to the Government of the Indion Union.

"I consider this particularly happy moment in my career, not only because I am presenting my credentials to such an eminent and illustrious statesman, but also because I am entrusted with the pleasant duty of initiating direct diplomatic relations between our two countries, which I am sure, will contribute towards the tightening and strengthening of the historical and centuries old bonds of friendship which unite them.

"As an old friend—the first country of Western Europe to have had the privilege to establish, in modern times, contacts and relations with India—Portugal has always followed with amity and interest the destinies of this great country and her peoples and therefore specially rejoiced when, in August 1947, India made her entry to full membership of the Comity of Nations.

"I wish to assure Your Excellency that Portugal desires to employ the best efforts to strengthen and foster her friendship with the new India, in a spirit of co-operation, loyalty and mutual respect. I will constantly endeavour to guide my mission in that direction, and veuture to hope that, in the fulfilment of this purpose, I will have the goodwill and assistance of Your Excellency and of the Indian Government.

"On behalf of His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic and in my own name, I express to Your Excellency the best wishes for the prosperity of the Indian Union and for the personal happiness of her leaders."

Welcoming the new Minister, the Governor-General replied, "I have no doubt that I and My Government will be animated by the same spirit as animates the people of your country and I am sure we shall both endeavour to do our best to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries."

After the presentation of credentials, a group photograph was taken. The Governor-General then conducted the new Minister to his Study where they talked for a few minutes before joining the other guests at lunch.

His Excellency Monsieur Vasco Vieira Garin was until recently Consul General at Montreal. He entered Diplomatic Service in 1931 and was Counsellor at the Portuguese Embassy in Washington in 1943-46. Later he became Head of the Political Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Lisbon, in 1946-47.



Mr. Noury Esfandiari, Iranian Ambassador to India, presenting his credentials to the Governor-General at New Delhi on January 22

INDIAN EXHIBITION IN PRAGUE

The glory of Indian culture running through milleniums came on view in Czechoslovakia's capital as Czech admirers of India, renowned Indologists and Czechoslovakians who had enjoyed India as their home at some time or other, held recently a public exhibition of their private collections of old and new paintings, sculpture, jewellery, Tagore's works in Czech, etc.

The Indian Ambassador, Mr. N. Raghavan and Mrs. Raghavan on January 8, visited the Exhibition which had already been visited by over 10,000 Czech people. Professor Lesney and others who had helped to organise the Exhibition received and showed them round the collections which revealed that contacts between Czechoslovakia and India began as early as the eighteenth century, and also how Czech enthusiasm had been steadily growing through the years for India's great men such as Shri Ramakrishna and Rabindranath Tagore.

SALE AND EXCHANGE OF URBAN IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on January 22, 1949, said:

At the first meeting of the Inter-Dominion Commission set up under the Karachi Agreement earlier this month, Indian representatives on the Commission suggested that a definite date should be fixed from which sales and exchanges of urban immovable property would be permitted by the two Dominion Governments. It was agreed that such sales and exchanges should commence from February 1, 1949, at the latest.

The Commission decided that the law relating to evacuee property in the two Dominions should be amended as quickly as possible so as to bring it into conformity with the agreements reached at the Inter-Dominion Conference. It was also decided that the two Governments will exchange draft amendments to their legislation for any comments, but action to enact legislation will not be held up for want of comments.

As regards movable property, it was decided that the Joint Committees which are to be set up for the purpose of supervising the agreed arrangements in this behalf, should discuss with Provincial or State Governments concerned measures necessary to ensure the safety of property owners and their representatives.

For expediting the exchange of revenue records relating to agricultural property, a definite procedure was laid down by mutual agreement.

Disposal of Evacuee Property

Another Press Note issued on January 27, 1949 said:

In the first meeting of the Inter-Dominion Commission held on January 14, 1949 it was decided that sales and exchanges of urban immovable property should be allowed to take place as early as possible and should in any case be allowed to take place from February 1, 1949. It is the duty of the Custodian and the Liaison Officers concerned to give property owners such information as might assist them in the disposal of their property.

Evacuee owners of property situated in West Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province should address their enquiries, in the first instance, to the Deputy Custodians of the district in which property is situated for obtaining the necessary information. As regards other areas, enquiries should be addressed as follows:—

Sind (including Karachi)—Custodian of Evacuee Property, Karachi.

Baluchistan —Custodian of Evacuee Property, Baluchistan.

Bahawalpur —Custodian of Evacuee Property, Bahawalpur.

Khairpur —Custodian of Evacuee Property, Khairpur.

If evacuee owners fail to receive a reply within a reasonable time from the Deputy Custodian or the Custodian, as the case may be, they may address the Liaison Officer of their own Dominion attached to the Custodian (and placed on the establishment of the Deputy High Commissioner at Lahore or the High Commissioner at Karachi). The Liaison Officer at Lahore will be responsible for answering enquiries relating to West Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Bahawalpur. The Liaison Officer at Karachi will be responsible for answering enquiries relating to Sind, Baluchistan and Khairpur.

Indo-Pakistan Agreement on Surplus Stores

The question of surplus stores lying in one Dominion and sold by the Disposals Organisation before the partition to a purchaser now resident in the other Dominion was discussed at the Inter-Dominion Conference between India and Pakistan held in New Delhi in December 1948, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on January 17.

It added: It was agreed that all such purchasers would be allowed the option of taking delivery of the stores before February 28, 1949, or of asking for the cancellation of sale.

Where the purchaser exercises the option of taking delivery of the stores before February 28, 1948, the Government of the Dominion where the stores are lying will give him facilities for transporting the stores to the other Dominion, if the purchaser so desires.

Where the purchaser prefers the other alternative and asks for the sale to be cancelled, the Government of the Dominion where the stores are lying, will refund to him in full any money which was deposited by him without deduction of any demurrage or rent. These arrangements will also apply to evacuees; and refund, where opted of, will be made to them direct instead of to the Custodian of Evacuee Property.

Persons now resident in India who purchased before the partition surplus stores which are now lying in Pakistan are advised that they should exercise their option before February 28, 1949, and request the Government of Pakistan either for delivery of stores or for a cancellation of the sale and for a refund of the money deposited by them.

Purchasers now resident in Pakistan who before the partition purchased stores now located in India should similarly exercise their option and apply to the Director-General of Disposals, New Delhi, or the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, or the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, as the case may be.



Mr. Sri Prakasa Appointed Assam Governor

His Excellency the Governor-General has appointed Mr. Sri Prakasa, at present High Commissioner for India in Pakistan, to be Governor of Assam in succession to the late Sir Akbar Hydari, said a Press Communique issued from Government House on January 29, 1949.

TRANSFER OF SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS FROM PAKISTAN

A Press Communique issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on January 19 says:

On the basis of agreements reached at the Inter-Dominion Conference held in Delhi in November last, it has been decided that transfer of Savings Bank Accounts standing open at Post Offices in Pakistan to Post Offices in India and *vice versa* shall be allowed in respect of all applications received up to March 31, 1949, irrespective of the date on which the account is actually transferred. The decision applies to all kinds of Savings Bank Accounts except deceased depositors' Accounts.

Depositors desirous of getting their accounts transferred to India are requested to apply to the nearest Head or Sub Post Office by March 31, 1949. Transactions will be allowed in respect of Savings Bank Accounts finally transferred from Pakistan to India subject to the rules applicable to similar accounts opened in India. In respect of the Teachers Provident Fund Accounts, the prescribed certificate should be obtained before any withdrawal.

Parcel post service to all Sectors of Berlin and the Soviet Zone of Germany has been temporarily suspended. No gift parcels for these places will therefore, be accepted for transmission, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on January 26, 1949.

INCREASED PRODUCTION AND HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, inaugurating the first session of the Central Advisory Council of Industries held at New Delhi on January 24

Pandit Nehru's Address to Advisory Council of Industries

ADDRESSING the first meeting of the two-day session of the Central Advisory Council of Industries on January 24, 1949, at New Delhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India urged upon labour and Capital the need for greater production so that there might be an all round improvement in the standard of living. The only object which should be kept in view, he emphasised, was the good of the Indian masses. Everything else must be considered of secondary importance.

Referring to nationalisation and "apprehensiveness of Capital and of some others" the Prime Minister remarked that he had no sympathy for those who were nervous. "It does not become people of capacity and intelligence to be nervous of something which may happen. We have to face facts and adjust ourselves. This business of capital being sullen does not do credit to the holders of capital," he observed. The resources of the Government, he declared, were directed towards increasing production and not transfer of ownership. No sudden or precipitate measures would be undertaken by the Government, Pandit Nehru said, for "it was patent that any industrial upheaval in the country will mean a lot of injury not only to the country but particular groups and specially the working class."

The following is the full text of his speech:

Dr. Mookerjee, Members of the Advisory Council for Industries, I am grateful to you, Sir, for inviting me here to address this Council; not that I propose to take too much of your time or to discuss the many difficult and intricate problems that you have before you, but rather to say something which I think is equally important and which may be said to be the background of all these problems.

We, as a Government, have had to face very difficult situation and problems in the course of the last year and a half. I think it may be said that in regard to some of them we have succeeded largely in solving them. In regard to others, we are on the way to solving them. In regard to others still, I do not know if we are on the way to solving them. I would put the problems that you have before you in the last two categories. Undoubtedly, in whatever field of activity we look in regard to India, whether in terms of peace or war, ultimately, the foundation must be a strong economic position of the country; every thing else depends upon that. If the foundation is not strong, then, the superstructure may not last; it may tumble down to crises.

Now, the first thing that I think we should aim at is this: perfect frankness with ourselves and with the people of this country. I do not believe in our trying to hide the facts of the present situation. That is not the way to meet them. I think, in this and in many other matters we might well follow the example that has been set by the Government of the United Kingdom, who have taken their people into their confidence, put their difficulties before them and asked for their support in getting over those difficulties.

There are undoubtedly difficulties before us, serious ones, and yet, at the same time, when I view those difficulties and our own resources and our own strength of will to deal with them, I have not the shadow of a doubt that we shall overcome them and go ahead. If I had that doubt in my mind, I do not think I would continue in the place I am. Still, I want to tell you in all honesty and perfectly straightly that we as a Government, are in no sense dispirited or despondent even in regard to this economic situation.

Multitude of Problems

We propose to go ahead as rapidly, but much more important, as soundly and as firmly as possible, not only in the hope, but with the conviction that we are going to grapple with it and solve it. I do hope you do not think that I am indulging in pious platitudes, because I do not wish to do so.

During the last year and a half we have been considering all this multitude of problems that face any great country much more so a country which has started on a new career of freedom and which has had to face an accumulation of old problems plus new problems, new problems caused by war, caused by the partition and caused by so many other reasons. How far we have succeeded or how far we have failed you may judge; the people of this country will judge; and ultimately history will judge. For, after all, it is as it must be, a balance of successes and failures. Nobody would presume to say that this Government has acted always rightly or wisely.

Nobody, I dare to say, can say that we have not tried to do our utmost and have not succeeded in a large measure in many things. Therefore, watching this balance at the present moment, if we look back, we can form our different opinions as to whether we have erred or we have succeeded. The point is that we must profit by our experience of trial and error, of success and failure. It would be a great folly for us as a Government to think that we must pursue a certain course of action even though past experience tells us that it has not been the right one or the successful one. We, therefore, propose to profit by that experience, to profit by the advice that we get from others, conscious always that we are as liable to error as now.

Basic Economic Problems

Now, you are going in this Conference to deal with some of the most vital problems that we have to face, basic economic problems of production, distribution, etc. In regard to these problems, there is a great variety of opinion. In fact, in most countries, political and other parties are formed holding one set of opinion or another. No doubt, in our own country also, as we go ahead practising the democratic process, parties of this kind will grow and will press a particular economic solution for this or that problem.

I do not wish to go into that question except to say this: that, first of all, whatever economic doctrine one may have in view as an ideal or practice, it depends on certain factors; it does not function in the air. It depends upon your resources, your ability to give effect to that doctrine or that policy. You may consider in an academic way, as they do in schools and colleges, a certain policy in the air more or less. But, when as a Government you have to apply it, you have to take into consideration a hundred practical factors, among them being the resources you possess and the resources more specially in trained human material.

In the ultimate analysis, nothing is more important for a country than trained human material; everything else is secondary. If India has got that trained human material—is going to produce that trained human material—it is well and I do not care what else happens to India. If you have not got that trained human material, all your policies, resolutions and other expressions of opinions do not mean much, because you have not got the wherewithal to give effect to any policy effectively. You know your India as well as I know my India and you can judge for yourselves whether we have got that trained human material. The type of trained human material one requires in the constructive activities of a nation, is not always the same as the type of human material that politics throws up in our assemblies and the like. Political material is important, of course. It lays down politics, draws up our laws, etc. Nevertheless, it has to be realised that a country cannot be run by politics alone and by politicians alone. In the course of the last year and a half, I have come across many sections of Indian humanity, more especially those who have been trained for a particular purpose and have formed some opinion about them which I propose to tell you.

A Tribute

Behind the tremendous malaise and uneasiness of mind, doubts and uncertainty in the minds of our youngmen and medley of facts, I have found definitely a very high standard of potential. Somehow or other the malaise comes in the way and does not allow that potential to become actual rapidly enough. It is becoming so, though not with the rapidity with which I would like it to become so. I have come across, more especially in the course of my duties, some types of persons. There is the army—I am not thinking for the moment from the point of view of warfare, but just of human material. I have come in contact with a very large number of our youngmen in our Defence services, Army, Air Force and Navy. I have also seen very competent observers here and from abroad examine these people in the army and give their opinions.

I think again purely from the point of view of standards of ability, our youngmen in the Army are an exceedingly bright lot, bright not because they wear attractive uniforms or sometimes talk in a rather exaggerated accent and the like which I dislike intensely, but bright essentially because they have got active and alert minds. The old conception of the Army, the brass hat conception of course, is no good anywhere. Observers who know what they are talking about have told us and I have found myself in agreement with them that our youngmen in the Army represent potentially and to some extent actually a higher standard than in any Army they have seen in the world. Now again, I am talking of the human material we have got.

Take another thing—a highly important thing—our scientific workers. I have had something to do with scientists in India and the conclusion I have arrived at is this that while every thing is not right with our science and it requires improvement, two things are quite certain. One is this that we have some, a few, of the topmost scientists in this country who can do the highest tasks of work. Secondly, we have a very fine lot of young scientists who, I regret to say, do not always get the opportunity to go ahead, but who will no doubt get that opportunity. So again in the scientific field the material is extra-ordinarily good.

These are the fields that count in the present and much more so in the future. Coming to another—an entirely different and separate Department with which I have been intimately concerned—our Ministry of External Affairs—we have had to build it up from scratch. In the last year and a half we have naturally tried to choose the best available talent and gradually to train it. A Foreign service takes a long time to grow, and no doubt we have much to learn still, but again, I think, I can say with some assurance that the young men and women in our Foreign Service can compare with any such anywhere in the world.

Now I just gave you three examples and I gave those particular ones because I myself have been personally connected with these more than with others and I have no doubt that those examples can be duplicated in other Departments of our national activities. So that so far as human material is concerned, I think we can rest assured that we have got it in this country, whether it is scientific, technical, Managerial or any type of skilled work. We have got them, given the opportunity. So far as other resources are concerned, everybody knows that India is a country full of wealth, of potential wealth.

Psychological Problem

Now then if we have this potential wealth and we have got the manpower available actually and potentially, then the problem before us is how to yoke the two. It is not an easy problem, but when the main things that are necessary are there, then even if we err here and there, even if we slip and fall, I have no doubt that the problem will be solved and if I may say so, fairly rapidly solved because every ingredient is there and all the powers in the country will go towards solving that. Therefore I have an infinite faith in the future of India. Let there be no doubt about it.

I may occasionally doubt many things that happened or dislike many things that happened and there are many things that are happening which are not agreeable and among those are some which are more psychological than anything else. I don't like the temper of the country to-day as a whole; I don't like the temper of the industrialists to-day as a whole; I don't like the temper of labour to-day as a whole. Let us be frank about it. You may add if you like that you don't like the temper of the Government as a whole. (Laughter) But it is a fact that you can go on discussing your problems in detail separately, but one of the main problems to-day for us to face is the psychological problem. It is not completely an Indian problem. It is an international problem and it exists in all countries as a result of all kind of developments, but we have to face it in India with our peculiar conditions.

Somehow the mind of the country is not directed towards solving our other problems, but is directed in narrow grooves, towards doing this or that to gain an advantage here or there for a particular group. It is said and I suppose rightly said, that capital is sullen and nervous and it does not know what is going to happen, and the word nationalization is thrown about as a kind of

nothing for himself; neither money, power, pleasure or position. And he must remember God 24 hours a day."

"And what do you mean by the word God?" asked Ceresole. "Truth is God," answered Gandhiji. "Truth is God and the way to Him is Non-violence."

On another occasion, I heard him say "I am struggling day in and day out for the independence of India, because I know it is the will of God that every country should be free. How else can we give our maximum contribution to the rest of the world?"

This self-imposed discipline of constantly reminding himself of the actual presence of God kept him free of all worry and anxiety, of all fussiness.

He was the least sentimental of men. He could always see the humorous side of things. Often in the Ashram, when we were getting up for 4 a. m. prayers, I would pass him, already at work, writing, writing. I would feel sleepy rubbing my eyes, only half awake, while he would crack a joke, as alert in the small hours before dawn as at any other time. A total lack of possessions makes one free from many a burden.

At Jaipur, a model was displayed of his room in Sevagram. Against the bed his long staff was leaning, below it were his wooden sandals; on a table by it his watch, his spectacles and his little China set of three monkeys who refused to see or think evil.

Tremendous Vitality

Another cause of his tremendous vitality was his acquired habit of never wasting time regretting over things.... He would build up some project perhaps over a period of years. Some new event, some unexpected crisis occurred which put an abrupt end to the whole work. There was no repenting. Such folly consumes far too much energy. Besides, was not the whole thing in God's hands? The plan had not been undertaken for any personal motive. Then leave the whole situation to God. Keep ready and alert and sooner or later another opportunity would present itself.

The same serenity was always noticeable in his speeches. Whether he was talking to a group of villagers in Bihar in 1934, stunned by the earthquake that had left their fields covered with 6 inches of sand and the bodies of their relatives under a piled up mass of rubble, or addressing the Round Table Delegates or the Congress Working Committee, there was the same economy of words, the same low, clear, even tones. He never talked down to his audience however illiterate or even uneducated.

It seems to me that with him gentleness and strength were in perfect balance. His strength showed itself occasionally in something of brusqueness, almost ruthlessness perhaps, as when a liquor-seller sat in front of him, talking about the bad way he earned his livelihood, yet trying to justify it, endeavouring to get Gandhiji's approval of making the best of both worlds. As I continued to draw out his fine thread, saying nothing but realising the humour of the situation, the man eventually ended by declaring 'You see, I must live.' There was a little pause.

As inevitably and deliberately as the yarn appeared, came Gandhiji's response. It was only one word. 'Why?'

The other element, the gentleness, is for me exemplified by the way he welcomed an idiotic woman, whose mouth being open dribbled. To me she was a repulsive creature. He beckoned her to him as he would invite a valued friend. He saw in her the reality which lies behind appearance, the very essence of God, which none of us can lose however much we try to stifle it.

His power came from his practice of identifying himself with the common man. Any one, who cares to train himself in the same way for the love of God, can achieve the same sort of balance.

"But we are of different clay" some say and some argue, "We are not so conceited as to imagine we could be like him."

This assertion seems to me a very subtle sort of self-deception. It sounds so modest and humble. But perhaps it is really the plea of the escapist who is unwilling to give up his addictions, his self-will, and the comforts his puny little ego so enjoys.

We know that the human race is today menaced with self-destruction. The common man and woman in every country long for peace to care for their children and cultivate their gardens. But there is no prospect of peace so long as we imagine that evil can be overcome by evil. Gandhiji proclaimed what all the great religions proclaim. What we all know deep down in our hearts, that we can only overcome evil with its opposite, that in evil is the ever-present seed of its own decay, that we are not pawns in a mechanised universe, but actually children of God, often silly but always precious, that in each of us a breath of God's spirit resides silently urging us, to choose between good and evil.

A few days after Gandhiji's death, people all round the world began to ask, "On whom will his mantle fall?" We thought of one person and another from other countries as well as from India. It was a fruitless search.

Then some more realistic person said, each of us should take a corner of it, even to do that would necessitate a revolution in our outlook; a self dedication to something that outlasts our little time span.

When in August 1947, Gandhiji was being inundated with telegrams, letters and cables of congratulations for having preserved Calcutta's peace over the 15th August, he grew tired of flattery and at last said: "Please don't praise me. It is only that just now in India, God is using my body as his instrument."

Now Gandhiji's body is no longer available for God's use, ought we not to train and offer our own?

MAHATMA GANDHI MEMORIAL PARK

Work started almost immediately after the first Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi for laying out a 95-acre park at Rajghat where Mahatma Gandhi's body was cremated. In the centre of this park on a raised platform will be erected a memorial. No decision has yet been reached on the actual design and shape of the memorial.

The Central Public Works Department, Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, is understood to be giving high priority to this project, and it is expected that a beautiful garden will emerge on the present site wilhin the next few months.

The area is at present low-level land and is liable to inundation. It is proposed to isolate a partition of about 12 acres by means of two bunds running on the North and East of the plot and joining the Power House Road on one site and the Bela Road on the other. The area so isolated will be raised by three feet by filling in earth and will be enclosed by wire-fencing. Along the fencing shrubs and hedge will be grown on the slopes of the bunds to provide a pleasant background. Two terraces will be made inside the plot by further raising the central two acres land by seven feet and still further raising the inner-most one-fifth of an acre (90'× 90') by ten feet.

Platform for "Samadhi"

The platform for the *Samadhi* will be surfaced with marble stone. A railing will be provided all round the *Samadhi* at a distance of 20 feet from it and the open space inside the railing will be paved with stone or cement flooring. It is also proposed to provide filtered and unfiltered water supply and two sets of lavatories inside the park.

Nine two-roomed quarters will be built near the Power House. The main approach road will be from the Bela Road and red *bajri*-surfaced car parking space will be provided between the road and the park. The park will be laid out with grass and flower beds and trees will be planted at suitable places.

The cost of this scheme is estimated to be Rs. 5,23,000.

SPECIAL POSTAL MARKS ON GANDHIJI'S ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, all postal articles on January 30, were impressed with a postal mark bearing the slogan "सब को सन्मति दे भगवान" (may God grant sense to every one) a quotation from the Mahatma's favourite prayer song. This postal mark was used in important post offices in India.

In Delhi post offices, stamps were cancelled with the postal mark bearing the same quotation.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, receiving credentials from M. Ismail Kamal Bey, Egyptian Ambassador in India, at Government House, New Delhi, on January 17

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

WELCOMING the first Egyptian Ambassador to India, His Excellency Monsieur Ismail Kamal Bey, who presented his credentials on January 17, His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, expressed the hope that the Ambassador's presence in Delhi would help to draw still closer the ties of friendship between the two countries.

The ceremony took place in the Ball Room at Government House, New Delhi, on January 17. The Grand Staircase leading to the Ball Room was lined by His Excellency's Bodyguard in their ceremonial uniforms of scarlet and gold. As the Ambassador alighted from a Government House car he was received by the Governor-General's Staff Officers and conducted to the Ball Room. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Sami R. Simaika, Counsellor, Mr. Aziz Shoukry, Third Secretary, Mr. Saleh el Abd, Commercial Attache, and Mr. Abd el Salem Ismet, Attache.

His Excellency greeted Monsieur Ismail Kamal Bey with folded hands and the Ambassador returned the salutation in the same style. Then they shook hands as the Foreign Secretary formally presented the ambassador.

After the presentation of credentials, a group photograph was taken. The Governor-General then conducted the Ambassador to his Study where they talked for a few minutes before joining the other guests at lunch who included, besides the members of the Egyptian Embassy, Mr. and Shrimati K. P. S. Menon, Mr. C. S. Jha, Major and Shrimati Kapur of the External Affairs Ministry.



M. Ismail Kamal Bey lays a wreath at the place where Gandhiji was cremated at Rajghat

Visit to Rajghat

Calling at Government House later in the afternoon, the Egyptian Ambassador and His Excellency the Governor-General drove to Rajghat where they placed wreaths at the place where Gandhiji was cremated.

His Excellency Monsieur Ismail Kamal Bey, who before his appointment was Director-General of Agricultural Bank in Egypt, is a scholar of Indian philosophy and Islamic Sufism. He has frequently expressed about the deep organic identity of the two.

In a recent interview before his departure from Cairo he said, "I have lived the thoughts of India and shared all her aspirations. India is a chief fountain of human spirituality, and every civilized man owes her a debt."

BURMESE PREMIER THANKS PANDIT NEHRU

Following is the text of a telegram dated January 8, from His Excellency U Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of the Union of Burma to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India:—

"My grateful thanks for your felicitations on first anniversary of Burma's independence and good wishes for the future. The people of Burma Union deeply appreciate assurance of India's friendship and sympathy."

DR. EVATT ON INDO-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS

The High Commissioner for India entertained Dr. Evatt and Dr. Burton recently at a dinner which was attended by all the leading diplomats in Canberra. Proposing a toast to the High Commissioner, Dr. Evatt referred to the happy relations and growing understanding between India and Australia and paid tribute to Pandit Nehru's statesmanship. The High Commissioner in his reply, praised Dr. Evatt's contribution to the solution of world problems and expressed appreciation of the friendliness, hospitality and desire for co-operation and good relationship that he had found everywhere in Australia.

bogey. So far as labour is concerned, labour on many occasions is undoubtedly deserving of great sympathy. Undoubtedly it suffers great handicaps. At the same time there is little doubt that quite apart from the hardships they may be suffering, there is a temper in labour to-day which I consider highly injurious for the good of the country. It is a temper which does not look far ahead, which is not too much interested even in working efficiently and increasing production which has got somehow uprooted from any firm stand and thinks that this is the best time to gain particular advantages which may or may not for the moment be justified.

I am not concerned with the merits of the question, but with the temper. Threats come to us about strikes and the rest and strikes are a well-known and often justifiable weapon of labour. So long as the social order is not changed and so long as an efficient alternative for the strike is not there and given effect to to see that injustice is not done to labour, the strike as a weapon must inevitably remain with labour. Either the country produces an alternative for the strike by social conditions which will avoid the strike or the strike remains. You cannot isolate this business either from the labour side or from the industrial side and view it as something apart from the conditions that prevail in the country.

Danger of Major Upheaval

Now it is plain to any person who gives the least thought to it that any major industrial upheaval in the country is going to do a lot of injury not only to the country as a whole but to particular groups and especially the working classes for the moment. I don't know what in the distant future it might result in. You have to decide whether you wish to bring about changes in the country by a sudden and complete upset or by some other process. Each person must be clear in his own mind about it. It is no good getting entangled with both the processes at the same time. Now a sudden and complete upset may have some advantages, no doubt, because you may think that you can write on a clean slate after that although in life there is no clean slate ever; even after a complete upset you don't have a clean slate. You have a very smudgy slate after that.

Nevertheless you may have a freer hand to move; perhaps. You need not rule that out but in considering this sudden and complete upset one should balance the advantages with the disadvantages. Sometime where there is no other way, one takes that course realizing the tremendous disadvantages that will flow from it, because it does not mean the upsetting of a whole generation. It does not mean quick results. Though it means that a whole generation goes by, when you again start building from the bottom, may be, you build more rapidly and more effectively and soundly, but then the next generation perhaps sees the building itself. The alternative to this sudden and quick upset and complete upset is some other method which should be as quick as possible but which has an element of continuity about it so that the gains, the society has, should not be lost in the process of change.

Those are the only two methods; of course, you can vary them or emphasise this aspect or that a pect. Now I think that it would be folly for us in India to think in terms of a sudden and complete upset. It would be folly, for a number of reasons. Reason number one: immediately and in the next few years, or may be, for many years to come, it would mean no improvement in anybody's condition, but a lowering of everything. Reason number two: It might imperil our freedom itself, our political freedom and indopendonce. Therefore, for the sake of something that might possibly happen in the fairly distant future, we imperil our freedom today, and decide to live on a very much reduced scale. And when I say "we" I am talking about the general mass of our countrymen who are already on a low level.

For my part I do not see how a sudden break can help them. Therefore, I discard it. Therefore, the other course left open to us is to have a certain continuity and have as rapid an improvement as possible, keeping that continuity going. Now, opinions may differ as to how best that can be done. But if the fundamental fact is accepted, that there should be continuity, and change on the basis of continuity, then difference of opinion, though great, is not vital. One's own opinion may change. I may change my views. It all depends on the circumstances and on so many social forces that are at work. All these things go to fashion policy, ultimately.

Nationalisation

Then I mentioned this business of nationalisation, and the apprehensiveness of capital and of some others. Now, first of all, may I say that I have neither any sympathy nor any admiration for the people who are nervous and fearful of anything happening. Having been accustomed throughout my life to taking risks, I like the man who takes risks, and the man who is nervous, and especially nervous in financial matters does not extract or extort my admiration. But quite apart from that, if I may say so with all respect, in the world today the nervous and fearful individual is not likely to win the race anywhere. It is the man and the woman who have guts in them, who have some spirit of enterprise, who do not bewail their lot, but go ahead despite depressions, that are likely to win, in whatever class of society they might be.

Is it becoming, I put it to you, for people with high capacity and intelligence, to get excited and nervous and start complaining, because something might happen or some speech had been delivered by somebody which frightens them out of their wits? You have to listen to many speeches, and very strong speeches, I may tell you, and among those who deliver the speeches will be the Prime Minister also (laughter). If we are frightened by speeches, how are we going to face facts which are much more important and difficult?

Look at the world today. How odd it is, how quickly changing; whether you like it or not, things are happening all over—big things are happening. We have to adjust ourselves to them; and not merely adjust ourselves, but also look a little ahead so that we may not be dragged in the wake of others, but we may pull or push others in the right direction.

Now, therefore, this business of capital being sullen, is a thing which does not do great credit to the holders of capital. I know the holders of capital are not just a few persons. It is spread out over a large number of persons, and a large number of the middle class folk are the investors in this country. But nevertheless, I think the lead is given often by the people at the top, and I should like them to consider that, living as we do, in this changing social order all over the world, when as Dr. Mookerjee quoted, even that high priest of the existing order, the President of the United States—even he speaks in a language in which probably no President of the United States has ever spoken, when all this is happening, no one can talk about petrifying the present conditions or keeping them static.

No Government can talk in these terms, or can act in those terms. If it talks in those terms, it is not speaking the truth, because no government can control the future. Nobody can. No Government can say how long it will continue to be a Government. But quite apart from that, no Government can guarantee the future in a changing dynamic world. It cannot say that it will lay down certain policies to which it will adhere with all its strength. If you talk about guarantees, then you don't appreciate the changing nature of the world today and of India which is undergoing this great transformation.

Take nationalisation. Nationalisation is ultimately not going to be governed by any policy laid down by this Government so much as by external factors. Neither those who oppose nationalisation are going to stop the process, nor those who wish to push it ahead regardless of consequences are likely to make much of it. Ultimately external factors will govern this process.

Government Policy

Generally speaking, as has been declared repeatedly, our policy is—and it is the only wise policy—to direct all our energies—apart from those basic industries which Dr. Mookerjee referred to—to direct our energies in increasing productivity, and not in seizing hold of existing institutions and things which are functioning, but rather in applying such resources as Government has, to something new so that we may add to what is already in existence. Of course, occasions may arise when in regard to a particular matter we may have to do it, but generally we want increased production and if Government have certain resources why should it just apply it to transfer of ownership, rather than apply it to tapping fresh productive sources? But all this depends, as I said, on the growing situation in the country and what social forces there are etc. As far as I can see, any kind of a full nationalisation cannot take place effectively, for a fair number of years, except for these noted industries that we have stated. This is big enough job for us. If we build those up, then the Government of the day can by this means and other means exercise a powerful control on many other factors.

But in addition to this, it is quite inevitable that if there is to be any kind of planning as there must be, we simply cannot leave things unplanned now with various controls and the rest. And planning means co-ordination, adjustment and certain measure of control; we just cannot do without it, whether it is in private industry or nationalised industry. Now, I put it to you, there is that in the present context, it does not do much good to any group to think too much in terms of its own present interests or what it thinks its present interests. They may be justified, and you may have a good deal of merit behind your argument, but the fact remains that unless we try to pull together and get over the psychological difficulty that we have got, we shall not get moving, in spite of our committees and conferences.

Industrial Strife

I do not want anyone of you, whether you represent labour or capital to give up your own particular ideology or way of approach to any problem. I do not mind at all a conflict of ideologies because out of the conflict something new emerges. I am entirely averse to any ideas or ideologies being extinguished or not allowed to function. I am not asking you, whether you represent capital or labour or any other group, to change your minds, shall I say, or give up your convictions on the subject, whatever they are. If they are well thought-out convictions, stick to them.

But do two things. First of all, try to think in larger terms, of India and of the world as a whole. Secondly, there should be clear realisation that we must avoid at all times and at all costs, industrial strife, and try to find an effective method for settling industrial troubles whatever they may be. We have tried to find them; and if they are not wholly satisfactory, let us improve upon them. But in any event, the possible or conceivable gains from strife are infinitely less. Or if I may put it the other way, the harm done by a strife is so great that any possible gain that may come in the end, is completely outbalanced by it. Therefore, I do beg of you—if you will forgive my using the word—to wake up a little and not remain rather passive spectators of the changing scene, but actively apply your minds and apply it amongst yourselves and also in order to advise us. We welcome your advice in this matter. I do not promise to accept every bit of your advice but we welcome it.

We welcome your advice as to how to push this carriage of India forward in regard to production, distribution, etc., etc. The year 1949 has just recently begun. Let us, in the course of this year, get over some of these psychological and other difficulties, and after a year or so, I feel that we will be in a much better position to go ahead in many directions. Then, if you like, let us have, ideologically speaking, a further consideration of these problems, whatever they may be. What I mean is, I do not wish to suppress your ways of thought. Put we will have better materials to judge how we can go, how fast and in which direction, after we have got over certain difficulties that face us to-day.

If we do not get over these difficulties now, then our pace will be slowed down so much that the movement itself will get restricted and the question of which way we go will become rather important. So, the first thing to do is that the movement should be accelerated and the whole structure of India stabilised and made firm. I have no doubt that when we meet together, all of us, and put our heads together, we shall find it far easier to go ahead in a particular direction that we decide. The natural test of that direction, the ultimate test—can only be on the basis of what is good for Indian masses. That is the only test. Everything else is secondary.

But what is good for the Indian masses does not necessarily mean, of course, that we should level down everybody to the level of the Indian masses. Our object is, while avoiding the ig differences in income and wealth which every country should aim at, to raise the level of the masses. The big differences in income and wealth provide the cause of friction and therefore, sensitive persons, progressively, do not like them. But that does not mean that we should bring our country down to a dead level, intellectually or materially. That will mean an end to all real initiative to progress.

I have put some of my ideas before you rather vaguely and rather disjointedly, so that you might consider the psycholcgical background while you are considering the material problems that face you.

DR. MOOKERJEE'S SPEECH

Industrial recovery and about fifteen per cent increase in industrial production over pre-war level during 1948, decrease in industrial strife, and marked improvement in the position of raw materials were some of the main points referred to by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in his presidential address to the first session of the Central Advisory Council of Industries, held in New Delhi on January 24 and 25, 1949.

Dr. Mookerjee outlined the development plans of the National Government in the field of Agriculture, irrigation, hydro-electric energy, transport and communications, and declared that "the policy of the Government is that existing undertakings will not only remain with private enterprise for at least ten years, but that they will be assisted to increase their efficiency and expand their production."

Following is the full text of Dr. Mookerjee's speech:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the first session of the Central Advisory Council for Industries. About a year ago the Government of India for the first time convened a conference of leading industrialists, labour leaders and representatives of Provincial and State Governments to seek their advice on the economic and industrial problems of the country. The deliberations of that conference were of the utmost value to Government in formulating their Industrial Policy as announced in April last. It is in pursuance of this policy that two representative bodies have been set up one to advise Government on labour problems and the other on industrial production and expansion.

In constituting the Central Advisory Council for Industries, it has been the intention of Government to secure the advice and assistance of representatives of the major industries of the country who can speak with knowledge and authority of the industries they represent. By participating in this Council, representatives of industry, of labour and State and Provincial Governments, all of us should be able to view our particular problems in a better perspective against the background of the needs and possibilities of the country as a whole.

The decisions and recommendations of such a body will naturally carry great weight not only with Government but with industry and labour as well. It is my hope that in the near future similar Advisory Councils will be set up in provinces also. We have provisionally constituted special Committees under the Director-General, Industry and Supply, dealing with important industries, so that problems peculiar to them, both in respect of their immediate and future needs, can be surveyed and co-ordinated from time to time. We will consider their reports in course of our present session, specially to examine how to step up production.

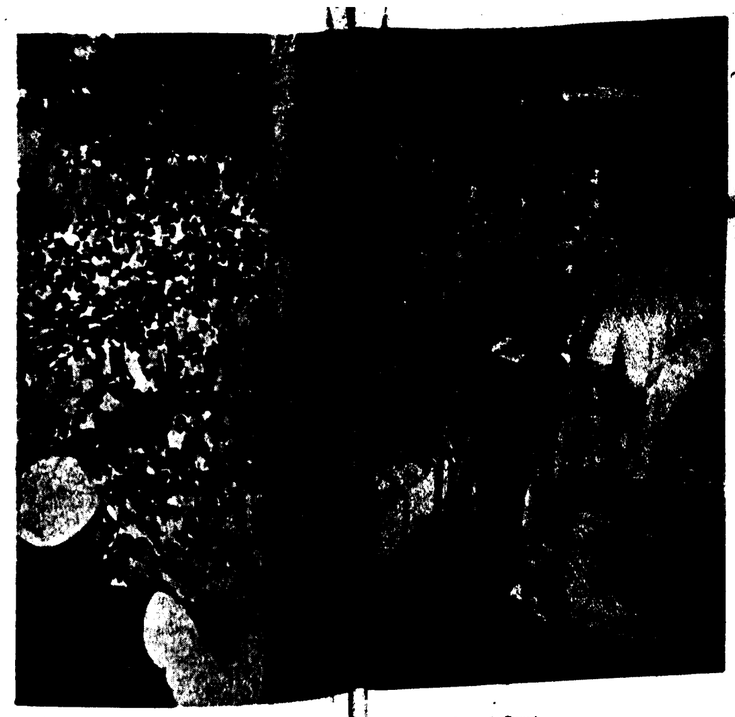
Industrial Recovery

This time last year, the continued tendency of production to fall caused the country great anxiety and was indeed one of the reasons which led the Government to convene the conference in December 1947. Apart from the disquieting fall in production in every field of industry, we were then perturbed by the unsatisfactory relationship between capital and labour. 1948 was, in comparison, better both in respect of industrial production and industrial peace. Much to our concern, however, during the major portion of 1948, the general economic situation worsened further. Prices rose rapidly while at the same time the flow of investment, whether into Government loans or into industries and commerce, perceptibly dwindled. The inflationary position was worse than in 1947, though many had believed and hoped that with the end of the war, there would be steady and progressive improvement in conditions of living in the country. You are already familiar with the measures that Government have taken to face the extraordinary situation in which while on the one hand, there is a marked inflationary trend, there is, on the other, a low level of investment and business activity.

However, despite a deterioration in the economic field which has to some extent been arrested only during the last quarter, the year 1948 may be said to have closed with some recovery in industrial production. Detailed figures.



Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of India, addressing a public meeting at Udaipur on January 14 during his recent tour of Indian States



Sardar Patel addressing a public meeting at Surat



Sardar Patel arrives to inaugurate the Saurashtra Constituent Assembly at Ra... January 24. Mrs. Pushpaben Mehta, Speaker of the Saurashtra Assembly, is leading ...



The Deputy Prime Minister with the Maharaja of Baroda at a reception held in his honour at Baroda



Sardar Patel takes a few moments off to spin at Bardoli Ashram during his crowded tour programme of the States

SARDAR PATEL'S VISIT TO INDIAN STATES



The Jamsaheb of Nawanagar explains the layout of the Sika Harbour to Sardar Patel and Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for ... Mines and Power, Government of India, on January 24



Sardar Patel also performed the naming ceremo... the Mahatma Gandhi Hospital at Jodhpu...

as far as they could be collected, have been included in the official memorandum. After a precipitate fall in production during the last few years, the beginnings of an upward trend are now visible. While industrial production had gone down in 1947 to about five per cent below the pre-war level, in 1948 India's industrial production was about fifteen per cent above the pre-war level, though it is still lower than the peak reached in 1943-44. The increases have been significant in many of the smaller industries of the country. There must be no undue complacency, however, at what we achieved in 1948. We have to proceed with greater vigour and caution in order to reach our target and secure a lasting betterment of economic conditions in the country.

We must not ignore that these increases would hardly have been possible without the great measure of co-operation which labour extended to industry, despite subversive influences and a steady rise in the cost of living in the first half of 1948. Loss in man-hours due to industrial disputes showed a downward trend from 147.11 lacs in January-September 1947 to 69.36 lacs in January-September 1948. Notwithstanding difficulties, both economic and political, the resolution on industrial truce has borne some fruit. I can only express the hope that this improvement will be maintained and we will all help to create a new atmosphere where capital and labour will regard themselves as partners in a great national endeavour to increase production and accelerate the economic progress of the country.

Increase in production and decrease in industrial strife do not exhaust the credit side of 1948. The neck of the almost proverbial transport bottle has become noticeably elastic, though it is still not as wide as one would wish. Our heavily loaded transport system has, on the whole, satisfactorily handled movements of food and textiles, and following recent decisions, we hope, during this year, to be able to provide adequate movement for certain essential commodities, like steel and cement. Improvement in this direction depends largely on the measure of co-operation which industry gives to the transport system of the country by better loading and unloading arrangements.

Raw Material Position

There has also been, in the course of 1948, a perceptible improvement in the raw material position, particularly of imported raw materials. The Open General Licence now covers a wider field than heretofore. Government's action in this respect has raised objections in some quarters. It is the intention of Government, however, after some experience, to re-examine the matter keeping in view the legitimate interests of Indian producers. The question of securing the raw materials of industry from overseas countries is constantly receiving the attention of Government. In respect of two of these, jute and raw cotton, we have cause for anxiety, specially arising out of the possible attitude that may be adopted by Pakistan. We hope that the growing realisation of the economic inter-dependence of India and Pakistan will enable the fulfilment of the Inter-Dominion Agreement in respect of these two commodities.

Government have taken preliminary steps for setting up or investigating into the possibility of the establishment of a number of important industries. In the memorandum circulated to you, a brief summary of these industrial development projects has been given. The schemes include the establishment of new Steel Works for increasing the indigenous steel production by one million tons, the desirability of constructing one or more shipbuilding yards, the manufacture of synthetic oil from coal, of Heavy Electrical Equipment, of dry core paper-insulated telephone cables, of radio equipment and radar, of machine tools, of diesel engines, of tractors, of pencillin, paludrine and sulpha drugs and of explosives. How far private enterprise may desire to be associatcd with some of these undertakings is a matter on which I would welcome the advice of the council.

Development Plans

For increasing agricultural production, the Ministry of Agriculture has a number of schemes, the most important of which is the reclamation of cultivable waste land through mechanised cultivation, by using heavy tractors and ploughs. An area of over 150,000 acres has already been brought under cultivation. The Sindri Factory with an annual production capacity of 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate, which we hope will come into production next year, and the contemplated factory for the manufacture of tractors, will, I trust, go a long way in increasing the much needed agricultural production.

The Ministry of Works, Mines and Power have under construction or investigation a number of large river valley development schemes which are multi-purpose projects of great magnitude, involving extensive generation of hydro-electric power and irrigation on a vast scale. These projects, when completed, will add over 27 million acres of irrigation to India's existing 48 million and about 9 million K.W. of hydro-electric energy to the existing half a million.

Plans to develop road and railway transport, telephone and telegraph communications and schemes for port development and civil aviation are being executed in some cases, while in others they are under investigation. The State-owned telephone factory recently established in Bangalore, which is designed to make India fully self-sufficient in regard to her requirements of automatic telephone equipment, and the factory near Asansol in West Bengal for the manufacture of locomotives, which is expected to be completed by the end of next year, are worthy of special mention. Another important scheme is the Assam Rail link project which will provide direct rail communication between Assam and the rest of India.

There is no doubt that these schemes and others, which are to be sponsored by private enterprise, will, when executed, contribute in a large measure towards the raising of the standard of living of the people. Full benefits of these schemes will not be available for at least five years and the problem before the country will be to tide over our difficulties during the period of transition. The policy of Government is, therefore, to encourage the execution of well-planned short-term projects which will yield quick and fruitful results. We have also felt the vital necessity of encouraging cottage and small-scale industries as a part of our national policy and for this purpose an All-India Board was recently brought into existence. At its first meeting held in Cuttack about a month ago, outlines of an All-India policy have been laid down which are now being implemented.

It will not be out of place to mention here that we have also made a beginning in the settlement of industrial standards. The Indian Standards Institution now covers three major fields of industry, Cotton Textiles, Engineering and Chemicals. The Institution has on its programme the introduction of certification marks to identify goods produced on I. S. I. standards. The importance of such certification to the maintenance of the quality of Indian goods in foreign markets and the promotion of our export trade needs no emphasis. Government intend, as soon as an adequate number of standards are settled, to provide for legal sanction to such certification. Though Industry has supported the I. S. I. in generous measure, it is still dependent for its finances on grants from Government. I hope that Industry will give its wholehearted backing in the future development of this Institution both by way of liberal financial support and by co-operation in its technical work.

Statistical data

We continue to suffer from an inadequacy of statistical data and machinery. By a recent amendment of the Government of India Act the Central Government will now be able to use its own machinery whenever necessary to collect statistics for its purposes. Apart from this, means are now being devised to secure greater co-ordination of the various agencies which already exist in regard to the collection of statistics, the avoidance of duplication and the more effective utilisation of the statistics when collected. We have impressed upon the Provinces the importance of statistical work and we hope to have their co-operation in the matter of collection of statistics which are their special responsibility.

No accurate statistics can be compiled without the co-operation of industry and I request you to extend your help not only in the preparation of the statutory annual census of manufacturing industries but also in the compilation of monthly statistics on a voluntary basis. We hope to publish the results of the census for 1946 and 1947 shortly. This census is the first systematic attempt to collect primary statistics of Indian industry as a whole and should be of great interest.

As I have said before, the statement of Industrial Policy as announced by Government in April last generally followed the recommendations made by the Industries Conference held in December 1947. Government are now considering the lines on which legislation should be undertaken to implement this policy. While I recognise meticulous interference by Government may well hamper industrial progress, and must be avoided, it will, I feel, be agreed that in order to implement a progressive national policy, Government must take the power to regulate and develop those industries which are of an All-India importance and are covered by our Statement of Policy. In the course of this session of the Advisory Council I shall welcome your advice with regard to the general outlines of any legislative measure that Government may undertake. I would also welcome your constructive suggestions for establishing better co-ordination and harmony between the administrative machinery of the Government on the one hand and industry and trade on the other so as to obtain quicker and more efficient despatch of business.

The role of foreign capital in India was discussed at our last Conference and has already been dealt with in our Statement of Policy. The Prime Minister proposes to make a statement on this matter before the Parliament during its ensuing session.

Nationalisation

As regards nationalisation of industries the idea seems to exist in some quarters that the Government have put an undue restriction on private enterprise to develop industry on its own initiative. Nationalisation, as ordinarily understood, means the complete exclusion of private enterprise from the nationalized field. On this definition, our policy as announced does not contemplate the nationalisation of any industry except those which are already under Government direction and management viz., Arms and ammunition, Railways and the production and control of Atomic Energy. The State has, however, assumed primary responsibility for the development of new undertakings in six other industries, viz., coal, iron and steel, air-craft manufacture, shipbuilding, manufacture of telephone, telegraph and wireless apparatus and mineral oils.

The policy of Government is specific that existing undertakings will not only remain with private enterprise for at least ten years, but that they will be assisted to increase their efficiency and expand their production. The question of their acquisition by the State will be a matter for review at the end of this period of ten years in the light of the circumstances then prevailing. Even as regards future undertakings in this field it will be open to the State to invite the co-operation of private enterprise wherever it is found that by so doing industrial development will be accelerated.

The Government's policy as regards the rest of the industrial field, which is a very wide one, is equally clear. No monopoly by the State is intended and private enterprise is free and welcome to play its due role in this sphere. The State may, of course find it necessary to undertake the establishment of new industries which are important from the national standpoint, or where private enterprise is slow to come into the field. State enterprise of this character should not create any prejudice or hostility in the minds of anyone interested in the progressive development of the country. It would be appropriate in this connection to remind you that even in a country so wedded to private enterprise as the U.S.A. the necessity for State intervention in Industry under certain circumstances is recognised. In his message delivered early this month to the Congress, President Truman recommended legislation to check inflationary pressures, which amongst other matters would provide "for the construction of such (production) facilities directly if action by private industry fails to meet our needs."

We are now living in an age of transition which is as difficult as it is momentous. It is not the time when we need fight with each other on the values of "isms." Of all the remedies suggested for the economic recovery of India, the most practical and effective is her increased industrial and agricultural production. This, coupled with the adoption of reasonable price structures and a better and more rational system of distribution, can alone raise the standard of living of millions of India's underfed and undernourished population.

I do not ignore the difficulties which confront us to-day. We are to-day moving in a vicious circle and are unable to reap in the economic sphere the full benefits of our political freedom. After all, let us not forget that the Government, industry and labour have to shoulder joint responsibility and they can justify their existence only if they succeed in serving the common man of India.

The recent decisions taken by the Government of India, especially in the Ministries of Finance and Labour, are calculated to create a new confidence in the minds of all concerned, so that by co-operative effort, we may dispel the existing atmosphere of hesitancy and distrust. Let us enter uopn our task with feelings of hope and confidence, unhampered by failures or mistakes of the past. Let each of us individually and collectively lead our country towards the goal of that economic peace and prosperity, based on equality and justice, which alone can make our political independence fruitful and purposeful.

COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

At its Session held on January 25, the Central Advisory Council of Industries considered the reports of the following 15 development Committees which had made several recommendations for increasing productions :

(*a*) Machine Tools ;

(*b*) Industrial Machinery Industry ;

(*c*) Non-ferrous Metals ;

(*d*) Radio Transmitters and receivers Industry ;

(*e*) Refractories, Ceramics and Insulators ;

(*f*) Glass and Enamelware ;

(*g*) Power Alcohol ;

(*h*) Paints and Varnishes ;

(*i*) Miscellaneous Rubber Goods ;

(*j*) Lamps, Cables, and Wires, Storage Batteries, dry batteries, electrical accessories and fans ;

(*k*) Plastics ;

(*l*) Heavy Chemicals;

(*m*) Tar Products, Fine Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals ;

(*n*) Leather ; and

(*o*) Paper, Newsprint and Board.

The Council decided that Development Committees should also be constituted for dealing with the problems of the Engineering Industry and Woollen Industry. It was considered that all Development Committees should be as representative as possible and normally organised Associations should be invited to elect representatives, but wherever necessary Government should nominate suitable persons to make them truly representative.

These Committees should meet at fairly frequent intervals and their reports should be circulated to all Provincial Governments and to all members of the Central Council which would normally meet about once in six months. The Council also generally discussed the position regarding Coal, Steel and Cement. It was also agreed that all Provinces and States should constitute Provincial and States Advisory Councils to consider the special problems of their respective Provinces and States.

Central Direction

On the question of development and regulation of industry under Central direction, the consensus of opinion was that the industries referred to in the Government's statement of policy and any others of like character, should be brought under Central control and regulation. The legislation for this purpose should empower the Central Government to plan development by a suitable and flexible method of approval of new undertakings, and to regulate production, lay down standards, etc. to the best advantage of the country.

The view was expressed that the draft bill should be finalised only after the provisions are discussed by the Government with an *ad hoc* Committee of industrialists, labour and other interests concerned, and after provinces are consulted. The view was also expressed that while powers to regulate industry should be taken by Government, such powers should be exercised as far as possible in consultation with and through the agency of the industries themselves and also through the agencies of Provincial Governments, wherever necessary. Central Government will have its own machinery.



Pandit Nehru presiding over a meeting of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research at New Delhi on January 19

SCIENTISTS URGED TO DEVELOP WIDER VISION

Research Council Addressed by Pandit Nehru

PRESIDING over a meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi on January 19, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, appealed to Indian scientists to think in terms of the largest context of the situation prevailing in the country and the peculiar developments which are taking place in the world today, and not merely in terms of separate schemes of research investigations.

The Prime Minister said that there was something radically wrong with the world in spite of the enormous scientific progress that has been made with the result that we are in the midst of power blocks and political and international conflicts. The progress that has been made should enable us to provide for humanity high standards of living which is not the case. He pointed out that during the 19th Century, when the Industrial Revolution introduced the large scale application of science to human welfare, there existed certain amount of equilibrium in the world conditions because Europe and America were comparatively advanced and Asia and Africa were backward and things could balance themselves. This balance has been completely disturbed in the present century due to the gradual development of Asian countries. Therefore, a process of adjustment is necessary as otherwise we will continue to have conflicts, may be catastrophies in the shape of big wars.

The Prime Minister appealed to the scientists and industrialists to think over their problems in this context and not too much in terms of their own parochial points of view. He said that specialisation was necessary but it produced certain amount of narrowness in outlook. It is, therefore, essential for Indian scientists to develop a wider vision, which is needed to understand things in certain historical perspective. As a matter of fact, each country thinks to some extent that its pattern of life is the best in the world and we have to contend ourselves against this narrowness. Every pattern of life is to be judged according to the environments in which it is set. The scientists of India should, therefore, try to think in wider terms and face not only the short term aspects but also the long term aspects of their problems, which are based on larger issues.

Gifts of Buildings

The Prime Minister announced two gifts of buildings, one in Mysore and the other in Lucknow, to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to locate two of its National Laboratories. Symbolic of the Indian Princes' desire to identify themselves with the larger interests of the country as a whole, the Maharaja of Mysore has presented to the Council one of the biggest palaces in the country, the Cheluvamba Mansion in Mysore, consisting of over one hundred large halls covering a total floor area of 1,30,000 sq. ft. In this palace, which was formally accepted by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Council when he visited Mysore State last month, will be housed India's Central Food Technological Research Laboratory. Necessary funds have now been sanctioned by the Government of India to equip the building with laboratory facilities and services and research work on the various technological aspects of the country's food problems will soon be taken up for investigation.

The Laboratory will consist of three main divisions dealing with food processing, food engineering and biochemistry and nutrition, and seven subsidiary sections for handling problems in food storage and preservation, food substitutes and supplementary foods, raw materials and food survey, dietetics and field studies, food containers, food adulteration and food sanitation.

The Government of the United Provinces have also offered another historic building, popularly known as 'Chattar Manzil' at Lucknow. This building, which has about 60,000 sq. ft. floor area and 70 to 80 rooms in its three storeys, was Nawab Wajid Ali Shah's palace and till recently housed the United States Service Club. It will now accommodate the Central Drug Research Institute of India. With alterations to suit a modern science laboratory it would be ready for starting research work very soon.

With the establishment of these two central laboratories the first phase in the founding of a chain of national laboratories in the country initiated by Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar will be nearly complete. Including these two there will be altogether 11 national laboratories functioning under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and dealing with such subjects as Physics, Chemistry, Metallurgy Fuel, Glass and Ceramics, Electrochemicals, Leather, Roads and Buildings.

At this meeting was also announced the publication of the first volume of the *Wealth of India*, an encyclopedic dictionary of economic products and industrial resources of India, which is being compiled by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The whole work, it is estimated, will consist of six volumes and deal with over 4,000 subjects covering the natural resources of India—vegetable, animal and mineral. Each volume will be in two parts, one dealing with raw materials and the other relating to industrial products of the country. The first volume which is now available to the public covers the letters A and B of the alphabet and runs to 400 pages of up to date and comprehensive information on the raw materials of India.

Among other proposals adopted by the Governing Body of the Council, the most important was to set up plant scale investigations for low temperature carbonisation of coal at the Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, at a capital cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. By low temperature carbonisation 3½ million tons of coal, which has been estimated to be necessary for the production of India's requirements of soft coke, enough byproduct tar and oils would be available for the production of nearly 200,000 tons of synthetic petroleum by hydrogenation, and the byproduct gas produced could be utilised for domestic and industrial heating on a large scale. The Council has, therefore, recommended that this process should be adopted in India and the proposed plant at Dhanbad would carry out investigational work for adoption of this process to Indian conditions.

Optical Glass Manufacture

On the recommendation of the Council, the Government of India are now conducting negotiations with expert firms abroad for the production of optical glass which plays an important part in peace as well as in war. The Council has now suggested that investigational and pilot plant work should be taken up without delay at the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute at Calcutta. It has also been recommended that a team of ceramic and glass experts should visit the various centres of glass and seramic industry in the country and make a survey of their difficulties and problems and report to the Government as to what steps should be taken to improve the conditions in the industry and what help should be given for its scientific development.

It has also been proposed to set up, under the auspices of the Council, an ionospheric field station outside the city of Calcutta at a cost of over Rs. 80,000. At this station research work will be carried out on ionospheric conditions, knowledge of which is essential for efficient broadcasting and aerial communication. The field station will work under the supervision of the Radio Research Committee of the Council and the ionospheric data collected will form a part of worldwide collection of such data.

The Governing body has also approved of the proposal to constitute a Malaria Chemotherapy Committee which would co-ordinate and direct research and other investigations on malaria prevention and cure, now being carried out by various government organisations, universities and research institutes in the country.

On the recommendation of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research which held its meeting on January 18, 1949, also under the presidentship of the Prime Minister, the Governing Body sanctioned the following new schemes of research involving an expenditure of about a lakh of rupees :—

Preparation of drugs containing the coumarin and chromone nucleus, by Dr. D. Chakravarty, University College of Science, Calcutta.

Construction of Osmometer for High Polymer Research by Dr. S. R. Palit, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta.

Utilization of cellulose resources other than cotton by Mr. D. L. Sen, Cotton Technological Laboratory, Bombay.

Insecticides from tobacco by Dr. T. R. Seshadri, Andhra University, Waltair.

Chemical and pharmacy of Indian Ergot by T. R. Seshadri, Andhra University, Waltair.

Survey Fungus Flora of India in search of antibiotics, by Dr. S. R. Bose, Calcutta.

The Governing Body also approved the continuance of over hundred schemes of research investigations covering a vast range of scientific subjects such as applied physics, radio, atmospheric research, measurement of geological time, building research, heavy chemicals and electro-chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyestuffs, biological products, fuel, glass and refractories, vegetable oils and essential oils, metals and plastics, cellulose and esther.

These *ad hoc* research schemes which are in operation in various universities and research institutions all over India are financed by the Council at a recurring cost of Rs. 12 lakhs per year.

APPOINTMENTS IN NAGPUR HIGH COURT

The Governor-General has approved the following appointments in the Nagpur High Court :—

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivian Bose to act as Chief Justice of the Nagpur High Court from the date on which the Hon'ble Mr. Frederick Grille proceeds on leave preparatory to retirement;

(2) The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivian Bose to be permanent Chief Justice of the Nagpur High Court upon the retirement in February next of the Hon'ble Mr. Frederick Grille.

(3) Sri Vivekaranjan Sen, Advocate, to be an Additional Judge of the Nagpur High Court from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

RESEARCH WORK IN ATOMIC ENERGY

THE first conference of the Atomic Energy Commission met on January 20, 1949, at New Delhi to draw up a syllabus for the teaching of nuclear physics, chemistry and mathematics to the University students to equip them for research work in atomic energy.

At a further meeting held on January 21, the Conference appointed a Committee consisting of the following theoretical physicists, experimental physicists and chemists :

Dr. D.S. Kothari, Dr. R.C. Majumdar, Dr. N.R. Sen, Dr. K.S. Krishnan, Dr. D.M. Bose, Dr. Taylor, Prof. Saligram Bhargava, Dr. Mata Prasad, Dr. G.P. Kane, Dr. P.B. Sarkar and Mr. Jagdish Shankar.

Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Dr. K. S. Krishnan and Dr. S. N. Bose, members of the Atomic Energy Commission, will be ex-officio members of the Committee and Dr. S.N. Bose will act as the Chairman. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows :

To scrutinise the syllabus of teaching in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in the different Indian universities and to make recommendations with the object of bringing these courses to the level of modern standards. The Committee will pay special attention to the inclusion of basic knowledge in each subject which every student should know. The Committee will also draw up more advanced courses for those who wish to specialise in atomic science.

After these courses are drawn up they will be circulated to all the universities for suggestions. When these suggestions have been received, a final report will be submitted to the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Committee was asked to submit a preliminary report by the end of February so that they may be sent to the different universities in time well before the commencement of the next academic year. The Committee was also asked to investigate whether the courses it suggests could be divided conveniently into under-graduate and post-graduate courses.

NEW CHAIRMAN OF F. P. S. C.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. R. N. Bannerjee, I. C. S., Chairman, Special Recruitment Board, to be the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission with effect from the forenoon of January 14, 1949, consequent on the resignation of Mr. H. K. Kripalani. Mr. Banerjee will continue ex-officio to be Chairman of the Special Recruitment Board, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 15, 1949.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT TO BE MANUFACTURED IN INDIA

THE Government of India have decided to undertake the manufacture of hydro-electric and thermal plant in the country and the implementation of this decision may be expected within the current year. This was revealed by Mr. A.N. Khosla, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India and Chairman of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commi sion in the course of his presidential address at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Institution of Engineers (India) at Nagpur on January 22, 1949.

Mr. Khosla said that the country was at present importing most of its electric plant and equipment requirements from foreign countries. In view of the immense scope for electric development in India, it was most necessarily that this plant and equipment should be manufactured within the country. This would not only lead to overall economy but would be a most valuable insurance in the event of a national emergency.

River Projects

Referring to the river valley projects, Mr. Khosla said that four of these, namely, the Bhakra, the Hirakud, the Damodar and the Tungabhadra Dam projects were under execution. Others, including some major ones in the Central Provinces, were under preparation. "If all these projects were to materialize, a steady annual expenditure of nearly 100 crores of rupees spread over several years, will be involved. But the additional yield in foodgrains alone will be worth many times that figure.

Besides, these will provide enormous locks of hydro-electric power (running into several million kilowatts), large measure of flood control and extensive navigation facilities.

"Our newly won freedom," said Mr. Khosla, "has opened to us the floodgates of opportunity. It has brought home to us a realisation of the vast natural resources of our country, and, in the context of modern technical advance, of the unlimited possibilities for their development and utilisation. In no country and in no generation, did the engineer have such wonderful and virgin fields suddenly thrown open to him for the exercise of his initiative and creative genius."

Fundamental Problems

Mr. Khosla continued: The two fundamental problems before the country are food and cheap power, the solution of which will constitute our major task for many years to come. The other problems are clothing and housing, the manufacture of essential machinery, the setting up of basic industries and a general drive towards all-round resource development, which are so necessary for national well-being, self-sufficiency and integrity.

Our food imports involve a drain of over 100 crores of rupees annually on our resources in foreign exchange. Of this over one-fifth is from the dollar area. India's balance of trade with U.S.A. is unfavourable largely because of the need for import of foodgrains.

India has an arrable area of 460 million acres of which only 300 million acres are raising crops, and indifferent crops at that. Inefficient farming and lack of manure are among the contributory causes for low yields, but the determining cause for vast areas lying unproductive is the storage or almost complete lack of water required for raising crops. Besides, there are certain large areas throughout India which suffer from too much water in certain months of the year resulting in damage to crops and floods, and too little water in other months occasionally resulting in famine conditions.

Water—Key to Most Problems

"Water is the key to the solution of most of our problems," Mr. Khosla declared. 'It is needed for irrigation of lands to produce more food; for domestic water supply; for the generation of hydro-electric power; for purposes of industry, agriculture and manufacture of fertilisers; for feeding the vast network of inland waterways to enable cheap, expeditious and wide distribution of the products of agriculture and industry; and for providing facilities for fish culture to raise protective foods for the masses. Water is a perennial and inexhaustible asset and any development based on its use will be of a lasting nature. The conservation and utilisation of India's water resources is thus the biggest and most urgent problem. It is the privilege of you engineers to have to solve this great problem for immediate and future needs."

Nature has been unusually kind to this country. Her enormous water wealth is generally well distributed over her various regions. Barely six per cent of this is put to any beneficient use. The remaining 94 per cent runs waste into the sea, causing untold damage to life and property on the way.

Water Power vs Thermal Power

What is true of the water potential of India is more or less equally true of its water-power potential, Mr. Khosla said. In this respect India is very favourably placed compared to any country in Europe or even U.S.A. Power is produced from coal and other fuels or from water. India's reserves of coal, particularly high quality coal, are limited and it is, moreover, required for metallurgical use. On the other hand, her water resources are almost unlimited and inexhuastible. "Both from the point of view of permanency as well as installation and operational economy, it would be best to develop power mostly from water. Thermal stations should be limited generally to coal bearing areas, using only low grade coals and should otherwise be installed to serve as nursery stations to build up load in advance of the operation of water power stations. There will be cases where, to secure overall economy in the use of available water supply or for firming up secondary power, the installation of large thermal stations may be justified; but except in extreme cases, better results will be obtained by linking up adjoining waterpower stations in a grid. The pooling of power potentials so obtained will invariably result in increased firm power output at the various linked stations."



Three Indian Engineers now undergoing training at Toronto studying charts showing the network controlled and administered by Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission

India's water power potential, Mr. Khosla went on, may be 40 million k.w. or more. The present installed [illegible] is just under half a million k.w. of water power and nearly one million k.w. of thermal power. The annual per capita consumption of power (water and thermal combined) in India is 12 kilowatt-hours against 855 in U. K., 1775 in U.S.A., 3580 in Canada, 1717 in Switzerland, 3579 in Norway and 1743 in Sweden. "This gives a measure of the magnitude of our task and of the vast opportunities that lie ahead of the Engineer."

Mineral Resources

Most of India's vast mineral resources, Mr. Khosla continued, were lying unexplored and untapped. The output of essential materials like steel was only a fraction of her present day requirements and these requirements would increase manifold with the new development schemes coming into operation. The output of aluminium was insignificant. In view of the shortage of copper in India, enormous quantities of this metal would be needed for the thousands of miles of high and low tension transmission lines to be constructed for the great hydro-electric and other electricity projects. In addition to essential metals, there was need for more textiles, oils, chemicals, and host of other industrial products, required for self-sufficiency and if possible, export. "Our fundamental need, however, is the manufacture of heavy machinery for the production of essential goods," he said.

Mr. Khosla referred to the "happy example" of great industrial advance, in the absence of all essential raw materials, in Switzerland. "This land-locked country has very little of natural resources except waters from its mountains which provide cheap power. It is deficit in food because of insufficient culturable land. But this country has an intelligent, industrious and virile population of nearly 4.5 million who by their brains and muscle, more than make up for the shortage in natural resources. They import all the raw materials from far off countries and turn out finished goods at competitive rates. They manufacture all types of heavy machinery and other materials. Research in the technical field has reached a high water mark in this country. The standard of living of the people is among the highest in the world."

Stressing the importance of research and invention, Mr. Khosla said: "Until recently we have been content to live on the inventions and discoveries of outsiders and to leave all initiative in this direction to them. This state of affairs must change. We must now initiate research in India in all fields of activity. It will pay handsome dividends in better and cheaper designs and processes of manufacture and in imparting inside knowledge to our nationals. Failing that, in respect of invention and technological advance, we shall continue to be the camp followers of the so-called advanced nations of the West. We are sending scores of our graduates for technical training abroad but no training can be worthwhile if it is merely that of an observer. Real training comes through personal initiative and experience coupled with direct responsibility for execution."

Pleading for early implementation of development plans in the country, Mr. Khosla observed: "Now there is danger of delay because of inflation and the ascending spiral of high prices. But inflation notwithstanding we must proceed with our schemes of resource development. The proper way to combat inflation would be, not to stop productive effort and thus permit human material to stagnate through lack of opportunity and incentive, but to freeze surplus purchasing power and canalise it into means of production."

Concluding, Mr. Khosla said: The engineering profession "is on trial. The floodgates of opportunity have been opened to us. There is unlimited field for the exercise of our initiative, skill and creative genius. The many limitations in our way have been removed by the dawn of freedom and the subsequent integration of States. The common man is looking up to us for the betterment of his lot. There is a universal demand for achievement and not for plans and more plans."

In their approach to the new task, engineers had to remember that it was not enough to achieve results in isolation. It was necessary that they should take the common man into their confidence at all stages of their activities and educate him into the why and wherefore of their plans and designs, so that he might feel from the very start a genuine bond of kinship in their creative endeavour, and prepare himself in time for utilising the fruits of that endeavour. "You must come out of your shell and take active interest in the life of the people around you. It is most essential that you engineers do exercise a more effective voice in the administration of the country and bring to bear on this administration, your special attributes of precise thinking, balanced sense of values, organisational skill, understanding of human psychology and above all tenacity of purpose in the achievement of the objective. No longer should you be content to be represented by intermediaries outside your own profession. Through creative effort, ceaseless application and selfless devotion to duty you should move steadily but surely forward in your noble task of building up a New India."

Protection for Silver Thread and Wire Industry to Lapse

THE Government of India's resolution on the Indian Tariff Board's report relating to the Silver Thread and Wire Industry was published on January 19, in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary).

The Board has held that 'protection' has achieved its purpose in the case of this industry, that the industry is no longer in need of protection and that the existing protective duty should, therefore, be allowed to lapse on March 31, 1949 This industry has been protected since 1931 and is now well-established.

The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Board, and accordingly the protective duty will be replaced by a revenue duty as from April 1, 1949.

Ancient Industry

The Silver Thread and Wire Industry—an ancient cotton industry of India—has now attained considerable magnitude from the point of view of capital invested, number of persons employed and total production, reports the Indian Tariff Board.

Called upon to face severe competition from France after World War I, the industry was able to survive because of a high revenue duty imposed by the Government in 1922 and a protective duty of 50 per cent. *ad valorem* in 1931; the present duty is 60 per cent *ad valorem*. Since the industry is now well-established and there are no imports, the Tariff Board recommends that protection be discontinued.

The annual output of the industry, which employs 40,000 to 45,000 workers, is valued at Rs. 10 crores. Main centres of production are Surat and Benaras, with a few factories at Delhi, Jullundur, Ajmer and Bangalore. The total capital invested in Surat and Benaras is about Rs. 3½ crores.

Most of the raw materials required by the industry are available in India, and the quality of the indigenous product is at present as good as that of the imported article. The Tariff Board, however, suggests that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research should investigate the problem of manufacturing suitable diamond dies and should also depute technical personnel to study manufacturing processes in foreign countries. The Government should establish a technical school for the training of artisans. It is also recommended that the Provincial Governments concerned should set up a representative committee to report on how far and by what stages the Factories Act should be applied to this industry.

Pakistan is one of the important consuming centres of silver and gold thread manufactured in India. The Tariff Board suggests that in negotiations for a trade treaty with Pakistan, the Government should bear in mind the desirability of making duty-free the movement of *jari* and *jari* products between the two Dominions. The Government should also advise Indian Trade Commissioners abroad to examine how export markets in these articles could be developed.



Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, Government of India, inaugurating the All-India Labour Ministers' Conference in New Delhi on January 17

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI

Enquiry into Condition of Workers

LABOUR Ministers of the Provinces and States met in a two-day Conference in Council House, New Delhi on January 17, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour, Government of India. Inaugurating the conference, the Chairman said: "I welcome you to this Provincial and State Labour Ministers' Conference, and I am glad that all the Provincial and State Ministers are present here, and some of them had to cancel their previous programmes in order to attend to this Conference. I thank them all the more. We have got very important matters on the Agenda and would rather like to proceed straightaway with it.

"The question of freedom of association is a very important one and at the same time a ticklish one. We have circulated a memorandum in which we have simply indicated the broad outlines of the policy. If we decide upon the policies, the details may be settled by the Secretaries of the Central, Provincial and State Governments. Similarly in the case of legislation dealing with industrial relations, we have indicated broad principles, but the details will have to be settled.

"I am convinced and also some of my friends from the Provinces and States that in any legislation dealing with industrial relations, there should be a maximum measure of uniformity in our legislation, otherwise, it leads to a number of complications which confuses not only the authorities who have to administer those laws, but also the workers, who, for the most part in India are not so much educated. So from the point of view of administration as well as the point of view of the intelligibility of our labour legislation to the working classes, it is necessary that our legislation should be more or less uniform. I do not want to dilate on this point because it has got to be thrashed in our discussions later on.

"Another item of very great importance on our agenda is about the enquiry into the condition of agricultural labour. It has two very important aspects. Firstly, an effort should be made to improve the lot of that section of the working classes which has been so long neglected and whose condition is the worst. Another aspect of this questoin is that India today is deficit in foodgrains and we cannot afford to continue again importing foodgrains from other countries. We have to make every effort to be self-sufficient in the supply of foodgrains in our own country and that cannot be possible unless those who toil in the fields are assured at least a basic minimum wage or a wage which can be enough to meet both ends. This section of our community has been neglected for a long time, but consciousness is dawning upon them and we cannot afford to ignore that problem any longer. Otherwise, the consequences will be too serious. We are having already those consequences in some of our provinces, apart from political considerations.

An Appeal

"The question of self-sufficiency of foodgrains also requires that we should pay our immediate attention to this problem and I will make an earnest appeal to all my friends from the Provinces and States to extend their full co-operation in the enquiry and also in the steps that may be necessary to improve the lot of agricultural labour.

"Then there are other matters on the agenda which are also important not only from the workers' point of view, but from the broader outlook of the new social order that we have to establish, to which we are committed. The organisation to which most of us belong stands committed to the establishment of a new social order in this country, and most of the items on the agenda if implemented will take us further towards the attainment of that objective. I want your full co-operation in these matters and I want your co-operation in expediting the consideration of the items on the agenda and I propose that we should straightaway proceed with the items on the agenda."

Industrial Housing

Considering the report on Labour Policy and Administration for the period ending June 30, 1948, the Conference desired elucidation of the Central Government's policy towards industrial housing. The representatives of Provinces urged that the Provincial Housing schemes could be expedited if necessary financial assistance was forthcoming from the Centre. Replying to the discussion, the Chairman declared that the Central Government was expected to take a decision on this question shortly but in the meanwhile Provinces could proceed with their schemes. On the question of training of labour Officers and Labour Welfare Officers it was felt that the Central Government should undertake more responsibility.

Regarding the control of Employment Exchanges, representatives of Provinces and States unanimously urged that while their Governments were prepared ultimately to take over the administrative control of the Employment Exchanges they were not in a position to undertake the entire financial liability. The present arrangement of the Central Government contributing 60 per cent of the expenditure should continue as they were no less interested in industrial employment. They were convinced of the utility of the Employment Exchanges though some of them were of the opinion that there should be more reduction in their expenditure.

The Conference agreed that there should be timely submission of Provincial Labour Returns and in order to avoid delay the Labour Commissioners and Chief Inspectors of Factories, who are directly concerned with the compilation of statistics, were requested to forward a copy of the reports direct to the Director, Labour Bureau.

Discussing the Memorandum on Agricultural Labour Enquiry, the conference felt that there was urgent need for such an enquiry. It was decided that a survey be conducted in about 1,200 villages in Provinces including Chief Commissioners' Provinces and in 600 villages in the Indian States. The country will be divided into 18 units, and each unit containing about 100 villages to be surveyed, will be under the charge of a Supervisor, who will have a team of 4 Investigators and 8 Deputy Investigators under him. In addition, the assistance of University students and non-official organisations will also be taken in conducting the enquiry. The enquiry is expected to be complete within a year.

Freedom of Association

The Conference concluded on January 18, 1949, after a full and frank discussion on the ILO Convention of Freedom of Association.

Explaining the genesis of the Convention Mr. . Lall, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, said that Freedom of Association is regarded as one of the fundamental human rights and complaints were made to the UNESCO as well as to the ILO charging the Government of India and particularly its Provincial Governments with suppression of trade unions' rights and indiscriminate arrests of labour leaders. He thought that the Convention could be ratified safely as it took into consideration contingencies arising out of any emergency. It also provided that "in exercising the rights provided for in this Convention workers and employers and their respective and employers and their respective organisations like other persons or organised collectivities, shall respect the law of the land."

Essential Services

It was resolved that in the case of Essential Services of the State conditions should be provided as to make strikes unnecessary by the institution of machinery for resolving disputes by way of collective bargaining, conciliation and adjudication. In the case of employees belonging to the non-Essential Services they should be treated on a par with workers in private undertakings. Regarding Essential Services under private ownership, it was recommended that they should be treated in the same way as Essential Services under the Industrial Disputes Act. Civil servants were conceded the right to associate or organise but had no right to strike and they would be treated differently from other employees in matters of dispute.

The Conference then proceeded to a consideration of the amendment of the enactments dealing with Industrial Relations, namely, the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, as amended by the Indian Trade Unions Amendment Act, 1947 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The important amendments were in regard to compulsory recognition when there are two or more unions dealing with the same establishment or industry [illegible] inclusion of outsiders in the [illegible] of the union. As regards the former it was decided that an employer cannot be compelled to recognise more than one union and that he should be compelled to recognise only the one representative union as determined by the Labour Court.

It was also contended, that any union which resorts not to strike during the period of the Industrial Truce, should be recognised. Regarding inclusion of outsiders in the management of unions, it was recommended that the present provision in the Act which restricts outsiders to one-half of the total number of officers of a registered Trade Union should be amended to one-fourth or four, whichever is less.

There was a division of opinion over the question whether there should be one common basic law for the registration and recognition of Trade Unions and the conciliation and settlement of Industrial disputes throughout the country. It was felt that in the case of industries of an all-India character like insurance, banks, river transport, etc., the Central Tribunal should have powers to adjudicate.

The Conference agreed that in view of the indifferent attitude taken by employers in regard to the organisation of Welfare Trusts Funds, Government should take steps to introduce legislation for the setting up of Welfare Trusts Funds.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO WORKERS

Standing Labour Committee Meeting

THE Standing Labour Committee consisting of representatives of the Central, Provincial and States Governments, Employers and Workers met on January 19, in Council House, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Government of India.

The Committee discussed the implementation of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942. It was felt that statistics of industrial disputes should also be collected and the costs of production should be obtained in each industry.

The Committee accepted the suggestion of Government to dispose of the unexpended accumulation under the War Injuries Compensation Insurance Scheme in awarding scholarships to skilled workers for further training and providing welfare facilities for industrial workers. During the war every employer was required to take out a policy of insurance from the Central Government and that policy insured him until the termination of hostilities or until the date he ceased to be employed whichever was earlier. The Fund consisted of sums received by way of insurance premia or payments made on composition of funds or expenses or compensation awarded by the court out of any fine under the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943.

The Fund was utilised to pay sums required for payment of compensation to workmen, for the remuneration or expenses of agents employed for the insurance scheme and for payment of the cost of administering the scheme. The War Injuries Scheme has since been closed leaving an approximate balance of Rs. 4 lakhs. Out of this sum Rs. 2 lakhs have been earmarked for the award of scholarships to skilled labour for further training and another Rs. 2 lakhs for providing welfare facilities like libraries and recreational amenities for workers.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the various amendments sought to be made to the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, other than those connected with the recognition of trade unions and included in the Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1947. These proposals relate generally to the maintenance by Trade Unions of proper accounts and records and periodical inspection by Government agencies.

Welfare Facilities for Workers

The Committee concluded its two-day meeting on January 20, One of the amendments which related to the elimination of outsiders from holding office in a Trade Union, was opposed by representatives of Workers, who contended that the counsel of outsiders was essential to workers in this country who are yet in a state of backwardness. They, however, agreed to limiting the number of outsiders to one-third.

The Committee considered a scheme for decasualising dock labour at Bombay. The delay in operating the scheme was due to the absence of legislation and the necessary bill was being brought in the coming session of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) to have the scheme started.

The proposal to constitute Welfare Trust funds for industrial employees and introduce legislation for the purpose was welcomed by both representatives of Workers and Employers, but consideration of details of such a scheme was postponed to the next meeting of the Committee.

Printed Papers both registered and unregistered up to the maximum weight limit of 6½ lbs may now be sent to the French Zone of Germany, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on January 21, 1949.

PLAN FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

Agriculture Ministers' Conference

THE land reclamation scheme drawn up by the Government of India to meet India's food shortage, was approved in principle by the Ministers and representatives of the Provincial and States Governments concerned at a Conference held in New Delhi on January 18, 1949, under the Presidentship of Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Food and Agriculture Minister, Government of India.

Dr. John Matthai, Finance Minister, Government of India, and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture including Mr. B.R. Sen, and Mr. K.L. Punjabi were present. Among the Ministers and representatives of the Provincial and States Governments who attended the Conference were: Mr. M. P. Patil (Bombay), Mr. A.N. Jha (U. P.), Mr. Anugrahanarain Sinha (Bihar), Mr. R. K. Patil (C.P.), Giani Kartar Singh (East Punjab), Mr. Kanungoo (Orissa), Mr. Parulekar (Madhya Bharat), Sardar Narbada Prasad Singh (Vindhya Pradesh) and Sardar Inderjit ingh (Patiala). Jaipur and Bhopal were also represented.

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram in his inaugural address explaining the background of the present scheme of the Government of India said that the partition of the country had placed India in a difficult position. He emphasised that the artificial food shortage due to this partition has to be remedied as soon as possible. India has had an adverse balance of trade for some time and it is necessary to reclaim land which is at present lying fallow so that the country may reduce import of foodgrains.

The Foodgrains Policy Committee, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram said, had recommended reclamation of 9 million acres of land but considering the resources that were available or were likely to be available, the Government's plan was to reclaim 6.2 million acres during the next 7 years, of which 4 millions are weed-infested area and the remaining 2.2 millions are new land.

Financial Aspect

The successful operation of this scheme will largely depend upon the machinery and equipments to carry on large scale reclamation work, which have to be imported from abroad.

The Schemes on tubewell construction, fertilisers and fisheries also came up for discussion before the conference. The total financial requirements of the schemes are Rs. 266 crores of which, it is estimated that Rs. 71.08 crores would be required in dollars, Rs. 64.93 crores in sterling and the balance of about Rs. 131 crores would be expenditure inside India. The Government of India are considering how the dollar requirements can be found and whether an approach can be made to the International Bank on that account. The sterling expenditure will have to be met from India's sterling balances.

The domestic expenditure of Rs. 131 crores will have to be found eventually by the Provinces, but it was suggested that they would not be able to do this at once and that the Government of India should give ways and means of advances to them until they were able to repay the amounts so advanced out of the proceeds of the extra food-grains produced.

Tubewell Construction

The tubewell construction scheme envisages the digging of 4,565 tubewells in the provinces of East Punjab, United Provinces and Bihar during the coming three years. The representatives of the Governments of U.P. and Bihar welcomed the scheme as they felt that it would help in substantially increasing the food production in the provinces. The representatives of the Government of East Punjab said that they would communicate their views later.

Some of the other provinces and states, particularly Bombay, Jaipur and Patiala States Union suggested that the tubewell scheme should be extended to them also. Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram while welcoming the suggestion said that tubewell irrigation would be effective only in places where the existence of subsoil water in good quality and quantity had been proved. When preliminary exploration had proved the existence of the sub-soil water in other regions, extension of the scheme would, no doubt, be considered.

Fertiliser Scheme

The total requirements of sulphate of ammonia for the Indian soil, considering from the point of view of its availability rather than from the point of view of India's minimum requirements, for the next four years beginning from 1948-49 are 15,23,200 tons. This will cost a total expenditure of Rs. 71.57 crores, of which Rs. 15.22 crores will be required in dollars, Rs. 30.46 crores in sterling and the balance of Rs. 25.89 crores is for expenditure inside India.

The representatives of the Provinces also indicated their requirements to the Centre for the next year. The general view was that the present fertiliser supply for food production in India was extremely low and if any substantial increase in production was to be made, artificial manure should be forthcoming in good quantity.

The Fishery Scheme was placed before the Conference for information as it is an entirely Central responsibility. Certain provinces expressed the hope that the scheme would be extended further. For the present, the scheme proposes to set up a chain of well equipped Pilot Fishing Stations along both the coasts of India at Bombay, Cochin, Vizagapatam, Chandbali and Calcutta (or some suitable place near the mouth of Hoogly). It was felt that five stations were not enough for a big country like India and more stations should be opened.

Winding up the proceedings of the Conference, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram emphasised the responsibility of the provinces for increasing food production, as much as possible. He added that the food requirements of the country should be considered by the provinces as an all-India problem and the surplus areas should try to feed deficit areas rather than look to the Centre for support at all times. If, in spite of land reclamation and application of fertilisers and irrigation facilities, production of cereals was not sufficient to meet the demands of the increasing population, alternative foodstuffs like edible roots, etc., have to be developed.

Land Reclamation Scheme Explained

The urgent nature of the scheme for land reclamation, tube-well construction, etc., which was discussed in a Conference held in New Delhi with Ministers of Agriculture and Finance of the Provincial Governments concerned, was emphasised by a spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture in an interview on January 31.

The fundamental point in the plan, he said, was to make lands immediately available for increased food production so as to reduce and ultimately wipe out the necessity for food imports. It has been estimated that in undivided India there were 109 million acres of culturable waste land, but after partition this area has been reduced to 85 millions. A thorough survey of this area, the spokesman emphasised, for purposes of reclamation was likely to take a long time, even 20 years, but the need to increase food production was immediate in view of the continuous adverse balance of trade and the inflationary spiral of price levels. The plan, therefore, proposes to concentrate for the present on the reclamation of land in respect of which information is available and which satisfies two conditions:

(*a*) The lands are in large blocks of at least 500 acres each, so as to facilitate mechanical reclamation; and

(*b*) They are either scrub jungle with sparse tree growth or are weed-infested land.

The total area of 6 million acres which is proposed to be reclaimed, the spokesman added, had been furnished by the Provinces who had made an overall survey before supplying these figures. The statement (see table on next page) shows the areas of land proposed to be reclaimed in the Provinces concerned. The areas marked "new" consist mostly of Government-owned scrub jungle and the areas marked "weed-infested" are mostly private lands and require deep ploughing to eradicate the root system of the weeds.

Large areas of waste land in other provinces which are reclaimable are not included in the present scheme as the intention is to tackle those areas first which will lend themselves easily to mechanised operations so that maximum effort could be put forth in increasing food production within the shortest possible time.

The entire expenditure on the Scheme, *viz.*, Rs. 266 crores, is not required to be incurred in the course of a year. Various targets have been fixed for each part of the Scheme, land reclamation taking the longest time—over seven years. The dollar and sterling requirements of the Scheme, *viz.*, Rs. 71.08 crores and Rs. 64.93 crores, respectively, will be spent during a period of three years, for purchasing the requisite machinery and equipments. The Indian part of the expenditure, namely Rs. 130 crores, will be spent over a period of seven years. The scheme is self-sufficient in the sense that the entire costs are recoverable from the cultivators for whose benefit the reclamation is to be done and who, as colonists will be settled on the new lands reclaimed.

Referring to water requirements of the reclaimed land, the spokesmen observed that wherever possible irrigation schemes were being linked with reclamation schemes. He added that the *kans*-infested lands occur in areas where the rainfall is between 40 to 75 inches per annum. Yields out of this land have been calculated on the basis of production in a rain-fed area. Out of the 2.2 million acres of new land proposed to be reclaimed, 1.5 million acres are rice land situated in heavy rainfall areas, like the Tarai in U. P., and Orissa States. Special irrigation facilities are not necessary in these places. The remaining area is in the wheat-belt, and construction of tubewells which the scheme visualizes will be linked up with reclamation of these lands.

Name of Province or State.	New land (in million acres)	Weed-infested land (in million acres)
East Punjab	.5	*Nil*
East Punjab States	.2	*Nil*
Orissa	.5	*Nil*
Central Provinces	..	.6
United Provinces	.5	.3
Bihar	.3	.15
Madhya Bharat Union	*Nil*	1.4
Bombay	.3	.8
Bhopal	*Nil*	.4
Jaipur and Vindhya Pradesh ..	*Nil*	.11
Total:	2.2	3.76

Of these, it is proposed to take up about ½ million acres in the first year and increase the area in the subsequent years as the work gathers momentum.

There is a rigid system of import licensing in force in Burma of almost every article of importance which enters into the import trade of that country. Licensing to the regulations in force in Burma. Import licences must be obtained before the goods are shipped from the country of export.

Exporters should, therefore, make sure in their own interest that before they ship the goods to Burma, corresponding import licences have been obtained by their respective importers. The goods should also be consigned and ship documents prepared only in the name or names of those to whom import licences have been granted otherwise exporters run the risk of either the goods being confiscated for violation of import control regulations in Burma, or the goods being abandoned by the importers themselves, in view of the heavy penalties that are liable to be imposed for any deviation from the rules in force regarding import of goods.

IRON ORE UNDER EXPORT CONTROL

In view of the present transport difficulties, it has been decided to place iron ore under export control, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Ministry on January 28. A limited quota has been allotted for export to Japan and licences will be granted on the basis of contracts approved by SCAP authorities in Japan. The necessary applications in the prescribed forms should, therefore, be made to the Chief Controller of Exports, New Delhi, supported with evidence of such contracts. Applications for export of ore which has already reached the port and is awaiting shipment should, however, be made to the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta.

In view of the fact that the quota fixed for Japan is limited and as it is understood that quantities already contracted for by exporters exceed this quota, intending exporters are advised not to enter into any further contracts for export of iron ore to Japan or any other country for the present. Applications received against the existing contracts will be considered in the first instance within the over-all quota fixed for Japan and if there are any quantities still outstanding to be licensed for export to Japan, exporters will be advised accordingly.

Co-operative Farming in Matsya Union

The results of an experiment by the Central Ministry of Agriculture to settle refugees from Western Pakistan on 250,000 acres of land in Matsya Union (Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli States) vacated by Muslims last year, is being watched with interest by those anxious to try new methods of agriculture in India. Because of the complete absence of bullocks and other means of cultivation on this area, the Government decided to organise the refugees into village co-operatives and to cultivate the land with standard agricultural tractors.

As a first step, the Central Tractor Organisation sent out 48 tractors last August with the necessary technical personnel and equipment, which cultivated 10,000 acres. The first *kharif* crop has been harvested. For the next season 80 machines have ploughed up 12,000 acres, which have been sown with rabi crops which will be harvested next May. At present 120 machines are operating and it is expected that a minimum of an additional 15,000 acres would be ploughed up by April next. These will be given one more cultivation and sown with kharif crops in June or July when the rains set in.

Despite the handicap of the majority of the refugees having been landowners and not tillers of the soil, they are learning farming quickly. Forty-one co-operatives have been formed in 41 villages and both machinery and bullocks are being utilised. One pair of bullocks is provided for every 50 acres of land for lighter tasks like carting while machinery does the heavier work of ploughing and cultivation.

IMPORT TRADE CONTROL

Raw rubber and rubber manufactures including crepe sole were included in O. G. L. No. XIV for import from Ceylon, Iraq, Portuguese India and Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms along with other items, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on January 20, 1949. Raw rubber, is, however, under very strict statutory control in India, and free imports of rubber from Ceylon affects the operations of this control by the Rubber Board, It has, therefore, been decided to exclude raw rubber and rubber manufactures, including crepe sole from O. G. L. No. XIV and a notification is being published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of January 21, 1949.

Consignments shipped against contracts entered into prior to January 21, 1949 (if made on or before February 21, 1949, inclusive of 15 days grace) will be allowed to be imported without licence. Any shipments of raw rubber and rubber goods made on or after February 22, 1949 should be covered by valid licences. Licences will be issued on a restricted basis keeping in view the Indian demand, production and the price level.

INCREASE IN DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

ON May 16, 1947, the Government of India announced their decision to accept the basic pay structure recommended by the Central Pay Commission as well as the latter's recommendations in regard to uniform scales of pay and Dearness Allowance, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on January 20, 1949.

These were given retrospective effect from January 1, 1947. According to these recommendations, the minimum living wage for a working class family at the then cost of living index, with the exception of unskilled workers under 21 years of age, was fixed at Rs. 55, consisting of Rs. 30 as basic pay and Rs. 25 Dearness Allowance. For basic pay ranges from Rs. 50 to Rs. 1,000, Dearness Allowance was given at a rate rising from Rs. 35 to Rs. 100.

It was also stated that "a review will be made every six months and, as recommended by the Commission, any variation of 20 points in the cost of living index upwards or downwards will necessitate a change in the allowance."

On account of the increase in prices which occurred during the first nine months of the year 1948, there has been a persistent demand for a review of Dearness Allowance in accordance with the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. The Government of India have been giving careful consideration to this demand for the last three months. While they fully recognise the difficulties of workers on account of the increase in prices, they have had to take into account their financial position in coming to a decision on the question of Dearness Allowance.

Increase of Rs. 10

The possibility of increasing Dearness Allowance to the full extent of the increase in the cost of living index had to be ruled out, as that would result in serious deficits in the General and Railway Budgets and intensify the forces of inflation, which it is the imperative duty of the Government to fight in the general public interest. It was even doubtful whether, in view of these considerations, any increase could be sanctioned at all; but the Government of India, after taking all factors into account, have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to give much needed relief to those sections of their employees who have been hit hardest by the rise in prices.

The Government of India have, therefore, decided to give to all employees under the Central Government, other than Railway employees, who were drawing on January 1, 1949, a basic pay of less than Rs. 250 p.m. an increase of Rs. 10 p.m. in Dearness Allowance.

Those employees of Indian Government Railways who are now in receipt of Dearness Allowance as admissible to other Central Government employees will also be entitled to the above increase. Railway employees who are in receipt of Grainshop concessions will be given an increase of only Rs. 5 p.m., but they will be given another chance, up to March 31, 1949, to opt out of the Grainshops scheme for full cash Dearness Allowance, in which case they will be entitled to the same Dearness Allowance as others and also lump sum payments to which they would have been entitled if they had opted out of the Grainshops before January 1, 1949.

This new Dearness Allowance will take effect from January 1, 1949.

The Government of India are aware that the increase in the Dearness Allowance now sanctioned will put a heavy strain on the finances of the Central Government, including Railways, but they have been anxious to go to the farthest possible extent to mitigate the hardship to their employees caused by the rise in prices. They hope that the measures they have already taken, and which they propose to take in any near future, will not only prevent the further increase but will also bring about a progressive reduction in prices. They expect all their workers to co-operate in this essential task by increasing production and avoiding any action which is calculated to obstruct or slow down such increase.

ADVISORY TRIBUNAL FOR AJMER MERWARA

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on January 28, 1949 said:

The Government of India have approved the constitution of an Advisory Tribunal for Ajmer-Merwara to advise the Chief Commissioner whether in their view the grounds on which persons have been detained without trial in that Province under the Public Safety Act are adequate. The Tribunal will consist of the following members:—

(*i*) The District Judge, Ajmer-Merwara.

(*ii*) The Public Prosecutor, Ajmer-Merwara.

(*iii*) Mr. Devi Dayal Bhargava, senior lawyer of Ajmer-Merwara.

The Tribunal is not a judicial body. It will submit its report to the Chief Commissioner after considering the material placed before it and after calling for such further information as it may deem necessary. After considering its report the Chief Commissioner may confirm, modify or cancel the order of detention.

ALLAHABAD RADIO STATION

Mr. R. R. Diwakar's Message

THE following is the English text of the message in Hindi by the Hon'ble Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Allahabad Station of All India Radio on February 1, 1949:

"Yet another Station is being opened today in accordance with our broadcasting programme for the current year, 1948-49. A small studio which was linked with the Lucknow Station had been in existence here for the last 20 months. From today that studio becomes a full-fledged, though small, Radio Station. It may soon become a big broadcasting centre. We should feel happy over this and make full use of this new Station.

"This does not, however, meet all our requirements, because as compared with other civilised countries of the world, the progress which India has so far made in broadcasting is insignificant. On account of our limited resources we cannot achieve any spectacular results, yet we should continue to make all possible efforts towards expanding broadcasting, which is a valuable medium of education and recreation.

Need for Cheap Radio Sets

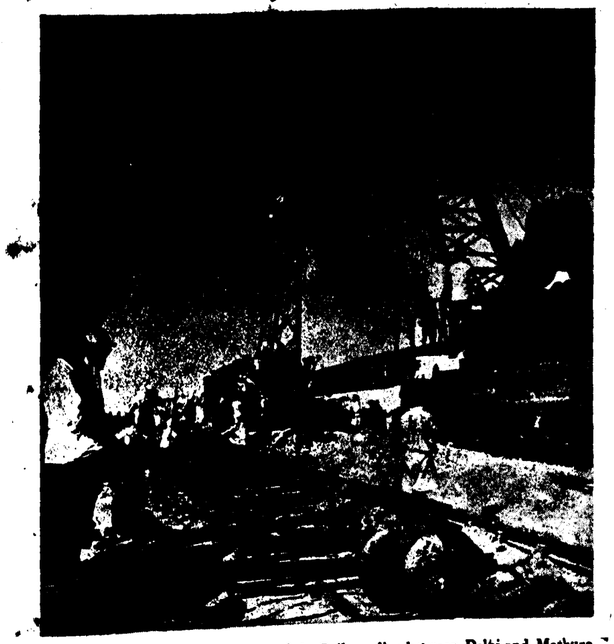
"While we are starting new Radio Stations, we have also to stress the need for cheap radio sets for the benefit of the rural areas. Unless that is done, we shall not be able to make the fullest use of this expansion programme. For this, it is essential that we should be able to manufacture in this country good and small radio sets which should be available to our villagers at cheap prices. The provision of electricity in rural areas is also necessary to achieve this end. Provincial Governments and the richer classes can do a lot in this direction. They can arrange for community radio sets which will benefit the maximum number of listeners.

"Allahabad is a big town of historical importance. It is the seat of a big University and the principal centre for the propagation of the Hindi language. The people of this region are also interested in matters cultural. In view of these facts, I hope that the Allahabad Radio Station will soon become a popular, useful and an ideal broadcasting centre, with full public co-operation."

The Allahabad Station is the 8th broadcasting station opened within the last 12 months.

The Railway Board have sanctioned a reconnaissance survey for a railway line on the broad-gauge from Chopan to Mirzapur via Robertsganj, a distance of 65 miles, in continuation of the previously sanctioned survey for a line between Lipri and Chopan. This survey, which will be known as Mirzapur-Chopan-Lipri survey, will be conducted by the E. I. Railway administration.

DELHI-MATHURA RAILWAY LINE



Work in progress on the doubling of the Railway line between Delhi and Mathura

Three-Stage Plan To Relieve Congestion

FEBRUARY 12, 1949, was the deadline for completion of Stage I of the work on the doubling of the Mathura-Delhi railway line. On that day the newly-constructed double-line between Delhi and Ballabgarh was opened. For some time, it will be used as a Down relief line between Ballabgarh and Okhla.

After Partition, merchants in India found it extremely difficult, if not quite impossible, to secure movement of goods from Karachi to the East Punjab and other areas which were served by the port of Karachi. Karachi thus ceased to be a port useful to India, and traffic to Delhi, the East Punjab and the United Provinces had necessarily to be diverted via Bombay. This imposed an additional strain on the limited track capacity of the Delhi-Mathura section, where several routes converge.

Towards the end of 1947, the Railway Board decided that steps should be taken to relieve the congestion and formulated a three-stage plan by which this could be achieved. Stage I involved the doubling of the track between Ballabgarh and New Delhi, a distance of approximately 23¼ miles; Stage II, the doubling of the line from Mathura to Chhatikra and Chhata to Hodal, a total of 20¼ miles; Stage III planned the provision of a new marshalling yard outside Delhi, if this work was considered necessary after stages I and II had been completed.

The G.I.P. and E.P. Railways received orders at the end of March 1948 to carry out the work on Stage I, *i.e.*, doubling of the line between Ballabgarh and New Delhi. An eight-month target was fixed from commencement to completion of the work. Consequently letting out, even part of the work, on contract was ruled out as involving risk of delays and all the work was done departmentally. This naturally meant recruitment of over 5,000 men and supervisory staff for earth work and track work, and the organisation of camping, grainshop and medical facilities which such a large labour force involved.

Labour had to be recruited from various areas far removed from one another such as Harda (C.P.), Gadarwada, Bhopal, Lalitpur (U.P.) and Dholpur. Hardly had the work commenced in the third week of April when cholera, which was introduced by imported labour from U. P. areas, broke out in the camp. Immediate steps had to be taken to inoculate all the labour in the labour camps and all new labour before recruitment.

The work of doubling from Ballabgarh to Okhla involved 55 lakhs of c. ft. of earth work, extension of 30 bridges including bridges of multiple 20-feet arch spans, and complete alteration of track and signalling in the four station-yards, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Tuglakabad, Okhla. Advantage was taken of the alteration work in the yards to work to the standard dimensions of future rolling stock by shifting passenger lines in the yards to wider spacing and extending and raising the platforms to higher level.

Difficulties Overcome

Considerable difficulties had to be faced in working to a time schedule. Apart from seeing that traffic on the section was disturbed as little as possible, the engineers had to face the antagonism of Nature's forces. For example, the earth work was in full swing when an exceptionally strong monsoon broke out this section and adversely affected the work in progress. It waterlogged several areas rendering them unfit for borrowing earth for the double line bank and caused a serious setback in the work on bridges on account of flooding of foundations which had already been excavated. It also caused unexpected and heavy de-watering problems for the foundations of bridges, and affected actual work on the field and on track alterations in the yards.

Then again, there was the problem of the three cuttings which necessitated blasting of 2 lakhs of c. ft. of quartzite hard enough to scratch glass. Drilling was so difficult that the drill bits became unserviceable even after a couple of inches had been drilled. At bridge 946, near Okhla, the bridge foundations were being continuously swamped out by the seeping from the Delhi sewage canal which constantly hampered the digging and later the concreting of the bridge foundations.

Other difficulties, which confronted the engineers, were those that concerned traffic. The section to be doubled fell at the end of a very busy section and operating needs had to be carefully watched in arranging necessary blocks for unloading material at the sites of various bridges. About 300 wagonloads of bricks, 100 wagons of wooden cast iron post sleepers and 50 bogies loaded with rails were required for carrying out this work.

Apart from the ordinary traffic that obtained, it must also be remembered that the Hyderabad and Kashmir operations meant additional military traffic on the section as these operational specials had to be given the highest priority. The remodeling work being carried out in the New Delhi yard at the same time caused further hindrance to the doubling work due to the necessity of stabling trains at stations near Delhi.

In spite of every difficulty with which the engineers were faced, the time schedule has been maintained pretty well.

DURBAN RIOTING: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S HELP TO SUFFERERS

NEWS of the rioting in Durban in South Africa with its loss of life and extensive damage to property has been received by the Government of India with great concern and has created deep anxiety throughout India, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on January 18, 1949.

The Secretary to India's High Commissioner in South Africa has been instructed to visit Durban immediately and to submit a full report. It is clear that these happenings are of the gravest character and a heavy responsibility lies on those who are responsible for maintaining peace and order. The Government of India wish to assure Indians in South Africa that they are deeply concerned at this tragic development and will do all in their power to help them.

Relief to Victims

Another Press Note issued on January 22, said:

In a recent press note the Government of India expressed their grave concern at the tragic happenings in Durban and its neighbourhood in South Africa. It is clear that without some basic causes such serious rioting could not have started and spread in such a short time. Various allegations have been made as to the causes and the course of the riots, but as the Union Government are appointing a Commission of Enquiry to investigate there, the Government of India withhold their opinion at this stage.

Government regret, however, the serious deterioration of relations between the Indians and the Africans in South Africa. Government's policy has been and is to promote good relations between Indians and Africans not only in South Africa but all over the continent of Africa and they do not wish that any vested interest should come in the way of the advancement of the African people in their own homelands.

The immediate task is the restoration of relations of mutual confidence and friendship between the two communities and the organisation of adequate relief to the victims of the riots. The Government of India have placed a sum of Rs. 50,000 at the disposal of the Secretary to the High Commissioner for relief and have instructed him to co-operate with all others who may be engaged in this task. Further sums will be placed at his disposal as they are required.

EMPLOYMENT FOR REFUGEE LAWYERS

Up to the end of December, 1948, the Special Employment Bureau registered 2,359 highly qualified refugees, such as lawyers, doctors, professors, school-masters, journalists, engineers, architects, accountants, statisticians, graduates of commerce, economics and science, zoologists, microbiologists, factory managers and others with high technical or academic qualifications and administrative experience. Of this number, 435 persons, including 23 women, were placed in employment up to the end of December, 1948.

The Ministry of Home Affairs was induced to take over a hundred young lawyers and graduates, registered with the Special Employment Bureau, as trainees with a view to appointing them as Assistants in the various departments of the Government of India. They have completed their training and have already been absorbed.

The Special Employment Bureau has been forwarding, from time to time, graded lists of highly qualified registrants to all the Provincial and State Governments, the Ministries in the Central Government and to important private firms. The Director of the Bureau has been visiting the more important employment centres outside Delhi with a view to securing employment for highly qualified refugees.

It will be recalled that the Special Employment Bureau was set up in March, 1948, by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for the purpose of providing a special employment agency for highly educated non-Government service displaced personnel from Pakistan. In July 1948, it was transferred to the administrative control of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour.

In order to secure the maximum benefit out of the Special Employment Bureau, it has been decided by the Employment Co-ordination Committee, at the instance of this Directorate-General that all Central appointing authorities should be directed to call for nominations simultaneously from the Transfer Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the special Employment Bureau and theEmployment Exchanges, although, other things being equal preference may continue to be given to the nominees of the Transfer Bureau. It was also decided to ask the appointing authorities to submit a periodical return showing the nature of vacancies and arrangements made to fill them, so as to ensure that all vacancies are duly notified to the three employment agencies mentioned above.

Phototelegrams can now be sent to Montreal, Australia, Egypt, and Union of South Africa, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on January 19, 1949.

Indo-African Co-operation

Mr. A.W. Kangeri, District Chairman of the Kenya African Union, an influential African Organisation, speaking at a public meeting held in honour of Mr. Apasaheb Pant, Commissioner for the Government of India in British East Africa, at Karatina on January 9, 1949, expressed the hope that Indians and Africans would co-operate in the building up of the country. He said that Africans would need the help of Indians in the development of agriculture and industries in Kenya. His Union had been told by its leaders to maintain friendly relations with the Indian community, and he would request the Indian community and the Indian Government, through its Commissioner, to help Africans, particularly in education.

He would like Indian schools, he added, to be thrown open to African students where they could mix with Indian boys and learn one of the Indian languages. He also emphasised the need for learning of Swahili by Indians. He expressed admiration for the way in which India had attained its independence and said that Africans would derive great benefit from the unique methods of public work and service inspired by the great principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

Africans looked forward, he said, to friendly co-operation and assistance from free India which was assuming the leadership of Asia. He expressed pleasure at the appointment of an Indian Commissioner whose guidance and friendship, he said, the Africans would always value.

Earlier, the Commissioner spoke briefly and assured his audience of free India's goodwill and friendship towards Africans. He appealed to Indians in East Africa to integrate their way of life with that of the other races and create a new synthesis based on the principles taught by Mahatma Gandhi.

Admission To Educational Institutions Abroad

For the purpose of imparting information and guidance to students wishing to proceed abroad, the Government of India have set up an Overseas Information Bureau in the Ministry of Education. Besides this Bureau, there are at present a number of University or Provincial Students' Advisory Bureaus in the Provinces and the States.

Students wishing to proceed abroad at their own expense are required to contact for information etc., the nearest advisory organisation in their province or State and also submit their applications for admission to that Bureau for onward transmission to the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Students of the areas in which there are no such advisory organisations may, however, apply direct to the Ministry of Education.

It is desirable that only students with good academic qualifications should seek admission in foreign universities.

RESETTLEMENT LOANS FOR REFUGEES

LOANS aggregating nearly half a crore of rupees have so far been sanctioned by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration for helping refugees to resettle themselves in business or industries. The largest loan sanctioned so far is Rs. 100,000 to a co-operative transport society in the Punjab. Another firm of refugees has been given a loan of Rs. 50,000. The average sum sanctioned per successful application exceeds Rs. 13,500.

As a general rule, the Administration sanctions loans only for the minimum amounts necessary to make the business or industry for which they are granted an economic unit. This is done with a view to spreading out assistance as much as possible. The loans so far sanctioned have covered a wide range of business and industrial concerns—from cloth business to printing presses and varnish and paint manufacture. These have also covered electrical goods, general merchandise, chemists and druggists shops, contractors' business, transport, motor car business, steel fabrication, sports goods manufacture, ice factories, printing presses, silk and cotton weaving, flour and oil mills etc.

A consideration borne in mind while considering applications is the number of refugees each loan is likely to benefit. Thus the loan for Rs. 1,00,000 granted to a transport company is expected to benefit directly 98 persons and indirectly another 200 persons with their families, or altogether about 1,500 refugees, counting five persons to a family. Similarly, the loan of Rs. 50,000 granted to another firm is expected to help ultimately over 300 refugees.

The Administration has its headquarters at Delhi and has branches at Simla, Calcutta and Bombay. It has a sub-office at Lucknow. Offices are expected to be opened in the near future in the Central Provinces and the Rajasthan Union.

Procedure for Applications

Hundreds of applications from refugees for loans, employment and registration are at present wrongly addressed to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, causing unnecessary work, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, on January 23, 1949.

The following procedure is announced for the information of all concerned:—

Loan schemes sanctioned by the Government of India are executed by the Governments of the Provinces and States and local administrations concerned. Applications for loans upto Rs. 5,000 or complaints regarding delay or non-payment of such loans should be addressed to the Governments of Provinces, States or local administrations where applicants reside in accordance with the procedure laid down by these Governments. Loans are not given to individuals but to co-operative societies, as a general rule.

Applications for loans for amounts exceeding Rs. 5,000 should be submitted to the Chief Administrator, Rehabilitation, Finance Administration, Theatre Communication Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi. The Administration is an autonomous body and applications in triplicate should be sent to it direct on prescribed forms which are available from the Administrator's office is Delhi or from its branch offices at Simla, Bombay, Calcutta and its sub-office at Lucknow or from district or Provincial authorities where applicants reside on payment of one anna per form.

Applications for financial assistance to refugee students for completion of their studies should be addressed to Provincial/State Governments where parents/guardians of the students reside.

As regards employment, displaced Government servants from Sind, N. W. F. P. and Baluchistan should apply to the Transfer Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs or to the Ministry of Government of India concerned with the department to which they were serving before the partition. Refugee non-Government employees should approach the local employment exchanges for their resettlement. Highly qualified refugees should submit their applications to the Special Employment Bureau, Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Gurdwara Road, New Delhi.

Refugee teachers should approach the Ministry of Education of the Government of India for employment. No useful purpose is served by submitting such applications to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation who are not in a position to help in this connection.

Applications are also received for financial assistance and employment from Indians who have been living so far in Burma and Ceylon. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation is not concerned with the relief and rehabilitation of such Indians.

Registration of refugees as well as the registration of claims for their properties lost or left behind in Pakistan, has been stopped. It is, therefore, no use submitting applications either to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation or to Provincial/State Governments in this connection.

Domicile Restrictions for Refugees Relaxed

AS a result of the follow-up action taken by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour, substantial progress has been made in the Provinces regarding relaxtion of domicile restrictions in favour of refugees. It may be recalled that, with a view to facilitating the absorption in the Provincial services of refugees from Pakistan who otherwise possessed the requisite qualifications, the Government of India had recommended to all the Provincial Governments that for the purposes of Government appointments, refugees from Pakistan should be deemed to be domiciled in the Province in which they wished to settle or seek employment.

The United Provinces was the first to accept the proposal of the Government of India. Since then the Government of Bombay has put refugee employment-seekers almost at par with the natives of the Province. Special provisions have also been made to facilitate the absorption of former public employees in Pakistan into the corresponding services in the Province. The Bihar Government are giving preference to refugees from Pakistan if qualified Biharis are not available. The Government of C. P. and Berar have relaxed the condition of domicile for recruitment to temporary vacancies and to permanent posts if candidates are willing to take up permanent residence in that Province.

The local Governments of Delhi and Ajmer-Marwara have agreed to relax the domicile restrictions for refugees from Sind, Baluchistan, N. W. F. P. and West Punjab and to consider them for employment if they possess the necessary qualifications. The Government of Orissa have accepted the principle suggested by the Government of India, for considering the refugees from Pakistan as, though they were domiciled in the Province, provided they are willing to settle there. Instructions to this effect have been communicated to the appointing authorities in the Province.

The Government of West Bengal have relaxed the domicile restrictions in the case of refugees of Bengalee descent from Pakistan. However, such refugee candidates must declare, before the appointing authorities, their intention of taking up residence in the Province. East Punjab has decided to amend its Service Rules in accordance with the suggestions of the Government of India.

The question of the relaxation of domicile qualifications in the case of refugees in Assam and Madras is still under the consideration of the respective Provincial Governments.

In pursuance of the Government of India's policy of decentralisation in the matter of execution of rehabilitation plans, it has been decided that the relief and rehabilitation work so far undertaken by the Women's Section of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation in Delhi should be handed over to the Local Administration, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on January 28, 1949.

AIR SURVEY OF NEPAL

INTERVIEWED on the proposal regarding an air survey which is about to be undertaken in Nepal, a spokesman of the Survey of India characterised reports which have appeared in the press recently as "somewhat misleading."

He explained that the Government of India, in agreement with the Government of Nepal, are undertaking surveys of about 7,600 sq. miles of mountainous parts of Nepal covering the catchment area of the Kosi river. These surveys will be published on the scale of one inch to a mile and are likely to be extended later to cover the catchment area of the Gandak river and other parts of Nepal. Published maps are, however, unlikely to be available before 1950. The whole work is carried out under the technical control of the Surveyor General of India. The whole of Nepal was surveyed by the Survey of India during the years 1924 to 1926 and these surveys were published in the form of maps on the scale of 8 miles to an inch. These maps have now been found to be on too small a scale for modern requirements.

Air Photographs

In accordance with modern topographical survey practice, air photographs are being used in the survey of Nepal. The work involved may be conveniently divided into four phases. Firstly, control work has to be carried on by triangulation by ground surveyors, to fix the positions and heights of points which are identifiable on the photographs. Secondly, vertical air photography of the area must be carried out according to the specifications laid down by the survey authorities. Thirdly, the photographs must be compiled using the position of points fixed by ground survey, and fair maps must be drawn from the photographs; and fourthly, the maps have to be published.

The survey of India had parties of ground surveyors working in Nepal last season fixing ground control by triangulation. These parties, which had to fix many stations, at high altitudes, worked under extremely arduous conditions.

The air photography is being carried out by the Air Survey Company of India which has undertaken similar work for the Survey of India for a considerable number of years. As Nepal is largely covered by very high mountains and as suitable weather for aerial photography is infrequent, the task of producing good photographs is very difficult. To date, rather over 2,000 sq. miles of the required photography has been completed and it is hoped that the balance of about 5,500 sq. miles, covering the remainder of the Kosi catchment area will be completed before or shortly after the next monsoon. The responsibility of the Air Survey Company of India in connection with this survey will end with the provision of photographs according to the required specifications, and such enlargements from them as may be needed.

The Kosi catchment area owes its present importance to the proposed Kosi dam which is to be constructed in the gorge through which this river passes to the plains.

The Survey of India has, for the last two years, had a large number of surveyors working in the plains of the foot of the hills in Nepal and in Bihar in the vicinity of the Kosi river, making surveys on the scale of four inches to a mile of the area which will be irrigated as a result of the Kosi irrigation and Hydro-electric scheme. These surveyors are preparing maps with numerous accurately fixed heights for the use of the engineers who will site and construct the irrigation canals.

"Although the use of air photographs supplied by an outside agency, to assist in map making, has been a feature of Survey of India work for many years," stated the official spokesman, "all actual surveys, mapping and publication are carried out by the Survey of India and there is no proposal at present to alter this system."

AIR SURVEY OF PROJECTS

Nearly every project whether irrigation or hydroelectric, town-planning or soil conservation, requires a survey before any useful planning can be done. A pamphlet "Air Survey for Development" recently published by the Survey of India illustrates some methods of the application of air photography and air survey in relation to practical planning for development projects.

For some purposes air photographs alone suffice for preliminary planning and take considerably less time to produce than line-maps. They are useful for forestry, geological and archaeological investigation, soil conservation or to illustrate where works are necessary.

In addition to the maintenance of ordinary topographical maps of India, the Survey of India undertakes special surveys for development. Many project surveys have already been undertaken and new demands are constantly being dealt with. Photographic facilities for air surveys are also now available.

NEW RAIL PRIORITY PROCEDURE EXPLAINED

EVERY rail priority order will henceforth be implemented and every consignment covered by such an order assured of movement. This will be the effect of the new rail priority procedure, recently announced by the Ministry of Transport, Government of India. There has been considerable criticism of late that priority orders have in some cases tended to become mere paper orders, as the requisite wagon facilities were not provided for one reason or other. The new scheme is designed to eliminate this frustration and to ensure fulfilment of priority instructions backed by an efficient follow-up machinery.

Priority Classes

There has been, during the last few months, a marked improvement in rail transport conditions particularly in South India, where bookings are being accepted in all the three priority classes. Elsewhere the position, though showing improvement, has been somewhat difficult. A recent check-up has revealed that in quite a few cases priority orders issued by the Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities have not been implemented either due to the failure of the consignor to produce the goods or due to wagon shortage. Further, the revalidation of priority certificates carried no guarantee that movements would actually take place or that the priority given was sufficiently high to ensure movement.

This non-fulfilment of priority orders, which has resulted in considerable hardship to consignors, has been due largely to the lack of an adequate follow-up organisation to keep track of such orders for purposes of fulfilment in good time.

Under the new procedure, each Regional Controller of Railway Priorities will, besides maintaining a running list of priority orders in the form of a register, scrutinise the list every day with particular reference to (*a*) items for which the period of validity, namely, 21 days, has expired and advice of movement fulfilment has not been received from stations and (*b*) items in respect of which specific complaints have been received. In respect of cases requiring spot inspection, he will arrange for the necessary investigations by the inspectoral staff.

If, on a scrutiny of the investigation reports, the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities is satisfied that the non-movement of goods is for reasons beyond the control of the consignor, he is empowered, under the new procedure, automatically to revalidate the priority certificate for a further period of three weeks, taking care to see that movement is ensured in a workable class of priority.

The Regional Controller of Railway Priorities has also been given powers, where necessary, to go further and direct that revalidated priority certificates should have precedence over other pending certificates in the same class issued after the original date of the revalidated certificates. The object is to ensure that by one or the other of the methods referred to above, the movement actually takes place.

Railways have been asked to register consignments covered by priority orders for stations for which operational restrictions are in force.



PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CALCUTTA

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, addressing a public meeting in connection with the opening ceremony of Gandhi Ghat on the bank of the river Ganges at Barrackpore, near Calcutta, on January 15. On the rostrum with Pandit Nehru is Dr. K. N. Katju, Governor of West Bengal. (Below, left) Pandit Nehru unveils a life-size portrait of Mahatma Gandhi presented by the Calcutta Art Society to the Corporation on January 14, during his visit to the city. (Below, right) Mr. Abdul Satar presenting to Pandit Nehru a purse of Rs. 50,000 at Calcutta on January 14. The donation will be used to construct a female ward named after the late Shrimati Kamala Nehru in the Tuberculosis Hospital at Jadavpur





are to be fulfilled, a socialised health service functioning at the highest level and providing health protection to all the citizens will have to be our objective and in such an organisation there will perhaps be little room for private practice.

"I anticipate that the doctor of the future will become a full-time public servant who will be required to devote all his energy to the duties entrusted to him by the State. I realise that the fear is widely held that such a development is likely to kill initiative as well as to blunt the edge of that ambition which now urges the man of ability to exert himself to excel over his co-workers. Surely such a danger should not really exist. In any event the way of meeting it should not be by refusing to move forward towards a socialised health service on the lines indicated but by promoting and establishing other and more socially desirable incentives for advancement than self-interest. Extended facilities for self-expression through study and research, opportunities to rise to positions of responsibility and trust as well as a general re-education of the individual so as to increase his sense of obligation to the community should, I urge, be some of the lines to be followed in stimulating the individual to give of his best to the service of the community. I hope many amongst your number will be drawn to a career of research so essential to scientific progress. This land offers in a special way a wide field for research, notably in diseases of varying nature but also in our indigenous drugs and in our ancient systems of medicine which have, for whatever reasons, remained static for centuries.

Our Poor Resources

"This is the long-term picture of health development as I see it. Today the position is quite different. The rates of morbidity and mortality are very high in the country. Our resources in trained personnel, institutions and funds are all too meagre to meet the requirements of the country. The number of doctors in relation to the population is somewhere in the region of 1 to 6,000 as against 1 to 1,000 in the United Kingdom and 1 to 750 in America; the number of nurses is in the region of 1 to 43,000 of the population as against 1 to 300 in England. The number of midwives is only about 5,000 in India.

"The Bhore Committee, while estimating the expansion that would be necessary within the period of a quarter of a century for the organisation of adequate health services, pointed out that in the case of doctors the increase would be in the region of four times, in the case of nurses about 100 times and in the case of midwives about 20 times. And what about the dentist? I believe I am right in saying that in the whole of India we have barely 1,000 well-qualified practitioners of dental science. It will thus be seen that the need of the hour is very much more for a rapid increase in the number of ancillary personnel such as dentists, nurses, midwives, etc.

"A disheartening feature of the situation is that even the existing number of doctors is not properly utilized for the benefit of the country. About 75 per cent of them live in urban centres while the population of the rural areas is seven or eight times that of the cities. Every inducement should be given for promoting the flow of doctors, nurses and other health personnel into the rural areas through the provision of better pay for such service as well as the development of amenities in the form of satisfactory housing, places for recreation and educational facilities for children. These conditions must be associated with any schemes of health development for the rural areas put forward by Governments in the country."

Observing that the present time was scarcely propitious from the point of view of Governments undertaking any large scale expansion of health services, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said: "The aftermath of Partition in the shape of the refugee problem, the Kashmir trouble and various other factors have all tended to swallow up the resources of the country leaving very little for constructive work in such fields as those of health and education. Even so, we at the Centre have not been standing still. In order to make some beginning in the matter of providing post-graduate training facilities in the country itself, the Government of India appointed an Upgrading Committee which is expected to report shortly and put forward proposals for developing training in particular subjects at different medical colleges and research institutions in the country. A Special Committee appointed for the purpose has been investigating the problems of environmental hygiene and it is hoped that its recommendations will prove to be of great value to the health authorities of the Central, Provincial and State Governments in developing this branch of health administration."

She added: "Medicine even more than other professions requires the services of the best men and women who are available. Our teaching and research institutions in particular must be manned by those who, by their ability and training will be able to contribute to their efficient functioning. I therefore stand for the elimination of any narrow sectarian or provincial outlook in making appointments to such institutions. I would even urge that, in this transitional period, we should not hesitate if necessary, to obtain the services, on short-term contracts, of suitable specialists from abroad until our own people can be trained to take up these responsible posts. Nothing but the promotion of the best interests of the country should be permitted to have any influence on the development of our health services and particularly of those which are concerned with the training of doctors and other health workers and with the running of our research institutions.

An Appeal

"I feel that India calls in a special manner to doctors and nurses, men and women of the highest calibre in character and professional skill. It is your duty to help your national governments both at the Centre and in the Provinces to usher in a new era in the realm of health. I appeal to you specially on behalf of our young mothers and children. The high incidence of mortality among the mothers of the race and the future generations must be reduced. Malaria and tuberculosis must be combated as also the other epidemics that take such a heavy toll of life. Above all, it is for you in your great sphere of service to set a high standard of integrity so that you may help India to rise to her full stature and maintain her erstwhile reputation of laying down the greater emphasis on that matter most—namely the moral and spiritual values of life. May you be given the necessary strength to give of your best and thereby find yourselves in service to humanity is my sincere wish for each one of you. May life be for your mission, its end not the search after happiness but a quest for knowledge and the fulfilment of duty."

EXCHANGE OF MENTAL PATIENTS

Indo-Pakistan Agreement

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on January 28, 1949, said:—

An agreement has been reached between the Dominions of India and Pakistan under which non-Muslim patients in the mental hospitals in Pakistan will be exchanged with Muslim patients in similar hospitals in India, provided that the relatives of patients concerned have migrated from one Dominion to the other and subject to the adjustment of any amounts that might be due on their accounts. This agreement applies only to those mental patients whose names are borne on the registers of these hospitals as on December 1, 1948.

The relatives and guardians of the non-Muslim patients concerned are requested to send the following particulars regarding the patients to Capt. T.D. Sachdev, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, New Delhi:—

1. Name of the patient
2. Age.
3. Sex
4. Father's name
5. Legal Guardian's name
6. Present address of the guardian
7. Place of birth of the patient, showing district and province
8. Date of admission and the name of the hospital admitted
9. Any other particulars the relatives or guardians like to give about the patients concerned.

EXPORT OF GRANITE ARTICLES TO U. K.

Granite monuments and other finished granite articles may now be exported to the United Kingdom on the same basis as under the Token Imports Scheme, *i.e.*, 20 per cent of the average pre-war trade, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on January 18, 1949.

Prospective exporters of such articles are advised to approach the Export Trade Control authorities at the ports for details and facilities.

INDIAN ARMY'S GIFTS TO KASHMIR

HUNDREDS of miles of new and better roads, a net-work of telegraph and telephone communications, two all-weather airfields and two Radio Stations, one in Srinagar and another in Jammu, are only four of the permanent benefits brought to the people of Jammu and Kashmir by the presence of the Indian Army in their midst.

In the past fifteen months the Army has expended crores of rupees in Kashmir either on public works or by way of payment for services rendered by the local people. Approximately Rs. 53,000 are spent every week on the purchase of foodstuffs locally for the Army, the principal items being vegetables Rs. 7,450, fruits Rs. 8,750, potatoes Rs. 3,300, meat Rs. 19,000, milk Rs. 7,750 and firewood Rs. 3,600.

The Indian Army has been giving away about Rs. 25,000 per day in wages to labourers and pony-men. Besides, a large number of labourers get free rations every day. Nearly Rs. 50,000 has been paid as compensation for coolies and ponies who died in harness.

The labourers have reaped the greatest material benefit from the construction of roads in the Kashmir Valley as well as in Jammu. More than 100 miles of road for vehicular traffic and as many miles of pony-track over high mountains, built at a cost of Rs. 3.4 crores, have become a permanent boon to the Kashmiris.

Out of the Rs. 75 lakhs spent by the Army in building winter huttings in the [illegible] about Rs. 30 lakhs went into the [illegible] of the local labourers in the [illegible] of wages and the balance of the [illegible]ount was utilised for the purchase of [illegible]cal timber. The Indian Army is paying Rs. 10,000 as monthly rental to the landlords for 65 houses occupied by its personnel and Rs. 40,000 monthly are being paid as cost of hire of furniture as well as purchase of "Bokharis" (Stove-heaters).

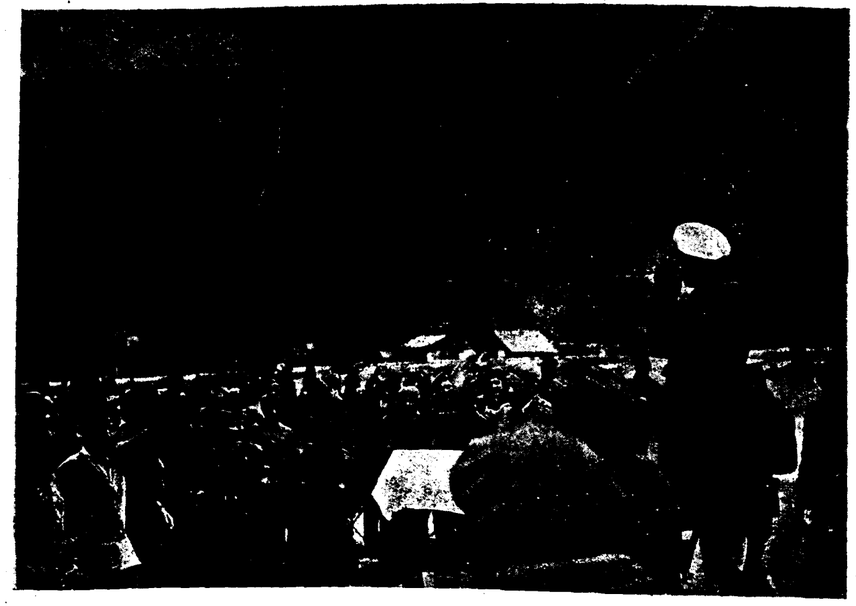
Industrial Recovery

While the Indian Army fought the invaders back and assured security of normal life to the people, the industry and trade of the State slowly recovered and in some instances even prospered. The Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, with the help of the Government of India, reorganised the transport system and, by means of special measures, stimulated the export trade of the State.

During 1948, silk factories in the State worked to their maximum capacity, their turn-out being 20 lakhs yards of silk cloth as against the annual average of four lakhs yards previously. Formerly Kashmir used to export 1,175 maunds of raw silk annually, but during the last year its mills not only consumed the whole quantity of raw silk produced in the State, but were wanting to import from abroad to meet their requirements.

Fruits to the value of Rs. 65 lakhs were exported in 1948 as compared with Rs. 29,81,000 worth of fruits exported in 1944-45. There has also been an appreciable increase in the export of woollen goods, embroidery and other fancy articles, metal manufacture and indigenous drugs. As regards the imports, salt, tea and piecegoods were imported in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the local population.

Tourist traffic in Kashmir used to bring handsome income to houseboat owners in Srinagar in the past. Last holiday season this trade suffered due to the unsettled and disturbed conditions in the valley. Only 5,000 people rented houseboats last year compared with an average of 30,000 in the previous years. The loss incurred by the houseboat owners has, however, been made good to some extent by the Army who gave them contracts to run Officers' hostels and messes. A number of houseboats have also been engaged to accommodate Army Officers.



Sardar Baldev Singh, India's Defence Minister, acknowledges the greetings of Indian soldiers after he addressed them at Uri during his recent tour of Jammu and Kashmir



RELICS OF LORD BUDDHA'S LEADING DISCIPLES

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, pays homage to the sacred relics of Sariputta and Moggallana Arahans, Lord Buddha's leading disciples, at Calcutta on January 14 during his visit to the city. (Below, left) Pandit Nehru examining the sacred relics of Lord Buddha's leading disciples. (Below, right) Pandit Nehru accepting the casket containing an Address of Welcome presented by the Mahabodhi Society of India at a reception held in his honour at Calcutta on January 14.





NEW APPROACH TO INDIA'S HEALTH PROBLEMS

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Message to Doctors

"I FEEL that India calls in a special manner to doctors and [illegible] men and women of [illegible] calibre in character and [illegible] skill. It is your duty to [illegible] national. Governments both at [illegible] Centre and in the Provinces to usher in a new era in the realm of health," observed the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, Government of India, in the course of Convocation Address at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in Bombay, on January 14.

The Health Minister said "In recent times, the scope and content of medical service have been rightly recognised as being something far more than the mere ministration of medical care, and medical men themselves have been foremost in insisting that in interpreting health and disease man must be considered in relation to the totality of his physical and social environment. Such a conception naturally emphasises the importance of the part that social service in its manifold forms can play in the development of a national health programme. Hence it is primarily as a social servant that I shall share my thought with you today for I am of opinion that, since the great profession to which you have the honour to belong is meant by God and nature for healing the minds and bodies of sick and suffering humanity, you are, first and last, servants of society in the highest sense of the term."

Doctor of the Future

Referring to certain spheres of health activity from a layman's point of view, she said: "I am of opinion that the doctor of the future, if he is to fulfil his mission of promoting the mental and physical health of our people to the highest possible level, should be a person of culture with many interests and one possessing wide sympathies. He should equip himself not only for the giving of medical relief to the people but also for helping them to prevent disease by knowing how to adopt and maintain that hygienic mode of life which alone will secure for them a full measure of capacity for productive work and for the enjoyment of life. This broader outlook on the function of a doctor brings with it the need for a new approach to the promotion of community health service, so that the contractual basis whereby medical aid is now made available to the people in relation to their ability to pay for such services may be replaced by a programme which provides adequate health protection as one of the 'national minima' which the individual citizen has the right to demand and secure.

"I venture to hope that, in such a comprehensive development of health services, the doctor of the future will find himself relieved from the continual pressure of a fiercely competitive world which today makes it difficult for him either to secure a life of reasonable comfort or give himself any opportunity for cultural development and that he will [illegible] liberated for [illegible] collaboration with his [illegible] men and other workers [illegible] field which is so [illegible] for the [illegible] of a national [illegible] programme [illegible] lines.

"Today the emphasis in the training of a doctor is on the development of his professional capacity. This is as it should be. The community has the right to demand that those who deal with the physical and mental disabilities of the people shall be as competent as possible from the technical point of view. Indeed, everyone must view with concern all attempts to lower standards of medical degrees on the plea that we must give some sort of aid and relief to the rural areas. Lowering of standards of education can never be a remedy for any disease. On the contrary they will, in the long run, defeat the very object in view. We must therefore stand for the M. B. B. S. as the minimum registrable degree for practitioners and I sincerely trust that all licentiates will take immediate advantage to the condensed courses now available to them. Modern medical science progresses at a rapid pace and it ill becomes members of the profession not to be up-to-date in every branch of the science. We must therefore have immediate and adequate upgrading of our colleges and I am longing for the day when we can lay the foundation stone of the All India Medical Institute, a dream that has too long remained a dream.

"In this connection I am glad to note and hope it may be possible in the near future to carry out the recommendations of the recent conference of Vice-Chancellors and representatives of Medical Faculties of our Universities which was called by my Ministry to suggest ways and means of maintaining a high and uniform standard of post-graduate study all over the country.

Human Approach

"At the same time technical skill and competence must always be supplemented by the human approach. The doctor often comes in contact with a patient when he is in a state of acute mental distress and on other occasions he may be suffering from a varying degree of mental and physical discomfort. An essential need for promoting recovery is that the doctor should be able to secure and maintain the respect and confidence of his patient. A mere technician, however expert he may be, will not always be able to do this by means of his medical skill alone. Understanding and sympathy, tact and patience are all necessary for winning the confidence of the patient and these qualities need to be cultivated if a man or woman is to become a successful doctor.

"The idea of social service can and should be fostered as part of the medical training. In addition some acquaintance with the humanities may well be considered as a necessary background of cultural training on which medical education should be built. I see no limit to the possibilities of enduring work for the people if our doctors and other health workers are permitted to secure an adequate background of general culture. The place of medical men and women in the lives of their patients is a unique one. The circumstances in which they meet and minister to their needs should help doctors to obtain an immense hold on the patients and, if the influence so secured is wisely used, the opportunities for directing their loyalties to right causes are innumerable.

Progress of Science

"The world cries out today more than ever before for a re-orientation of our outlook and for a fresh affirmation of our faith in the fundamental values of life. The progress of science has placed so much power in our hands that if, on one hand, we turn it to destructive purposes we may eliminate man and his civilisation altogether from the face of the earth. On the other hand, if we use it wisely and well, we may control effectively disease, disfigurement and destruction as well as secure the production of all the things that are needed for the promotion of the health and welfare of mankind. The medical man as a biologist and scientist is perhaps in a better position than others to understand and appreciate the fact that the worth and dignity of the individual must be the fundamental basis on which the structure of civilisation should be built.

"The physician of the future should be able to use all the means at his command which modern psychiatry provides, in order that he may participate in a campaign for the improvement of the mental health of our people. In addition, as I have already stressed, he should possess a wide cultural background himself if he is to be in a position to help effectively in this campaign. I, therefore, hope that some of you, at any rate, will specialise in psychological medicine."

Prevention and Cure

Stressing the preventive aspect of treatment, she continued: "Medical supervision of work and play, adequate control over the environment, including food and water supplies so as to eliminate factors inimical to health, periodical examination of all the members of the community in order to detect any great departures from normal health in their early stages as well as health education of the people so as to inculcate hygienic habits of life, these and many other duties of a similar nature will, I have no doubt, become increasingly recognised as part of the functions of a national health service. It is a tragedy that today we have not even in our cities a compulsory medical examination of our school children nor a free meal for them. In such a programme of health endeavour there will hardly be any room for the contractual basis of medical service to the people. The State will have to ensure that each citizen secures such medical care as his condition demands and this may not be dependent on the extent to which he can purchase the required service. If these conditions



General K. M. Cariappa, C-in-C, Indian Army, emphasises a point at the Inter-Dominion Military Conference between India and Pakistan held at New Delhi on January 15. Gen. Sir Douglas Gracey, C-in-C, Pakistan Army, is on extreme left

MILITARY COMMANDERS CONFIRM CEASE-FIRE IN KASHMIR

ACCORDING to the terms of the U. N. Commission's resolution of August 13, 1948, a conference was held between the High Commands of India and Pakistan in New Delhi on January 15, 1949, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Defence.

The Indian Army was represented at the conference by General K. M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief, Lieut.-General S. M. Srinagesh, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command and Major-General Kalwant Singh, the Chief of the General Staff, Indian Army. Lt.-General Russell, Adviser to the General Staff, Indian Army, attended as an observer.

The Pakistan delegation was represented by General Sir Douglas Gracey, Commander-in-Chief and Brigadier Sher Khan, Director of Military Operations, Pakistan Army.

The conference which was held in a friendly atmosphere of "give and take" lasted two hours. It confirmed the "Cease-fire" order which was informally brought into force on January 1, 1949, and made agreed recommendations to their respective Governments in regard to the withdrawal of Pakistan Army, tribesmen and Pakistan nationals serving with the "Azad Kashmir forces" from the territory of Jammu and Kashmir State, exchange of prisoners between the two sides, and minor changes in local dispositions of the troops on either side, which are to be left to local commanders to decide.

The agreed recommendations were conveyed to General Delvoie, Military Adviser to the U. N. Commission for his information.

RELIEF TO EX-SERVICEMEN

With a view to giving relief to those ex-servicemen who were penalised for taking active part in national movements aimed at securing the country's independence, the Defence Ministry of the Government of India have decided that personnel dismissed or removed from service due to their patriotic activities will be eligible to a grant, with retrospective effect from the date of termination of such appointments, of pension or gratuities as would have been admissible to them on those dates had they been retired on grounds of ill-health, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on January 20, 1949.

The benefit of this relief will also be extended to ex-servicemen who resigned their appointments--whether such resignation was voluntary or forced--provided it is proved that such resignation was preceded or followed by their actually taking part in a national movement, was attributed to such participation and was not dictated by any other consideration.

Claims from the heirs and successors of those ex-servicemen who are no longer alive for the grant to them of the relief which would have been admissible to the deceased had they been alive will not be entertained. This restriction would not, however, apply to the outstanding claims, if any, in respect of ex-servicemen who themselves represented their cases, but died before these orders could be issued.

Applications for the grant of relief in accordance with these instructions are required to be accompanied by adequate documentary evidence in proof of the individuals' claims, together with detailed information regarding the nature of their patriotic activity and the military formation in which they last served and should be addressed to the Ministry of Defence in the first instance.

"Exercise Forethought"

An intensive two-day "Exercise Forethought", part of the Indian Army's constant efforts to keep itself "fighting fit," was held at Jullundur recently.

The Commander-in-Chief, General K. M. Cariappa, Lt.-Gen. S. M. Srinagesh, G. O. C.-in-C., Western Commaand, and high ranking senior officers from Army Headquarters and Western Command were among those who participated in or watched the proceedings.

At this exercise, which was a purely administrative one, Indian Army officers of Western Command assembled at the King George V's Royal Indian Military College and discussed the administrative problems that would arise in an imaginary emergency. Prompt despatch of supplies and ammunition, evacuation of casualties, air cover and repairs to damaged roads and railways were among the subjects discussed.

The exercise was directed by Headquarters, East Punjab Area and was opened by Major-General S. P. P. Thorat, G. O. C., E. P. Area.

Addressing the officers, the Commander-in-Chief said that Napoleon's maxim that "An Army marches on its stomach" was as true under modern conditions as it was in Napoleon's time. It was absolutely essential that on all occasions the operational and administrative branches of the Army were closely welded together.

EX-W. A. C. (I) PERSONNEL

It appears that there exists some misunderstanding among the former W.A.C.(I) personnel as to the location of their non-effective records, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on January 19, 1949, because in a number of cases queries pertaining to the details of their service have been incorrectly addressed to the Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom.

As the non-effective records of former W.A.C.(I) personnel are held and administered by the Officer-in-Charge of Records, Kumaon Regiment, W.A.C. (I) Section, Ranikhet, all queries should, in future, be addressed to him.

TEMPORARY COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY

As a sufficient number of applications for the grant of temporary commissions have been received, no further applications will now be entertained by Sub-Area or Area Headquarters, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on January 28, 1949.

If and when necessity arises, applications will be again called for and a Press note will be issued.

Applications for fixed stations (amateur transmitting) licenses need not, in future, be referred to the Regional Wireless Advisory Committees.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR EXPORT FROM "BIZONIA"

A NEW export procedure came into force in the U.S.-U.K. Zones of Germany on December 1, 1948. Although the Joint Export-Import Agency is now a tripartite body, administrative arrangements for the integration of the French Zone are not yet complete. Therefore, this procedure will not apply for the present to the French Zone, but will be extended to that area as soon as possible, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on January 19, 1949.

The Press Note added: The new procedure, is designed to relax the rigid "approval" system, thus permitting German manufacturers and exporters to proceed with more freedom from the control of either Military or German Departments than has been the case in the past.

The main principles of the new procedure are:

Any person who wishes to make an export contract may do so without reference to either the J.E.I.A., or a German Governmental authority, except in regard to a limited list of commodities covered by schedules 'A' and 'B' for which "approvals" and export contracts are still necessary;

The foreign exchange earned, however, will be put in a common pool. To achieve this, every exporter must register his export in advance with a Foreign Trade Bank (Aussenhandels bank) and obtain from that Bank a certificate, called Export Control Document (E. C. D.), that he has done so; and

The E. C. D. serves as an Export Licence and should accompany the goods at the frontier.

Relaxation of control over exports is [illegible] and a more or less normal export procedure has come to be established. The most welcome feature of the relaxation is that the Germans are now free to negotiate export prices without reference to "world market prices."

Schedule A, referred to above, containing restricted items requiring JEIA approval on ECD, includes: fertilisers, pig iron, foodstuffs and seeds, timber, iron and steel scrap, electric power, water and gas, high speed technical bearings, shipbuilding and repair items, precious metals (raw), and solid fuel.

Schedule B, containing restricted items requiring approval on ECD, includes: textile raw materials, yarns: skins and hides, leather (unprocessed); uncontrolled chemicals and raw drugs; insulin, penicillin, streptonycin; oils and fats, natural waxes; resins and gums; tanning agents (wood, bark, extracts); raw rubber, alcohols, mineral oils; buxite, alumina (clay); caolin, other rare earths; silica, refractory material; iron and ferro-alloys, raw and semi-finished rolled products: non-ferrous metals, raw; other ores, metals, concentrates; industrial diamonds; especially stipulated machines; processing contacts; mechanical and chemical pulp of all kinds and newsprint; and mining supplies.

Exports to French Zone

Simultaneously with the introduction of the new export procedure, the French Zone authorities took steps to relax their control, the terms of which are much More cautious than those of the J.E.I.A. under the new instructions, German exporters may enter into direct negotiations with foreign buyers, but they must still submit their contracts to the Baden Branch Office for examination of terms of payment and final approval.

ADDITIONAL MEMBER FOR TARIFF BOARD

The Indian Tariff Board has now not only to investigate claims for protection or assistance by various industries but also to enquire into and advise the Government, as and when required, regarding the prices of various commodities. It has also to keep a watch over the progress of protected industries with a view to ensuring that they are developing on sound and healthy lines.

Liberalisation of import policy with effect from the licensing period that commenced on July 1, 1948, and the placing of more articles under Open General Licence for import from "soft currency" areas has not unnaturally led to representations from various industries claiming protection or assistance which they did not require when imports were being strictly controlled.

As Import Control is not generally the appropriate method to be used for securing 'protection,' it is intended that all these claims for protection, where there is a *prima facie* case, should be referred to the Tariff Board for expeditious enquiry and advice. This would further add to the burden of work that falls on the Tariff Board.

To enable the Board to cope with this additional work, the Government has decided to appoint another Member to it. The Tariff Board will accordingly be composed, as from February 1, 1949, of a President and three Members:

President: Mr. G. L. Mehta.

Members; Dr. H. L. Dey, Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, and Mr. M. E. Rehman.

Telegrams to and from Tientsin (China) are not acceptable, said a Press Note issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, on January 22, 1949.

Import Advisory Council

On September 27, 1948, the Government of India announced its decision to constitute an Import Advisory Council. The following have been nominated to serve on this body, which will advise the Government on matters of general policy relating to Import Control:

(A) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry:

Representing Manufacturers: Messrs Shanti Prasad Jain (Calcutta) and Kantilal C. Munshaw (Ahmedabad).

Representing Import Trade: Messrs K.P. Goenka (Calcutta) and Ambalal Kilachand (Bombay).

Representing Distributional Trade: Rawa Bachittar Singh (Delhi) and Mr. Ashutosh Bhattacharya (Calcutta).

(B) Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, Calcutta:

Messrs A. R. Macgillivray (Calcutta) and T. J. Hudson (Bombay).

(C) All India Manufacturers' Organisation, Bombay:

Mr. Nariman D. Sahukar (Bombay)

(D) Appointed by Government (from non-officials):

Messrs M.A. Chidambaram Chettiar (Madras), D.P. Karmarkar (Dharwar), B. K. Rohtagi (Calcutta) and Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao (Delhi).

(E) Appointed by Government (from the Constituent Assembly)

Messrs Prabhudayal Himmatsingka (New Delhi) and Shrinivas Mallya (New Delhi).

Five Ministries of the Government of India will be represented on the Import Advisory Council by the following:

Messrs C. C. Desai (Ministry of Commerce), S. Boothalingam (Ministry of Industry and Supply), A.K. Roy (Ministry of Finance), Mrs. T. S. Pillay (Ministry of Food) and Mr. S. Chakravarti (Ministry of Transport).

Mr. G.R. Kamat, Chief Controller of Imports, will be the Secretary of the Council.

KARANPURA COALFIELD DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

The Railway Board have sanctioned a reconnaissance and Final Location survey for broad-gauge lines and sidings for the development of the Karanpura coalfields. The survey will be conducted by the E. I. Railway administration. These lines will be approximately 25 miks and will run along the valley of the Damodar River between Barkakana and Mahuamilan stations on the Barkakana loop of the East Indian Railway.

The survey will be known as the Karanpura Coalfield Development Survey.

A considerable growth of traffic, both passenger and goods, was relied upon for sustaining these estimates. The experience of actual receipts in the course of the current year indicates that the Budget Estimates will be bettered substantially. Passenger earnings will account for an increase of Rs. 5·86 crores, other coaching earnings for an addition of Rs. 3·91 crores and goods earnings for a rise of Rs. 3.20 crores. In the case of passenger earnings, it is due to a large increase in the numbers using railways and some decrease in ticketless travelling. An enhancement in the rates for parcels and the larger volume of military traffic maintained throughout the year are responsible for the increase under other coaching earnings. The additional revenue under goods earnings is mainly due to the general revision carried out of the railway rates freight structure with a view to achieving both rationalisation and simplification. The new rates came into effect on October 1st, 1948.

The Revised estimate figure for passenger earning is Rs. 85·40 crores: for earnings from other coaching traffic Rs. 17·73 crores and for goods earnings Rs. 97·36 crores. Allowing for a drop of 30 lakhs under other earnings and a difference of 1·83 crores under suspense, the total of gross traffic receipts has been placed at Rs. 204·50 crores in the Revised Estimates of the current year. Deducting Rs. 4·12 crores for worked lines, the traffic receipts of Indian Government Railways will amount to Rs. 200·38 crores.

Working Expenses

Working expenses for the current year were taken at Rs. 159·78 crores in the Budget but are put at Rs. 168·71 crores in the Revised Estimate. Ordinary Working Expenses will be higher by Rs. 8·71 crores due largely to increased expenditure under repairs and maintenance, freight and handling charges on fuel, loss on grainshops and dearness allowance. There will be a small addition of Rs. 11 lakhs to the Appropriation to the Depreciation Reserve Fund; though the capital expenditure is below the estimate, a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs has to be appropriated to the Fund on account of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. Another Rs. 11 lakhs are accounted for by increased payment to worked lines. *Per contra* there will be an improvement of Rs. 13 lakhs under Miscellaneous transactions.

The net revenue which in the Budget Estimate was taken at Rs. 32·37 crores will be Rs. 38·07 crores in the Revised Estimate. From this has to be deducted the amount (Rs. 22·24 crores) of interest on the Capital at charge. The net surplus on the year's transactions is thus estimated at Rs. 15·83 crores. I shall be dealing with the disposal of this amount later.

The estimates for the Budget year 1949-50 have been framed as carefully as it is possible to do now. It is not anticipated that there will be any substantial change in general economic condition in the country taken as a whole. There is likely to be no worsening of the present position. On the other hand, it might be hoped that such overall change as might express itself will be in the direction of a slight improvement. It is expected that there will be a progressive replacement of outworn locomotives and a consequent improvement in the power position. More traffic will thus be catered for. The new freight rates which were enforced in 1948-49 only for half the year would operate during the whole of the year 1949-50 and bring in an appreciable addition to goods earnings. The food position might however be difficult. There will probably be a gradual extension of rationing and scarcity conditions have already made their appearance in parts of the country. A record volume of foodgrain imports is anticipated.

All this would mean a larger internal movement of foodgrains which, being low-rated traffic, will probably express itself in some reduction of goods earnings. A slight drop in passenger earnings has been assumed as a result of the introduction of the new three class accommodation in trains, though the recent trends of the results of this change do not altogether justify this apprehension and there might possibly be some increase under this head. The progressive increase in recent years in the volume of parcels traffic will, it is expected, be maintained in 1949-50. And this, together with the revision of parcels rates introduced from October 1st, 1948, will also bring in some addition. There will, however, be a fall in earnings from military traffic. Based on these anticipations the Budget Estimate of gross traffic receipts has been taken at Rs. 210 crores. This is the combined result of a slight reduction under passenger earnings (Rs. 31 lakhs) and under sundry earnings (Rs. 10 lakhs) an improvement under other coaching earnings (Rs. 39 lakhs) and under goods earnings (Rs. 6·04 crores). Deducting receipts of worked lines (Rs. 4·15 crores), the traffic receipts of Indian Government Railways will amount to Rs. 205·85 crores.

Additional Staff

The estimate of ordinary working expenses has been placed at Rs. 159·03 crores being Rs. 3·17 crores above the figure (Rs. 155.86 crores) in the Revised Estimate of the current year. The additional dearness allowance sanctioned by Government with effect from January 1st, 1949 to all staff drawing not more than Rs. 250 has been provided for the full year at a cost of about Rs. 8 crores. The increase in pay and running allowances of Running Staff will cost another 1 1/3rd crores. The total provision on account of cash dearness allowance is estimated at Rs. 28·85 crores to which has to be added the loss on working the restricted Grainshops Scheme, for the benefit of those sections of the staff who have opted for it, Rs. 12·80 crores.

For the programme of implementation of the Adjudicator's Award to be carried out in 1949-50, the different Railway Administrations expect to employ about 74,000 additional hands and the consequent increase in the wage bill on this account alone will be about Rs. 4 crores. An increase of Rs. 1·15 crores over the Revised Estimate of the current year will occur under periodical overhauls and other repairs to locomotives and other rolling stock and under track maintenance. For payment of claims for goods lost or damaged other than those relating to prepartition transactions, an amount of Rs. 1·31 crores has been included. To the total under Working Expenses (Rs. 159·03 crores) has to be added Rs. 11·47 crores under depreciation and Rs. 1·02 crores for payments to worked lines.

The net revenue of the Budget Year comes to be Rs. 32·32 crores. Deducting Rs. 22.88 crores under interest charges, the net surplus will be Rs. 9.44 crores.

Disposal of Surplus

I shall now explain how I propose to dispose of the net surplus in each of the two years 1948-49 and 1949-50. According to the arrangements recommended at the time of the last Budget by a Committee of the House presided over by you, Sir, and accepted by the House, out of the Railway surplus for the year 1948-49, Rs. 4·50 crores were to be credited to General Revenues and an equal amount to the Railway Reserve Fund; the balance and any improvement in the surplus that might accrue during the year were to be credited to the Railway Betterment Fund. The surplus was estimated in the current year's Budget at Rs. 9·84 crores and thus the Betterment Fund obtained a credit of Rs. ·84 crore. The Revised estimate figure for the Railwy surplus is as I have already said, Rs. 15·83 crores, an increase of about 60 percent. Under the arrangements already referred to, this amount would have had to be distributed as follows:—

General Revenues ..	Rs. 4·50 crores
Railway Reserve Fund	Rs. 4·50 crores.
Betterment Fund ..	Rs. 6·83 crores.

I have, with the concurrence of my Hon'ble colleague, the Finance Minister, reviewed the position in the light of compelling considerations. The substantial increase in the total surplus amount and the needs of the general financial position of the country justify an increase of the contribution which Railways may make to General Revenues. Neither of the two usual claimants for the Railway share of the surplus, namely, the Railway Reserve Fund and the Railway Betterment Fund stands in their present condition in need of any replenishment. On the other hand, the Railway Depreciation Reserve Fund requires to be strengthened to the maximum possible extent. It has, therefore, been decided to distribute the current year's Railway surplus:—

General Revenues ..	Rs. 7·34 crores
Railway Betterment Fund	Rs. ·84 crores
Railway Depreciation Reserve Fund.	Rs. 7·65 crores

For the same reasons as in the case of the 1948-49 surplus, the Budget surplus for 1949-50 (Rs. 9·44 crores) will be allocated as follows:—

General Revenues ..	Rs. 4·72 crores.
Railways	Rs. 4·72 crores.

The whole of the Railways share will be appropriated to the Railway Depreciation Reserve Fund.

Expenditure not chargeable to the Revenue of the year is financed from three sources, Capital Funds, the Betterment Fund and the Railway Depreciation Reserve Fund. In the Budget for the current year, a provision of Rs. 83·29 crores was made for such expenditure. The Assam rail link project, however, cost us Rs. 1½ crores more than what was entered for it in the Budget. In the course of the year we have sanctioned and commenced additional works not provided for in the Budget, such as the Locomotive Building Project at Mihijam—which, Hon'ble Members will be interested to know, will be renamed Chittaranjan—the doubling of the Anand-Barejadi line on the Baroda Ahmedabad Section of the B. B. & C. I. Railway, the partial doubling of the Delhi-Mathura Section and the doubling of the Budni-Barkhera Section of the G. I. P. Railway. *Per Contra*, the expenditure anticipated on Road Services will not be fully utilised and some of the works have been dropped or postponed as a part of the measures for fighting inflation.

The revised estimate of the expenditure during the year is now placed at Rs. 54 crores, Rs. 27·3 crores under Capital; Rs. 3·79 crores under the Betterment Fund and Rs. 22·91 crores under the Railway Depreciation Reserve Fund. The programme for 1949-50 is estimated to cost Rs. 71·15 crores. It does not include the construction of any new line. Rs. 50 lakhs will be spent on the railway-cum-road bridge project over the Ganga at Mokameh. The total cost of this work is Rs. 12 crores and it is expected to take 5 years to complete. The expenditure on the rolling stock programme for the year will be Rs. 36·15 crores and includes 440 locomotives, all on replacement account. Rs. 4 crores will be spent on machinery, and Rs. 26·63 crores on other works.

Locomotive Building Project

The most important of these is the Locomotive Building Project at Chittaranjan, for which there is a provision of Rs. 5·5 crores. Provision has been made for a marshalling yard at Vatva on the B. B. & C. I. Railway and an expenditure of Rs. 1 crore on Road Services. It is proposed to buy the Pachora Jamne Railway at a cost of Rs. 21·88 lakhs, out of which Rs. 3·65 lakhs representing the premium will be charged to Revenue, For other details, I would request Hon'ble Members to refer to the Explanatory Memorandum. Although the budget year's programme is for an expenditure of Rs. 71·15 crores, a lump sum cut of 10 per cent. is being made to provide for the usual inability of Railway Administrations to spend the full amount. The net provision entered in the budget is therefore only Rs. 64 crores, out of which Rs. 28·64 crores will come from Capital, Rs. 1·5 crores from the Betterment Fund and Rs. 33·86 crores from the Railway Depreciation Reserve Fund.

It is necessary that I should give Hon'ble Members some particulars about our reserves. In view of the state of the Railway finances during the three year period which we have been surveying, as also the likely prospects during the period immediately following, it is safe to assume that there is no likelihood of our having to draw on the Railway Reserve Fund, either for meeting losses or for making contribution to General Revenues. This Fund started the current year with an opening balance of Rs. 6·51 crores. There has been an addition to it during the year of Rs. 5 lakhs, being the net gain on investments in shares of Branch Line Companies. The withdrawal from the Fund amounted to Rs. 5 lakhs, being arrears of depreciation on the units of replaced rolling stock chargeable to this Fund. The balance at the end of the year will also be Rs. 6·51 crores. No amount is proposed to be added to the Fund during 1949-50, nor is there any need to do so. The balance of Rs. 6·51 crores will, however, stand to the credit of the Fund in that year.

Betterment Fund

According to the practice in vogue since the Betterment Fund was constituted, it has been meeting not only the expenditure on passenger amenities, but also the expenditure on amenities to staff, including quarters for class IV staff and on unremunerative operative improvements costing not more than Rs. 3 lakhs each. The expenditure from the Fund provided in the Budget for the current year for all these purposes was Rs. 5·22 crores. In the course of the Budget debate during February 1948, the House took exception, and I consider rightly, to this Fund being used for financing expenditure other than that relating to passenger amenities. Dr. Matthai then assured the House that its wishes would be respected in the future. In pursuance of this undertaking, the rules for the classification of expenditure have been changed.

The change will in the normal course only apply to works started after March 31, 1949, but with a view to fulfilling the spirit of the undertaking given, it has been decided that the amount charged to the Betterment Fund in the year 1948-49 in respect of works in progress on April 1, 1949 other than those relating to passenger amenities should be written back to Revenue in the accounts of the year 1949-50. Expenditure on amenities to staff and on unremunerative improvements costing not more than Rs. 3 lakhs will, from 1949-50 onwards, be charged direct to Revenue. The actual opening balance in the Fund at the beginning of the current year was Rs. 14·54 crores. The additions to the Fund during the year are Rs. 83·62 lakhs, the share of the Railway surplus and Rs. 41·80 lakhs being the interest on the balance of the Fund. From the total of these three items, namely, Rs. 15·79 crores, has to be deducted the amount of withdrawal from the Fund, namely, Rs. 3·79 crores. The closing balance of the Fund in the revised estimate will thus be Rs. 12 crores.

In view of this heavy balance and of the slow pace of expenditure from this Fund in the past, particularly on passenger amenities, it has been decided not to make any appropriation to this Fund in the Budget year. It will, however, be credited with the interest on the balance of the Fund amounting to Rs. 40·33 lakhs. The expenditure provided for the coming year is only Rs. 1·5 crores and the whole of this will be spent on passenger amenities. The history of this Fund must be somewhat disappointing to Hon'ble Members as it is to me. Out of a total expenditure on works from the Fund since its inception, namely Rs. 98 lakhs, the amount that has been spent on passenger amenities proper was only Rs. 13 lakhs up to the end of 1947-48. And even in the current and budget years, the amounts spent on and provided for passenger amenities, are wholly disproportionate to the requirements. I can find excuses for these shortages, but cannot disguise, from myself or the House, the feeling that more should be done in this direction.

The importance of pushing expenditure on passenger amenities is being repeatedly pressed on Railway Administrations and I propose to have an intensive examination of the position carried out early in the coming year with a view to listing works which should be executed and to laying down a programme with time limits for ensuring that such works are carried out with expedition. If, as a result of this intensive drive, it is found possible to spend in 1949-50 more on such works than the Rs. 1·5 crores provided for, I am sure, I shall be able, with the concurrence of my Hon'ble colleague the Finance Minister and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, to increase the amount to be withdrawn from the Betterment Fund for expenditure on such works.

Depreciation Fund

The annual appropriation to the Depreciation Fund is now made at 1/60th of the capital at charge, but withdrawals are made to the full extent of the replacement cost. It has been calculated that, in respect of certain assets like locomotives which have to be replaced in 1949-50, the withdrawal from the Fund will be at the rate of Rs. 8 for every rupee contributed to the Fund in respect of those assets up to the date of replacement. Hon'ble Members will appreciate that at this rate there would be a disastrous depletion of the Fund in the near future. The actual Opening Balance in the Fund at the beginning of the current year was Rs. 95·93 crores. There will be a withdrawal of Rs. 22·91 crores during the current year and Rs 33·86 crores during the Budget year. The normal appropriation to the Depreciation Fund is Rs. 11·39 crores in 1948-49 and Rs. 11·47 crores



Equipped with parachute and flying helmet, three R. I. N. trainees, with an R. I. A. F. instructor, going for their first flying lesson at the Elementary Flying Training School, Jodhpur



A lecture on "airmanship" being given by R. I. A. F. instructors to R. I. N. Officers on the first day of the six-week course. The Tiger Moth training aircraft can be seen in the background

R. I. N TAKES TO IATION

y the first batch of 18 R. I. N. their *ab initio* pilot's he R. I. A. F. at the Flying Training School at

ers are being trained up to ge in Tiger Moths and on of the six weeks course, the ill be sent to U. K. At the further 2 years training, they rn to India as fully fledged ilots qualified to fly operation- aircraft carriers and they will the nucleus of the Fleet uirements Unit; ultimately, become the Squadron Com- the first Front-line squad-

progress of these officers through ving Training pipe line will be followed by Captain Ranald s staff at Naval Headquarters, Delhi, Captain Ranald, who is n from the R. N., has recently assumed the office of Chief of Naval Aviation in which capacity he is directly responsible, to the C-in-C, R. I. N. for the integral training and build up of this new and modern branch of the Service.

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in 1949-50. The withdrawals will thus be twice the normal contribution in the current year and three times in the coming year. The closing balance at the end of 1949-50 would have dwindled down to Rs. 61·92 crores but for the special additions to the Fund that we have decided to make; with these additions it will stand at Rs. 74·28 crores.

It may be safely assumed that there will be heavy withdrawals from the Fund in the succeeding two or three years also. The position of the Fund at the end of five years from now is a matter which gives grave cause for anxiety. This unsatisfactory position is due mainly to two factors. There is a very large gap between the original cost on which the annual appropriation to the Depreciation Fund is based and the replacement expenditure at present prices. The flat rate of contribution, 1/60th, is out of tune with this gap. Secondly the Depreciation Fund which started in 1924-25 has so far received no contribution in respect of the depreciation on assets in existence then which had accrued prior to that year. These arrears were estimated at the time at Rs. 20 crores.

Railway Enquiry Committee

The Indian Railway Enquiry Committee have recommended that for the next five years an annual contribution of about Rs. 22 crores should be made to the Fund. It is obvious that the whole matter should be carefully examined and our future policy in regard to depreciation should be clearly defined. Pending such an examination, it is necessary that we should strengthen this Fund to the maximum possible extent at every opportunity that presents itself. It has accordingly been decided to pay into this Fund, in addition to the normal contribution and in instalments the 20 crores repesenting the arrears prior to 1923-24. The result of this policy is expressed in the Budget now presented. The total contribution to be made to the Fund under the decisions that have been taken in regard to the disposal of the Railway surplus will amount to Rs. 18.94 crores in 1948-49 and Rs. 16.19 crores in 1949-50

The convention relating to the separation of Railway from General finance which was adopted by a resolution of the old Central Legislative Assembly in 1924 was, as Hon'ble Members are aware, intended to remain in force for at least three years and was to be thereafter subject to periodic revision. There was an abortive attempt by a Committee of the Assembly in 1928 to re-examine this question. For the next 15 years this attempt was not renewed. In 1943, a Railway Convention Committee which was constituted was wound up soon after it issued an interim report. In 1947, during the Budget session, a Committee of the Legislative Assembly was set up for the purpose of investigating this matter, but owing to the far reaching political changes that followed, the Central Legislative Assembly and its Committees ceased to exist after the Budget session. It has not been possible since, in view of the far more important problems that confronted Government in quick succession, to take up this question. The investigation should, however, no longer be delayed. I shall, therefore, be inviting the House in this session to set up a Committee to go into this matter including also the problems relating to the Depreciation Fund and to make its recommendations before the end of the calendar year.

From these details of [illegible] keeping, I shall now turn to [illegible] in which, I am sure, Hon'ble [illegible] will feel even more interested namely Railway performance. Our trade, our agriculture and our industries have gradually grown up on a foundation of cheap and adequate rail transport. It is not, therefore, a matter for surprise that its shortcomings should come in for frequent, at times carping, criticism. The War, and the Partition which followed a little over two years later, are responsible for many of our present difficulties. We have to bear in mind, however, that it takes a considerable amount of time to overtake the effects of such far-reaching and disturbing events. We have made progress in overcoming them and shall continue to do so.

Under passenger traffic, there has been some increase in the number of trains during the current year. Between April and November 1948, 5½ million more train miles were operated than we did during the corresponding period of 1947. The additional trains have reduced overcrowding somewhat and reports recently received appear to indicate that, except in the proximity of towns and fairs, there has been a definite change for the better in this matter. But it is a fact that there has been a larger increase in the number of passengers during the last few years proportionately than the increase in the number of passenger trains and the accommodation therein. There has been consequent overcrowding which can only be relieved gradually. Steps have, however, been taken to produce more coaches.

Construction of Coaches

From April 1, 1948 to November 1, 1948, 172 coaches (in terms of four-wheelers) were completed in railway workshops and 272 coaches are now in process of construction. 100 improved type of Class III all metal coaches 10' wide equipped with electric fans are on order with the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore. A few of these have already been delivered and are in use on the M. & S. M. Railway. The remainder will be delivered during the year 1949-50. Orders have also been placed for 250 coach body shells with the Wagon Manufacturing Panel and in the U. K. for 112 electric multiple unit suburban coaches for the G. I. P. and B. B. & C. I. Railways. 251 Broad Gauge coaches have also been returned by the Ministry of Defence since April, 1948.

In spite, however, of these steps, the conditions of travelling for Class III passengers still leave a great deal to be desired. I can only promise that a continuous drive will be kept up for improving them in every direction. There has been noticeable improvement in train punctuality as a result of a special drive that was initiated. The percentage of trains not losing time is roughly 60 per cent and in a few cases as high as 83 per cent. These figures, however, are not a matter for complacent satisfaction but should and will be improved further. A number of steps have been taken to improve in several ways the conditions in which Class III passengers travel. This question has been continuously under our consideration and I am glad to announce some important measures have been taken in this direction.

Instructions have been issued to Railways to provide electric fans in third class waiting halls and covered platforms at important stations and to increase the seating accommodation provided therein. The ensuring of cleanliness of coaching stock and station premises has been specially stressed. Arrangements have been made for adequate supply of water and certain Railways have introduced a scheme which provides for drinking water and watermen being carried in Class III compartments on long distance trains.

Social Guides

In the past more attention was paid to the class in which a passenger travelled than to distance. The more fundamental distinction is that between long distance and short distance passengers. It has, therefore, been decided to provide special compartments and reserve seats therein for long distance passengers travelling for more than 300 miles. In the matter of service of meals and other attention, it has been enjoined that they should be treated like upper class passengers. In some principal stations a special booking office window or the issue of tickets to such passengers has been opened.

In the autumn session of 1947, a suggestion was made that social service workers should be employed to assist Class III passengers at major stations. Most of the Railways have given effect to this suggestion and social guides have been appointed in consultation with recognised social service institutions.

Ticketless travelling and the consequent overcrowding have been attacked with vigour during the year and Provincial Governments have wholeheartedly co-operated with the Railways in this matter. In the United Provinces, where the evil had attained serious proportions, the work of 17 platoons of mobile police and 34 Special Magistrates has yielded very encouraging results. During the first nine months of working, some 2½ lakhs of cases were detected and Rs. 8½ lakhs recovered from the culprits. The drive naturally added also to the regular receipts at booking offices.

I would like to make a reference in passing to the new re-classification of accommodation in passenger trains, which took effect on January 1, last. The congestion of which the old Inter Class passenger was the victim, has been somewhat relieved under the new system consequent on the downgrading of a

(Continued on Page 237)



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurating the Inter-Provincial Information Ministers' Conference

INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE OF INFORMATION MINISTERS

WELCOMING the Information Ministers to the Inter-Provincial Conference which opened in New Delhi on February 7, 1949, the Hon'ble Mr. R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, said that the biggest democracy of the world was now born in India. The Constituent Assembly had enfranchised one hundred and sixty millions of our people. For the proper and efficient functioning of a democracy wide and planned publicity which would educate the people and make them conscious of their responsibilities as citizens, was absolutely necessary.

Mr. Diwakar said: "Every popular Government must keep in touch with its masters, the people, and explain to them what the Government is doing and what it expects the people to do to help the common cause of the welfare of the country. With the great advance of science, new media of publicity have arisen and the old ones have acquired added strength and scope. Together with the press and the platform, the film and the radio are fast becoming more potent instruments of enlightenment."

Pointing out that there was now a regular race among Nations to cover the whole world, the Minister said: "The Information services of various countries

Mr. Diwakar on Need for Planned Publicity

are handing out today to our Indian language papers considerable material in Indian languages. They have realised that the lead both in opinion and circulation is passing on to the language papers."

Circumstances in India and outside, he went on, were changing so fast that we were more conscious of the rapidity of events than of the changes themselves, and said: "I have but indicated the trend of a few changes and it is in this perspective that we are meeting here today to devise ways and means for a more efficient, more effective and more useful contribution towards the evolution of a real democratic republic in this great country of ours. At the same time I would like to tell you that we must take into consideration some of the more important limiting factors in the situation. I mean the vastness of our country, the illiteracy of our people, the multiplicity of our languages and the inadequacy of our resources.

"It is to think out and plan our publicity—not propaganda—in this context, we have met here. I know many of you have come at great inconvenience to yourself. But I am sure we shall all be amply rewarded by the inspiration we derive from the words of our leaders here and by the plans and programmes that we shall evolve by co-operative thinking and pooling together of our experience."

PANDIT NEHRU'S ADDRESS

In the course of his address to the Conference Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, said:

"Publicity is an exceedingly important branch of the functions of any democratic government, in fact of any government, whether democratic or not. It must not only keep in close touch with the people, but seek their co-operation. The old type of State which did not concern itself very much with social problems except when it was forced to, did not need this type of close contact or publicity. But we have to deal today with vast problems, social and economic. It just does not matter how we frame our policies here or in the Provincial Governments. Unless we get the co-operation of the public and understanding on the part of the people of what is being done, our programmes will not go very far.



UNITED NATIONS OBSERVERS MEET INDIAN ARMY CHIEF—American and Canadian observers headed by Lt.-Gen. Delvoie, called on Gen. K. M. Cariappa, C-in-C, Indian Army, on Feb. 10, 1949. (L. to R.) Gen. Cariappa, Lt.-Gen. Delvoie, Lt.-Gen. Shrinagesh, Maj.-Gen. Kalwant Singh.

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Cover Picture : Muslim residents of Anand gave a great welcome to Pandit Nehru when he visited the place recently. Here, a Muslim leader is presenting a bouquet of flowers to the Prime Minister.	



Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1949-50

Rs. 9·44 Crores Surplus : No increase in Fares and Freight

INDIAN Railways are expected to yield a surplus of Rs. 9.44 crores in 1949-50, according to the Budget estimates presented to the Dominion Parliament on February 15, 1949 by the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, Minister for Transport and Railways, Government of India.

Total gross earnings for the year are estimated at Rs. 210 crores and total working expenses at Rs. 172.12 crores yielding a net revenue of Rs. 32.82 crores out of which Rs. 22.88 are deducted for interest charges.

For the current year the original estimate of a surplus of Rs. 9.84 crores has been raised in the revised estimates to Rs. 15.83 crores.

The Transport Minister said that there will be no enhancement of Railway fares or freight. Amenities to be extended to the public are improved facilities for class III passengers, provision of social guides at major stations on all Railways and better travel facilities for long-distance journeys. A fair deal to Railway workers is also emphasised in the speech.

It is anticipated that about 74,000 additional hands will be employed during 1949-50 to implement the Rajadhyaksha Award.

Here is the full text of Mr. Ayyangar's speech :—

I rise to present the Budget for Indian Government Railways for the financial year 1949-50, and, in doing so, to invite the attention of Hon'ble Members to certain broad results of their administration.

With the conditions that prevailed in the country immediately after the transfer of power in 1947 and the manner in which Railways had to function under those conditions, the House has been made fully familiar by my predecessor when he introduced the Budgets for the latter 7½ months of 1947-48 and for the year 1948-49. I do not propose to deal with them again on this occasion.

The strain of the second world war, the splitting into two of a united railway system, the violent civil disturbances in the Punjabs, the aggression and fighting in Kashmir, the Hyderabad Police action, the general economic and transport upset—these and other similar developments in the country confronted Railway Administrations with problems at once difficult, grave and unprecedented in their nature and intensity. But they tackled them all with determination and vigour and the situation had, after a few months, so far improved that Dr. Matthai was able to tell the House in February last that we had turned the corner.

Not only had we then got our feet planted firmly on the road to normaloy, but we have since confidently, and with increasing pace, made progress in the direction of a rationalisation and an expansion of the service that Railways render to the public. Partition, as a profoundly disturbing factor in our economy, has not spent itself out completely yet. But it is rapidly receding into the background and we are progressively settling down to the new and altered conditions created by it. Railways have registered this trend perhaps even more quickly than other sectors of our economic make up.

No Enhancement of Fares

The story of Indian Government Railways, their actual performance during the last 18 months, their present position and their promise for the future will take me longer to tell than the time I would willingly tax the patience of the House for on any other matter or occasion, but I do hope Honourable Members will bear with me on the present occasion. It is not my purpose however, to recount anything like a fairy tale. I shall not seek to exaggerate such small achievement as the Railways may claim to their credits ; neither shall I gloss over their obvious and many deficiencies. Mine will be an endeavour to give an unvarnished recital of some features of Railway Administration as it has been, and, as I hope it will, in the immediate future, be.

I desire at the outset to take Members into my confidence and tell them straightaway that there will be no enhancement of railway fares or freights in the coming year. This I hope, will be received by the House and the country with a sense of relief. One reason for my making this known at once is, that if I reserved it to a later stage of my speech its surprise value might get discounted on account of its inevitability on the fact and argument preceding it.

There is, however, another reason. That, inspite of the Central Pay Commission scales of pay and dearness allowance, of the Adjudicator's Award, of the mounting demand by labour for larger additions to wages; of the continually rising cost of works and stores and the like, we have not yet reached the stages of being compelled to raise fares and freights for financing them in the Budget year is a piece of good fortune which I am naturally anxious Hon'ble Members should share with me and the Government from the earliest possible moment. It will, I hope, put Hon'ble Members into a cheerful frame of mind—if nothing else, into a mood for enduring the drab, largely factual, account of finance and administration that it will be my duty to place before them this afternoon.

Financial Position

I shall first give a summary of the financial position. For the first time after the partition, figures are available for a three-year period—the actuals of a past or completed year, the Revised Estimates for the passing or current year and the Budget Estimates for the coming or Budget Year. Only in the present case, the year for actuals is a truncated one, being the period of 7½ months from August 15th 1947 to March 31st 1948.

Both the Budget and Revised Estimates for this period of 7½ months were based on a number of uncertain factors and were, therefore, vitiated by some amount of guess work. The Budget Estimate showed a deficit of Rs. 2.69 crores which was raised to Rs. 5.2 crores in the Revised Estimate. In the accounts of the year, however, the actual gross receipts were Rs. 7 crores less than in the Revised Estimate but the Working Expenses also showed a reduction of Rs. 8.75 crores. There was a net improvement of Rs. 37 lakhs under Miscellaneous Transactions and a saving of Rs. 34 lakhs under Interest Charges. The actual net deficit was, therefore, Rs. 2.74 crores which was met by withdrawal from the Railway Reserve.

In the Budget for the current year the estimate of gross traffic receipts was placed at Rs. 190 crores. Deducting Rs. 3·87 crores on account of worked lines, the traffic receipts of Indian Government Railways were estimated at Rs. 186·13 crores. The chief contributors to the amount under gross traffic receipts were passengers (Rs. 79·54 crores); other coaching traffic (Rs. 13·82 crores), goods (Rs. 94·16 crores), other earning (Rs. 3·44 crores) and suspense (minus Rs. 96 lakhs).

monopoly. In fact the idea of claiming monopoly in sea-routes was unknown until the Portuguese did so in 1500. Until then Indians, Arabs and all other maritime people were using the seas as an open international highway.

The Portuguese claim of sea-route monopoly was stoutly opposed by the Zamorin of Calicut. Three sea battles were fought in which the Zamorin lost and as a result sea supremacy passed to the Portuguese. This was in the early years of the sixteenth century. Navy officers think that these battles of 1503 and 1509 were more important in deciding the fate of India during the next four centuries than Plassey and other land-battles.

During Sivaji's time there were battles between his fleets and the fleets of the Moguls. So our people are not new to sea-water. Anyone who has watched our fisher-folk, young and old, riding over the waves can have no doubt that our boys are not different in potential capacity from the boys of England. Our boys are as nearly related to Varuna or Neptune as any other people of the world. As for modern navigation and scientific appliances too, it is admitted that our boys have been acquitting themselves very well. Therefore, the dreams of Chidambaram Pillay and Subramania Bharati of loving memory are aspirations bound to be fulfilled in our time.

Chidambaram Pillay was one with whom I had the honour and pleasure of fairly close association. May his spirit bless our enterprise today. This vessel shall bear his famous name. I can imagine him looking on now at this function and at me with his large eyes full of tears of joy, not unmixed with generous amusement. Here I am inaugurating a shipping service from Tuticorin to Colombo with the co-operation of Messrs. Harvey and the B. I. S.N. Company and all the established authorities ruling India. The



H. E. the Governor-General entering S. S. "Chidambaram" to perform the naming ceremony of the ship and inaugurate the steamship service between Tuticorin and Colombo

house of Harvey and the people that ran the B. I. S. N. Company looked upon Chidambaram Pillay as a terrible enemy and got Mr. Pinhey to try him for sedition and sentence him for two sentences of transportation for life. The judgment was read all over India with indignation and horror. The High Court reduced the sentence to six years imprisonment. This was some mitigation of the injustice done.

His offence was that he made the people of Tuticorin say "Bande Matram" and that he was present at the meetings addressed by Subramania Siva and fully sympathised with him when he said that India should have Swaraj. This was forty years ago. They both suffered their six years and came out. Lord Morley, the then Secretary of State, refused to accept the recommendation that Mr. Pinhey should be made High Court Judge and he has written some very readable matter about it all in his Recollections.

The wheel has turned a full circle round. We have the Swaraj which Subramania Siva and Chidambaram Pillay went to prison and suffered for. A son of the house of Harvey of the Coral Mills is my host today and the B. I. S. N. Company have withdrawn their service in favour of the good ship bearing Chidambaram Pillay's name. The wrong done to Tuticorin has been righted, and I have great pleasure in inaugurating this service and I have the honour of giving the name of our dead valiant hero "V. O. Chidambaram Pillay", to this ship that will carry our flag.



The Governor-General inspecting the Guard of Honour at the port premises, Tuticorin, when he arrived there to receive civic addresses from the Tuticorin and Tinnevelly Municipal Councils

Indian Shipping Industry

The Scindia Steam Navigation Company has done and is doing a tremendous deal under its able and dynamic management to rebuild India's shipping industry. India is one and her pride is indivisible. But it may be permitted to the people of the South to take some pride in the thought that here it was that the great enterprise was first conceived of refloating Indian vessels on the sea and Chidambaram Pillay and Subramania Siva gave themselves up as a burnt offering in the sacrifice that inaugurated the adventure. Let past passions, follies and hatreds be buried. May Free India be glorious. My best wishes to the Captain and crew of this ship and the Managers of this service. May they do their bit to demonstrate that efficient and hard work is patriotism.

TOPMOST PRIORITY FOR AGRICULTURE PLEADED

Food Minister's Reply to Non-Official Resolution in Parliament

"It is in India's economic interest as also in the interest of the industrial development of the country that we must give more resources to the development of agriculture, whether it is food or other things. Unless a country first develops agriculturally it cannot progress industrially," said the Hon'ble Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, replying to a non-official resolution in the Dominion Parliament on February 3, demanding "investigations into reasons for the failure of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign."

The Food Minister pointed out that the 'Grow More Food' Campaign covered an area of 80 lakhs acres out of the total area of 16 crores of acres which is under cultivation for cereal production in India. The problem of food is, therefore, wider than schemes like 'Grow more Food' Campaign could tackle, and he urged upon the Members of the House to give serious consideration to the question with a view to reduce the food shortage as far as possible.

The following is the text of his speech:

Sir, I have welcomed this opportunity from more than one point of view. First of all, I feel that it enables me to give to the House a little fuller picture, more directly than might have been otherwise possible, of what has so far been done and why more has not been done. But I have welcomed it more from another point of view it gives to the House an opportunity, which I feel is being fully taken advantage of to consider the larger issues involved in regard not only to our food problem but also in regard to agricultural development generally.

Cereals for Non-Vegetarians

Sir, before I take up the first Resolution I would like to say a few words with regard to the second resolution moved by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, suggesting restriction of supply of rice to hotels and eating houses which cater non-vegetarian food. I may inform him that the suggestion made by the Foodgrains Policy Committee that the Provinces should examine the question of cereals being surrendered in the case of meat-eaters was sent to all the Provincial Governments, and almost all of them have stated that it is impracticable and that they won't be able to enforce it. I do not, however, know how much saving would be caused if rice were surrendered in the case of meat-eaters. There are many hotels in the non-rationed areas and it will be difficult to calculate how much saving is going to be made if the restriction applies only to the hotels in the rationed areas.

Then there are certain aspects of the question. In the case of hotels like the Taj Mahal hotel I can easily understand restrictions being placed. But if these restrictions are going to be extended to a large number of those hotels which the lower middle classes and the poor [illegible] visit, then I do not know whether Government will not be inviting curses on themselves if they remove from the [illegible] of these poor people the major item of food and force them to satisfy their appetite by a greater intake of meat or fish or other more costly food.

All that, I think, is practicable is that in most of the European type of restaurants, possibly at railway stations, possibly in some of the big cities, some amount of restraint may be possible, but in the case of the majority of the hotels where majority of the meat eaters go, to expect that there should be insistence upon the more costly potatoes or the more costly meat diet, will not be a solution at all, but it will become an exceedingly unpopular measure.

Losses During Shipment

In the course of Mr. Sidhwa's remarks, it was said that there were certain losses in foodstuff's transit to India from outside. There is a certain amount of loss during this operation and we have appointed a Committee to go into the question how this loss could be saved or diminished to the maximum extent possible. But there are certain inherent difficulties which we cannot ignore. When crores of maunds are shipped from distant places and they take weeks to arrive, it is not impossible that there are certain leakages. All that I can say is that so far as the shipments from some of the western countries are concerned, the risk of such loss is very little.

So far as Burma is concerned, we are facing special difficulties because of certain laxities in trade which are not within our control, but with regard to that also, the matter will be examined. The difficulty is that on account of our allocation of rice being fixed by the International Emergency Food Council the places from where we have to import are also fixed by them, so that we have no alternative left except to secure all that we need from certain countries, and the difficulties with regard to those countries have somehow to be put up with. But, as I said, this matter will also be examined and we will try and reduce the loss to the country.

I may mention that soon after I took charge, I discovered that in regard to one important port where the arrangements were in the hands of local authorities, we were suffering very heavy losses obvious on weighment after unloading from the steamer. This matter also was gone into fully and we provided in the new contracts that there must be cent. per cent. weighment of these grains. By this method we have been able to save quite a substantial amount.

Coming to the main question, I am anxious that in this debate I should derive the maximum benefit from the constructive suggestions of the Members of this House.

Taking first the problem of our increase in imports in the current year, it is inherent in the situation that we have to import more than we did last year. Not that we desire to import even a single maund or ton, but the present situation is such that there is no other remedy, unless the provinces rise to the occasion even during this year.

I will explain briefly what I mean. We have just re-imposed controls. During 1948 when we imported round about 28 or 30 lakh tons, we were progressing gradually towards de-control. The Government was giving up its responsibilities for rationing and making adequate supply of food available to the people. So the Government's need for imports was diminished and the need for local procurement was lesser than before. Because we had to re-impose control during this year, it means that the Government had to hold within its own possession larger quantities of food to feed larger proportion of population. In these circumstances, it was inevitable that we should have to import more. In 1948, we came down to one-fourth of the persons whom Government was feeding directly through its own ration shops in January 1947, but gradually, in September, October and November this number began to increase so that in January the number is double of what it was in the middle of 1948.

Re-Introduction of Control

Again, the policy of re-control is that by October 1949 we should reach the same extent of rationing, that is cover the same proportion of population as we covered in October 1947; that means directly and indirectly round about 15 crores of men today. At present the Government is rationing, or indirectly supplying food, through control, distribution and feeding, to about 7 crores of men. Six months ago, it was 3 crores of men. By the end of October 1949, the Government has to take the responsibility of feeding, directly or indirectly and distributing directly or indirectly, 14 crores of men. Obviously, this means that the Government must procure more or import more.

Now with regard to this particular matter of importing and procuring, I want to give you a few more facts. Surely our population has increased. Forty lakhs a year is the annual addition to our population. Therefore, in the course of those two years—the last year of control and the end of next year of re-control—the population will have increased by about 80 lakhs. Then again, there has been a progressive urbanisation in our country. More and more people every year are getting drawn to the towns for various economic and other reasons.

Then with regard to procurement, we come across some amount of difficulty. Some provinces are procuring a much smaller proportion of the total yield of their fields. If rationing and control are to be a success and if our imports are to be further reduced, it is possible only when a much larger proportion is procured in certain regions of our country.

Economic Consequences of Partition

I have tried to explain the reasons why larger imports are inherent in the situation so far as we are concerned this year.

A big economic change has taken place since the middle of 1947, and that big economic change has thrown our country to a much larger extent than before on the uncertainties of monsoon. It may surprise you if I tell you that one implication of that situation is that, in an attempt to make India self sufficient, the persons who are interested in jute and cotton are asking for about 46 lakhs of acres from the existing food acreage. I am anxious that this House should seriously consider the implication of this economic change.

I will read out to you a few basic figures. After the partition, India has to maintain 78 per cent of the original population; but the rice production is only 69 per cent, and wheat production only 66 per cent. The irrigated area under wheat is still less, that is, 54 per cent. All this has certain inherent consequences.

Out of 16 crores of acres under foodgrains, about 25 per cent. only is under permanently dependable perennial irrigation, so that 75 per cent of our food has to weather the vagaries of monsoon. The Foodgrains Policy Committee tried to deal with this situation. They made three broad recommendations. The 'Grow More Food' Campaign is only one of the three measures, and in a way the smallest measure recommended by the Foodgrains Policy Committee. This Campaign is sustained by three or four crores of rupees of loans or grants from the Centre and on three or four crores of rupees spent by the provinces, covering last year about 80 lakhs of acres. Eighty lakhs of acres out of 16 crores under foodgrains make round about five per cent. It is five per cent of our foodgrains area which is being dealt with by the recommendation of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, which is called the 'Grow More Food' Campaign.

Under the 'Grow More Food' Campaign, as visualised by the Foodgrains Policy Committee, a target of nine lakhs of tons of extra production was planned for 1947-48. How was this increase in production to be achieved ?—Through wells, through seeds, through fertilisers, through other manures. It is not possible for the Agriculture Department to function without the fullest co-operation of many other departments, and many other bodies outside the Agriculture Departments.

Take the simple question of fertilisers. When we planned for an increase in production by nine lakhs of tons in various provinces, we also planned that we will be able to give so much of fertilisers. Fertilisers are to some extent produced in this country; but a greater proportion has to be imported from outside. It is the International Emergency Food Council which makes the allocation. We asked for a certain quantity; we were allocated only 50 per cent. Here is a basic fact; we planned on the basis of a certain quantity of fertilisers and two thirds of that quantity was not available. Naturally it affected the quantum of results.

Inspite of the difficulties pointed out by me, there has been an increase in production to the extent of nearly 7 lakh tons under 'Grow More Food' Campaign against the target of 9 lakhs. Now, when you say that the 'Grow More Food' Campaign has not been satisfactory, it has not been satisfactory to the extent that instead of 9 lakhs we have been able to produce only 7 lakh tons.

Unless we realise that only bigger irrigation schemes would place this country on a more dependable source of supply or unless thousands and thousands of our tube-wells give a more abundance of water supply to the food fields, and unless lakhs of more acres of new land are put under the plough, it is not easy to meet the requirements of a growing population which increases at the rate of 40 lakhs a year. Therefore, I would very respectfully venture to suggest that we should place our emphasis on the broader issues which are facing the country, and not only in the context of food production but on the general agricultural production as well.

Topmost Priority

It is in India's economic interest as also in the interest of the industrial development of the country that we must give more resources to the development of agriculture, whether it is food or other things. Unless our country first develops agriculturally you cannot progress industrially.

Take a country like America where the Federal Government has not an inch of ground and yet the Federal Government in U. S. A. is spending Rs. 78 per man. I am not even saying per agriculturist or rural person—but per man—and only 50 per cent. of the population is rural. We are spending the tremendous amount of one anna per man! The Federal Government of America has about 400 agricultural officers for every 10 million persons. Even Britain—industrially so highly developed—has from the Central Government 20 Agricultural Officers for every 10 million persons, apart from Provincial. In India the Central Government has for every 10 million people six agricultural officers. It is not easy to shape things effectively, rapidly and satisfactorily with a very inadequate number of men. I am not only talking of the Centre alone but also of the Provinces.

I feel in the interest of this country that agricultural production ought to be given the topmost priority as it is also in the interest of industrial development of the country. Unless agricultural wealth increases, there can be no foundation for further progress.

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on February 12, said:

The Governor General is pleased to make the following appointments in the Calcutta High Court:—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kuladа Charan Das Gupta, I. C. S., at present an Additional Judge, to be a permanent Judge in the vacancy caused by the appointment of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice S. R. Das as Chief Justice of the East Punjab High Court.

Mr. Jyoti Prakash Mittar, Advocate, to be an Additional Judge.

MANUFACTURE OF PENICILLIN IN INDIA

The Government of India have for some time been considering the question of manufacture of Penicillin, an anti-malarial remedy, and Sulpha drugs under State auspices. These three drugs at present imported into the country are considered to be effective against nearly three-fourths of the major illnesses prevalent in India.

The Ministry of Industry and Supply deputed Major-General Sahib Singh Sokhey and Dr. K. Ganapathi of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, and Dr. Sankaran of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, to Europe, the U. S. A. and Canada towards the middle of 1948 to explore the possibility of their manufacture in India. On an examination of their recommendations, it has been decided to establish a State concern for the manufacture of these drugs with a productive capacity of:

Penicillin, 1,200 billion units per annum; An anti-malarial drug, 100,000 lbs. per annum; Sulphamerazine, 60,000 lbs. per annum; Sulphathiazole, 20,000 lbs. per annum and Sulphanilamide, 20,000 lbs. per annum.

The factory is expected to be located near Bombay. The manufacture of anti-malarial and Sulpha drugs presents no complications but the manufacture of Penicillin is new to this country. Officials of the Ministry of Industry and Supply and of the Ministry of Health have discussed the question of technical advice for the design and construction of the factory and the production of Crystallino Penicillin with Messers. Isaksson, Lundian and Schwartz of Messrs. Karnbolaget Ab Biochemical Industry, Stockholm, Sweden. These discussions have concluded satisfactorily and an agreement has been signed with Messrs. Karnbolaget.

It is estimated that the factory will cost Rs. 2.00 crores and that it will start production in about three years. It is expected to save the country Rs. 2.25 crores per annum mostly in hard currency. Further steps to implement the scheme are now under consideration.

REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S FOOD PRODUCTION SCHEMES

THE following document giving a short account of the Food Production Schemes sponsored by the Government of India, either directly or in collaboration with the Provinces, was presented to the members of the Constituent Assembly of India on February 3 in connection with the non-official resolution in the Dominion Parliament demanding "investigation into the reasons for the failure of Grow More Food Campaign."

Nature and Magnitude of Food Problem in India

It has been pointed out that in spite of a 'Grow More Food Campaign' working in the country for the last seven years, the imports of food into India instead of being reduced are actually on the increase—the year 1949 showing a peak figure of food imports. In order to answer this question which is agitating public mind, it is necessary to appreciate certain facts regarding the nature and magnitude of food problem in India.

In 1945-46 the population of the Indian Union was 330 millions. At the present time, it is estimated that the population is 350 millions. This estimate is based on the rate at which population has been increasing in the past. At this rate, in 1953 the population will be 367 millions; in 1958, 387 millions and in 1963, 407 millions. Our population has been generally increasing at the rate of 1 per cent every year. Now, an ordinary adult requires about 1 lb. of cereals per day. For the population mentioned above, if we give this ration, our present deficit is 5.3 million tons, increasing in each subsequent five-year period to 7.3, 9.9 and 12.6 million tons.

Three Aspects of Problem

It is quite possible that when employment increases and with it the standard of life of the people, the tendency will be to take less grain and more of other kinds of food, like vegetables, fruits, eggs, fish, meat and so on; but for the present, any plan of food production must be based on the increases in population mentioned above and the deficits in cereal production noticed.

India is, therefore, faced with a problem which has three aspects. We have first to meet the present deficit immediately; secondly, we have to face a deficit which increases year by year because population is going up; and thirdly, over a fairly long period, we have to provide not only for increases in population but also for better nutritional standards and not a mere minimum ration. Any plan of food production has to be related to these three aspects of the problem.

The Grow More Food Campaign, as it is generally called, deals only with the immediate problem of the existing deficit for the existing population. The country cannot sit back and watch till the large multi-purpose schemes are ready. Every year food is being imported and this has to be reduced and ultimately stopped. Hence certain urgent schemes are to be completed at the latest within five years. It is very necessary that the immediate character and the limited objective of the Grow More Food Campaign should be adequately appreciated.

Results of Grow More Food Campaign between 1943 and 1947

Till the war broke out, no one seriously thought of the food problem except when a famine or flood occurred. Annual imports were between 1½ and 2 million tons, mostly of rice, from Burma, the actual quantity of imports in any year



Pandit Nehru laid the foundation of the new town of Hastinapur, 65 miles east of Delhi on Feb. 6. At Hastinapur, refugees are being resettled on an area of 47,000 acres which the U.P. Government has reclaimed for mechanised agriculture with the help of the Central Government. Here, the Prime Minister is discussing details of the resettlement scheme

depending on the state of harvest in India. When Japan entered the war and supply from Burma was cut off, the acuteness of the food problem came to be suddenly realised. Country-wide rationing was introduced. We soon found that our deficits were very large and that a few measures, which would yield quick results, should be adopted to increase production in India. So the "Grow More Food" Campaign was started.

The Provinces were asked to take up reclamation of new land, construction of wells, repair of irrigation sources, use of improved seeds, increased use of green manures, composts and fertilisers and other measures which could be carried out with expedition.

Meanwhile, the Japanese market for short-staple cotton also was cut off and this provided an opportunity for reducing the area under cotton and increasing the area under food crops. A conscious effort was made to divert the area from non-food crops to food crops by giving special subsidy as well as by legislation. There was, however, no plan; neither was any target fixed. As and when schemes were sent up by the Provinces, the Government of India gave a subsidy. This subsidy was calculated on the basis of the Government of India giving 25 per cent of the cost, the Provincial Government spending 25 per cent and the cultivator on whose land and for whose benefit the schemes were executed giving the balance of 50 per cent. For certain less developed Provinces like Assam, N.W.F.P. and Orissa, the Central subsidy was 66/2/3rds per cent, the Province spending 33.1/3 per cent of the Governmental share.

The total subsidy given by the Government of India during this period by way of grant was Rs. 9,19,03,575 and by loan was Rs. 6,97,80,584. It is very difficult to say in quantitative terms what exactly were the results achieved during this period. We know that a great deal of area was diverted from non-food crops to food crops. We also know that the following work (see Table I below) was actually done :—

TABLE I

Scale of effort on Irrigation, Manure and Seeds between 1943 *and* 1947.

Aggregate of 4 years.

		Tons.
1.	Manures distributed :—	
	1. Oilcakes	.. 48,38,000
	2. Sulphate of Ammonia	.. 4,20,000
	3. Composts	.. 20,79,770
	4. G. M. Seeds	8,725
2.	Minor Irrigation Projects :—	
	1. Surface wells	64,217*
	2. Tube wells	471
	3. Tanks	3,152†
	4. Other projects	22,043
3.	Seeds distributed :—	
	1. Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Gram .. .. (separate figures not available)	3,05,000

* Includes 18,668 old wells repaired.
† Includes 813 old tanks repaired.

TABLE II

1947-48.

1. *Distribution of Oilcakes, Manures, Fertilisers and Seeds* :—

		Tons.
Quantity of Oilcakes	Distributed ..	.. 2,43,855
,,	Sulphate of Ammonia ,, ..	.. 78,094
,,	Composts made and ,, ..	.. 8,68,975
,,	Green Manure Seeds ,, ..	.. 5,047
,,	Bone Meal .. ,, ..	.. 893
,,	Seeds distributed	.. 69,077

2. *Construction of Surface Wells, Tubewells, Tanks and Dams* :

No. of surface wells	constructed ..	.. 23,007
,,	Tubewells ,, ..	.. 24
,,	Tanks ,, ..	.. 50
,,	Dams ,, ..	.. 20
Other Minor Irrigation Projects ..	,, ..	.. 1,120

The All-India figures of cultivation for the entire period show that, on the whole, the food crop area increased by 10 to 12 million acres and the yield increased by about 2½ million tons. This, of course, is subject to violent seasonal fluctuations as happened in 1945-46 when the N. E. monsoon failed in Madras, and in 1946-47 when the Wheat rust practically wiped out the entire wheat crop in Central India. In fact this dependence on the monsoon is a factor which affects all food production work to a very large extent even now.

Five-Year Food Production Plan (1947-48 to 1951-52)

From 1947 onwards the Government of India has been working a specific plan of food production. This aims at increasing the food output at the end of the five-year period permanently by 3 million tons in the Provinces and 1 million tons in the States. There is now a definite quantity which we aim to produce. This quantity has been split up amongst the various Provinces. (This work has yet to be done for the States). It has also been split up amongst the various items of work which form part of this plan. These items of work are given below :—

(1) *G. M. F. works* :—
(a) Surface percolation wells.
(b) Irrigation tubewells.
(c) Pumping installations.
(d) Tanks and channels.
(e) Land improvement works, including drainage, bunding and reclamation.

(2) *G. M. F. Supplies* :
(a) Manures including chemical fertilisers, oilcakes and green manures.
(b) Improved Seeds.
(c) Better implements including mechanical equipment.

Difficulties in Carrying out the Plan

First and foremost the partition of the country has accentuated the food problem. While the Indian Union has got 79 per cent of the population of the pre-partition period, her wheat and rice areas are only 72 and 73 per cent, respectively. Secondly, the cultivator does not get today all the iron and steel that he requires for his implements. Production of iron and steel in India is now less than what it used to be before the war. The demands, however, have increased because normal replacements were not effected during the war and now there are several developmental schemes which need iron and steel.

In 1947-48, the Provinces received only about 50 per cent of the requirements of steel. As long as the cultivator has to be satisfied with only a percentage of what he requires, there will be, to the extent of this deficiency, some set-back in implementing food production schemes.

The transport position also cannot be said to be very happy, as there is a paucity of wagons and locomotives. Manpower is seriously deficient at the present time, especially engineering staff so necessary for pushing forward the irrigation schemes. More than all these difficulties, the major problem confronting those who are in charge of this work is how to prove to the public that

for a certain amount of expenditure and effort a certain result has been achieved? Our deficit is only about 10 per cent of our production. Even a slight error in calculation, therefore, is sufficient to convert a surplus into a deficit—statistical not real. Our figures, however, are far from being accurate. They are sufficient to show general trends of production but inadequate for a precise appraisement of results. Many of the States are under the category of 'non-reporting.' On the whole, while figures of area are not quite off the mark, the same cannot be said of the figures of yield.

Steps Being Taken to Overcome Difficulties and Improve Methods Followed in Achieving Food Production Targets

The transport difficulties are being partly met by giving very high priority to food production materials, including fuel oils. The procedure also has been accelerated by weekly meetings at the highest level. Recent movements have been much quicker than before. The difficulties connected with the short supply of iron and steel continue to exist. The procedure for supplying iron and steel, however, has been rationalised.

The Ministry of Agriculture gets an all-India quota, which it now distributes to the various Provinces in relation to their demands. The previous practice was to include the quota for agriculture as part of the overall quantity given to the Provinces. Under this latter system agriculture very often suffered. Strenuous efforts are being made to train men in the Provinces but this anyhow is a matter of time.

As regards the method of finding out the results, it has now been decided to go by the various items of work done in each Province and then relate it to the increase in output i.e., if an average well in Madras, for example, irrigates 3 acres and the number of wells dug is 1,000, we estimate that the total area now brought under irrigation is 3,000 acres, which is roughly equal, at the rate of 1/5th of a ton increase per acre by the conversion from a dry to a wet economy, to about 600 tons. Further, inspections on ground and checking up with the results of the 'random sampling' experiments are used as further tests of the accuracy of the figures.

This method is very necessary as otherwise, if the figures for India as a whole is taken, the results of the work done in one part of the country are often nullified by pests or floods or famine in another part of the country. The total does not often increase and so the public say that food production work has failed. By following this method the results achieved during the first year of the food production plan i.e., 1947-48, are given in a separate statement. (See Table II on Previous Page). The actual amount spent was about a crore of rupees. At about Rs. 300/- a ton of food, and making allowance for incorrectness in these figures, the 600 thousand tons of food may be priced at rupees 18 crores.

As a result of the experience gained during the last few years in working these food production schemes, improvements both in procedure and principle are also being effected at every stage. For example, the Central Government gives maximum latitude to the Provinces in regard to the type of schemes they desire to encourage. As long as the schemes are within the accepted definition of food production schemes, all that the Government of India desire to know is whether a grant is asked for, where the scheme being productive, a loan would have sufficed. More concentration of effort also is now being aimed at and the subsidies used only for the production of cereals, fish and root crops. Special steps have been taken to harness non-official help and co-operation by the formation of Committees at every level from the village upwards. In several Provinces the schemes are approved by these committees.

Central Tractor Organisation and Schemes for Reclamation of Land

Of the various measures adopted for increasing food production, special mention must be made of land reclamation work. In 1946, the Ministry of Agriculture acquired some 200 used heavy tractors from the U. S. Army Disposals. It simultaneously acquired a number of machine tools and other essential equipment and also some spare parts for the tractors from the same source. A workshop was set up to rehabilitate these tractors. When reclamation work was begun by 1947, more than a hundred of the heavy Caterpillar HD 7 tractors had been repaired. The season for reclamation is between December and May.



A great ovation was given to Pandit Nehru when he visited Hastinapur to lay the foundation of the new town. Here, little girls line up to welcome Pandit Nehru and the U.P. Premier, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (on the Prime Minister's left)

During 1947-48 the machines were engaged in reclaiming 23,000 acres of jungle land in the United Provinces, and about 8,500 acres of weed-infested land in the Central Provinces. The crops sown on these lands have given surprisingly good yields; so much so, the U. P. Government has, by instituting a system of State farming over a part of the area, recovered the entire costs of the operations. For the current season, the Ministry of Agriculture has a programme of reclaiming about 100 thousand acres. This programme for the current season is concentrated in U.P., C.P. and the Madhya Bharat Union.

Central Tractor Organisation

The Central Tractor Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture was originally created for reclamation work. However, due to the mass migration of Muslims from the East Punjab and the Matsya Union, many of whom took their cattle with them, there is an acute shortage of bullock power in these areas.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation have settled a large number of refugees in the Matsya Union, and the paucity of bullocks has made cultivation operations difficult in both these areas. The Central Tractor Organisation has, therefore, undertaken mechanical cultivation operations with the help of 245 light tractors. So far 3,670 acres have been cultivated by this method in the East Punjab and about 26,000 acres in the Matsya Union. It is expected that before June 1949, double of these areas will be ploughed up and made ready for the next Kharif crop.

The Central Tractor Organisation works on the principle of "no profit no loss," the initial advance being incurred by the Central Government. It undertakes training of drivers and mechanics, and a large number of persons have been trained so far. Most of the persons now operating the machines in the areas mentioned in the previous paragraphs have been trained in the Central Tractor Organisation itself.

Scope for Reclamation Work

The scope for further reclamation work in India is immense. The total area of 'culturable waste' land in India is about 65 million acres, but all of it is not readily reclaimable as this extent includes land of different kinds—scrub jungle, eroded land, saline land, ill-drained marshes, weed-infested land, inaccessible and malarial tracts, etc. The problem has since been examined in consultation with the Provinces in considerable detail. In view of the shortages of men and material on the one hand, and the need of achieving quick and permanent results on the other, it is proposed to concentrate for the present on the reclamation of lands that satisfy the following two conditions:—

(a) where the lands are in large blocks of at least 500 acres each so as to facilitate mechanical reclamation;

(b) where they are either scrub jungle with sparse tree growth or are weed-infested lands.

Within this limitation, an extent of 6 million acres has been proposed for reclamation and subsequent cultivation. This will yield about 2 million tons of extra food.

The following statement shows the extent of waste lands available, which are suitable for mechanical cultivation. The areas marked new 'consist mostly of Government-owned scrub jungle and need special clearance. The areas marked 'infested' are mostly private lands and require deep ploughing with a view to eradicating the roots of the pernicious weeds:—(See Table below);

Tubewell Irrigation and Central Groundwater Organisation

One of the steps taken to counteract the effects of the Bengal Famine of 1943 was the appointment of an Irrigation Adviser in the late Department of Education, Health and Lands. The major measure suggested by him was the development of irrigation by tube wells as being the quickest method of extending irrigation facilities. On his advice a Central Organisation was also set up and mechanical rigs imported from abroad for purposes of training and demonstration, using modern methods of tubewell construction. Tubewells are a quick method of providing irrigation facilities in areas where large projects are not feasible. An average tubewell discharges about 33,000 gallons of water per hour, sufficient to irrigate about a square mile. These tubewells tap the permanent underground supply of water at levels varying from 100 to 500 feet. Their value for the implementation of a quick food plant cannot be over-emphasised.

The Central Groundwater Organisation, as it is called, maintains a Central Drilling School where instruction is provided in mechanical drilling methods. It aims to construct tubewells by using all modern methods of mechanical drilling as part of the field training in the School, and where assistance is sought by Provinces and States as part of general construction work also. In addition it collects and co-ordinates data on ground water supply on an all-India basis and carries out research for improving the technique of tubewell construction under Indian conditions.

The Central Drilling School was actually started in 1946. The number of Drillers and Drilling Engineers who have completed their course are (See Table 1 on next Page):—

Another batch has recently been recruited and has started training from November 15, 1948. The course of training comprises 3 months of preliminary training at the School, followed by 6 months of practical training in the field. To enable this field training to be given, construction of tubewells was arranged in U.P. and Bihar, and during the course of training 43 tubewells were completed and handed over to the Provinces. The demonstration thus afforded has given a great fillip to this type of irrigation; so much so, that requests have been received from the supply of rigs from several Provinces. It is now clear that, to satisfy the demands now made, several more rigs will be required. Exploratory work is the essential preliminary to all construction. The demand for this work is now greater than can be managed with the existing rigs. This work will have to be explained as and when more and more rigs and trained staff become available. For the present, it has been proposed to use 15 rigs for exploration, 8 in the East Punjab, United Provinces and Bihar for exploring areas where large construction programmes have been proposed and 7 in certain other areas where preliminary surveys are favourable.

The Central Groundwater Organisation has been assisting the Provinces and States in procuring materials and equipment and for securing transport priorities. The assistance rendered so far in procuring materials amounts to about three crores and further materials for about a crore of rupees are under procurement. Steps are now being taken for the collection of groundwater data on an all-India basis, and for establishing a Research Station.

A vast construction programme has now been prepared and is proposed to be implemented during the course of the next three years in U. P., Bihar and East Punjab. The total number of wells in these three areas is as given below (See Table II below):—

It is being considered that 3,000 of these wells should be constructed by Johnston International Co. of the United States, who will during the course of construction, train Indian engineers so that at the end of the contract period they can take over from the firm. The equipment also will be left behind by the firm at a depreciated value. It has been proposed to include this programme in asking for a loan from the International Bank.

Provinces:—	*Wood-infested land in million acres.*	*"New" land in million acres.*
East Punjab	.5	*Nil*
East Punjab States	.2	*Nil*
Orissa	.5	*Nil*
Central Provinces	*Nil*	.6
United Provinces	.5	.3
Bihar	.2	.15
Madhya Bharat Union	*Nil*	1.4
Bombay	.3	.8
Bhopal	*Nil*	.4
Vindhya Pradesh	*Nil*	.11
	2.2	3.76

Of this it is proposed to take up about 1.2 million acres in the first year and increasing extents in the subsequent years as the work gathers momentum.

It has been proposed that this programme be included in the various productive schemes for which an International Loan is being asked for.

Manures and Fertilisers, and Fertiliser Pool

The need for using fertilizers and manures so as to step up production in India hardly needs emphasis. The abuse of the soil over several years has led to production being stabilised at a minimum level. In more recent years, there has been an awareness of the need for helping the recuperation of the soil fertility by adding the ingredients lost by crop production.

The Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1928 drew pointed attention to this factor. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been carrying on a number of experiments in regard to the proper use of manures in relation to the nature of the crops on the one hand and the deficiencies of the soil in particular regions on the other. Practically all the research stations run by the Provincial Agricultural Departments are also engaged in this work. Though a complete survey from the point of view of deficiencies of the Indian soils has not been conducted, yet sufficient data is available to show that the Indian soil is deficient over wide areas in nitrogen, phosphate and potash; these three being the deficiencies in order of importance.

The use of fertilisers to food crops was inconsiderable before the war. Amongst indigenous manures containing nitrogen oil cakes and farm-yard manure were used though the former was used more for cattle feed than as manure and the latter was not fully made available in view of its heavy use as fuel in the villages. Green manuring, however, has always been encouraged but more by way of using forest leaves than by growing green manure crops in the fields themselves. The more recent developments in the use of organic nitrogenous manures have been along the lines of:—

(1) Encouraging the growth of green manure crops in the fields themselves;

(2) An increasing use of oil cakes as manure;

(3) Composting of farm-yard manure and town rubbish so as to increase its manurial value.

Use of Compost

These three items of work form a vital aspect of the Grow More Food Campaign and considerable work has been done during the last year or two in these directions. Special mention should be made of the increasing use of compost. Although village and town refuse composting schemes have been in operation since 1944, it is only recently, with the setting up of a Compost Development Committee that the work has received adequate stimulus. During 1948, 486020 tons of compost were prepared from Urban refuse in 566 centres, and 1,258,986 tons from village refuse at 27,950 village centres. The additional yield of food-grains on this account is estimated at 30,455 tons.

The aggregate requirements of nitrogen in India are enormous. It has been estimated that 2.6 million tons of fixed nitrogen would be required annually to make up the deficiency and provide an adequate crop. It is thus seen that if the whole of the farm-yard manure were used for manuring the land, the amount of nitrogen available would be in the region of 800,000 tons *i.e.*, about one third of the total requirements. These figures are intended to show the magnitude of the problem which is to be faced.

During the war the demand for nitrogen and especially sulphate of ammonia arose very sharply as a result of the Grow More Food Campaign. Meanwhile, fertilisers came under allocation by the International Emergency Food Council (I.E.F.C.). It was felt that as the supplies were much less than the demand the foreign supplies allocated by the I.E.F.C. and the local supplies available should be pooled and used to the maximum advantage in order to help food production. This is the genesis of the Nitrogen Pool of the Government of India. All the nitrogenous fertilisers either allocated by the I.E.F.C. or produced locally, which are purchased at varying prices, are brought into this Pool. The stuff is then distributed at an average price, taking all these supplies into account, to the Provinces with the stipulation that at least 75 per cent of it should be used only for food crops. Separate allocations are made for commercial crops like rubber and tea.

The Pool works as part of the Government of India in the Ministry of Agriculture and is based on the principle of "no profit no loss." It will thus be seen that nitrogenous fertilisers are completely under the control of the Government and are used to the maximum advantage in the interests of food production.

More recently it has been realised that emphasis on nitrogen alone may lead to deleterious consequences in the long run by upsetting the plant nutrient balance in the soil and also by allowing free play to the fatty acids contained in nitrogenous fertilizers. It is also the experience of other countries that the use of phosphatic fertilisers over a long period tends to reduce the demand for nitrogen by enabling atmospheric nitrogen to be fixed in the soil.

The Fertilizer Pool mentioned above was, therefore, enlarged in 1948 to include phosphatic manures also. A Committee of experts has been constituted to examine in detail and report on the proper proportions of each region in India between the various types of plant foods but meanwhile a general working principle has been adopted of 10 lbs. of phosphate for every 30 lbs. of nitrogen. In the phosphatic side of the Pool also local production and foreign supplies are pooled and sold to the Provinces at a uniform price on the principle of "no profit no loss."

A Statement showing quantities of fertilisers imported since the year 1944-45 to date is given in Table I on next page.

From reports received from the various Provinces, the following quantities of Sulphate of ammonia have been distributed for food-grain production (See Table II on next Page.)

Fertilisers other than Sulphate of Ammonia were also used on vegetables, cash crops and other commercial crops.

TABLE I

	Drilling Engineers	*Drillers*
Provincial nominees	10	19
States "	5	14
C. G. W. O. "	5	32
Commercial Firms	1	2
Total	21	67

TABLE II

	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	Total
East Punjab	400	450	600	1,450
United Provinces	415	650	850	1,915
Bihar	400	400	400	1,200
	1,215	1,500	1,850	4,565

one is an understanding criticism and the other criticism just for criticism's sake without understanding what is happening. It is therefore essential that we should take the people into our confidence as to what we are doing and what we intend to do."

Constructive Activities

Pointing out that ultimately Government were going to be judged by its constructive activities, Pandit Nehru said: "Take any form of constructive activity—our big schemes of hydro-electric power, river valley schemes, etc. They are all of basic importance and should be explained in detail and as simply as possible with facts and figures.

"Yesterday I went to Hastinapur in Meerut District, Ganga Khadhar area, where the United Provinces Government have started a big scheme of rehabilitation, colonising, irrigation. Every stage of the scheme will arouse interest. On a large piece of land which has been lying waste and which is perhaps more or less malaria-ridden, the Government have started a scheme of reclamation. The first thing they will do is to rid the place of malaria. Then they will bring it under cultivation. Economically, it will become a good paying proposition. And, incidentally, it will provide for a considerable number of refugees.

"I suggest to you that these are matters of great public interest. I do not mean that you should exaggerate but give the facts. Care should be taken to write as objectively as possible with no flourish of language, no exaggeration of facts and figures. We are today suffering from a large number of things. The right way to deal with, basically and fundamentally, is to make our people generally realise how these fundamental problems are being dealt with on the constructive basis."

Referring to films, Pandit Nehru said: "Education today, especially mass education, has been in some places revolutionised by the use of this method. I think documentary films are very important for mass education from a very large number of other aspects. Other countries use documentary films very largely both for what is called cultural propaganda and education. Something could be done by governmental agency in this respect."

SARDAR PATEL'S SPEECH

Making a few general observations Sardar Patel said: "I have been in charge of the Central Publicity Department of Information and Broadcasting. When I first came here, I was afraid of taking the responsibility of this Ministry, because, not believing much in publicity, I thought that publicity in itself was not of much value. But I found by experience that this Ministry is as important as any other. I found that even a good case may go by default if we do not have proper publicity for it."

The Deputy Prime Minister stressed the need for co-ordinating the efforts of the Central as well as Provincial publicity organisations with the limited resources at their disposal.

Referring to broadcasting he said: "Broadcasting though more or less of



Sardar Patel, Miss Maniben Patel, Shri N. V. Gadgil and others photographed with Shri R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, at the reception given by the latter at Government House on Feb. 8 in honour of the delegates to the Conference

recent innovation, plays a very great part in publicity because we cannot reach people merely through the press or the platform. If we make full use of our efforts and expenditure, it will help us a great deal. If the Provinces and States take into consideration this question and put in some effort in that direction, we can reach a very large number of people who otherwise are not able to get newspapers or real facts through newspapers. Many people sometimes get wrong facts by reading newspapers of the type which in rural areas are often in an elementary stage. But if facts properly scrutinised are put through the radio and if it is arranged that a large number of people have access to community sets, then publicity gets a better chance.

Wastage of Food—a Crime

"The one thing that requires publicity today is the difficulties of the Government and the people in regard to shortage of food; owing to this shortage of food, Government have to suffer a great deal. We have, therefore, to ask our people everywhere, to appeal to them, and make them understand that any wastage of foodstuffs is more or less criminal and that we should put our maximum efforts for the procurement of food. If today our publicity is to be concentrated on any question, this is the one most important question. Therefore in the Provinces from where you have come if you find that my diagnosis about the attitude of our people is correct, then we must directly approach the people, and ask them to help the Government in this matter.

"We should make concerted efforts to educate the people that the greatest necessity today is to prevent wastage and give whatever surplus they may have to the Government which has been compelled to reintroduce control and grow more food as far as possible.

"These are the three important points on which publicity has to be concentrated. There are many other things in the Agenda which, I have no doubt, you will all discuss. You will pool your experience and frame the necessary formula on those subjects, but to my mind greater concentration should be on this one most important subject of food.

"If we approach the people with one voice and impress upon them the necessity for concerted effort in this matter, I have very little doubt that we can bring them round. Today their efforts are concentrated on finding faults and criticising the actions of the Government. No doubt there are a lot of things on which the Government can be criticised. But continuously criticising the Government in all its activities is not going to help us at all."

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

After the opening speeches by Mr. R. R. Diwakar, President of the Conference, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India and Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, on February 7, the Conference proceeded to discuss means of achieving greater co-ordination in publicity plans and methods in regard to problems of all-India interest and constructive schemes of Central and Provincial Governments. It set up a small committee to consider the question further. It also discussed problems connected with broadcasting and considered measures to increase the number of community receiving sets in rural areas.

The Conference also heard the views of Provincial and States representatives on the development of oral and visual publicity and the extent of technical assistance that was required in the production and distribution of films and the need for centralising productions programmes.

On the second day the Committee set up by the Conference on February 7 to consider and recommend methods of co-ordination submitted its report to the conference. The Committee made recommendations on subjects of all-India interest for which publicity should be arranged in greater co-ordination with the Provinces and States. The conference on that day was also attended by the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswamy Iyyengar.

The two-day session of the conference ended on February 8.



S.S. "Chidambaram," which was launched by H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari at Tuticorin on Feb. 9, 1949

LAUNCHING OF S. S. "CHIDAMBARAM"

Governor-General's Inaugural Speech

"INDIA is one and her pride is indivisible. But it may be permitted to the people of the South to take some pride in the thought that here it was that the great enterprise was first conceived of refloating Indian vessels on the sea," said His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, in a speech on the occasion of the launching of S. S. "CHIDAMBARAM" at Tuticorin on February 9, 1949.



The late Shri V.O. Chidambaram Pillai

Below is given the text of the speech:

For many centuries before the arrival of the European Powers, the merchants of India had been crossing the waters of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean and traded overseas as far as China on the East and Westward up to Africa. The temples and the culture of the people of the islands of the Indian Ocean and of the near Pacific are witness to the adventure and the sustained intercourse maintained by the people of India with those places overseas. It was not till Columbus's time 15 centuries after Christ that European seamen dared lose sight of the Coast, but Hindus were making ocean voyage before the Christian era. I am repeating what Vice-Admiral W. E. Parry, our Naval Chief, said on a recent occasion. Indians were trading with Egypt and the Roman Empire crossing the Arabian Sea many years before Christ. There is ample evidence of this in Indian literature and art and in the works of Greek and Roman historians.

Since the dawn of History, Hindus have crossed the Bay of Bengal and the waters of the Indian Ocean and colonised many Pacific Islands. Long before the Christian era, Hindus penetrated to Sumatra, Malaya, Indonesia and China. The Maurya kings assumed as one of their regal titles the name of the Eastern Seas. Coming to more recent times, Fa Hien describes an ocean voyage in an Indian ship from Orissa to Ceylon, thence to Nicobar Islands and to China through Malacca Straits. This was in the fifth century A. D. It was in that same century that we established our rule in Malaya, Sumatra and Java. One dynasty or another of Hindus maintained this sea power in the Indian Ocean until the 14th century when it passed to the Arabs.

During the Hindu period of sea supremacy there was complete freedom of route and navigation. Pirates were suppressed and the route was kept open. We respected Dharma and claimed no

EFFECTS OF PARTITION ON INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram Stresses Need For Increased Production

"THE Indian Council of Agricultural Research must play a vital part in solving the food problem and against the background of the realities of that problem, it must organise and co-ordinate most of its work of research in the field of agriculture," stated Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food and Agriculture Minister, addressing the 18th meeting of the Governing Body of the Council in New Delhi on January 31. The meeting which lasted two days was presided over by Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram and attended by representatives of all provinces and States, including the Hon'ble Ministers from C.P. Madras, Orissa, U.P., West Bengal, Cochin, Gwalior and Hyderabad

Welcoming the Madhyabharat Union, the Patiala and East Punjab States and Himachal Pradesh as members of the Council, the Agriculture Minister expressed the hope that before long all the remaining parts of the country would be represented on the Council to enable the whole country to participate in its important duties.

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram then outlined the picture of the country's food situation. He said that as result of partition the country's resources were materially cut down. India had to maintain nearly 80 per cent of the total original population. For feeding it, however, she was left with only about 65 per cent of wheat production and about 69 per cent of rice production. In an undivided India wheat from the Punjab and wheat and rice from Sind moved to the provinces of the present India either through trade channels or governmental agency. That our India was deficit in wheat and rice was not noticeable specially because in the pre-control years rice also moved from Burma to Madras through trade channels.

Special Difficulties

Another effect of partition which has created special difficulties in regard to food production is the disproportionate area which has become dependent on the uncertainties of monsoon. As against the share of 78 per cent of population India has been left with only 66 per cent of the original irrigated area, and in regard to the wheat crop specially, with only 54 per cent of the original irrigated area.

The magnificent barrages and dams and extensive irrigation systems which were constructed in the West Punjab and Sind at the cost of many crores of Rupees are now in Pakistan and assure the supply of wheat and rice and other food crops to 20 per cent of the population of undivided India, belonging to Pakistan. This large area of unirrigated land coming to us has seriously affected our food production and made it dependant, to an extent greater than before, on the vagaries of monsoon. This also renders our best efforts at improved methods of agriculture through seeds and manure as something of a venture. A lasting solution of our food problem is not possible unless we place the major proportion of our fields under perennial irrigation through canals or deep wells.

The Agriculture Minister continued:

But while these permanent measures may be expedited efforts have also to be made in every other possible direction to meet the immediate situation. It was with this view that in 1947 a five-year food production plan was framed in consultation with the provinces. To give you the outline of the food picture I would place some figures before you which would enable you to know what we planned and what we have achieved.

At a conference early in 1947 where the Provincial Governments were represented a target of 30 lakh tons to be completed in five years was fixed for the provinces. The target planned for the first year of 1947-48 was 9 lakh additional tons over the production of 1946-47. Towards this first year's target Madras had to produce 5,29,000 tons, Bombay 57,000 tons, C.P. and Berar 63,000 tons, United Provinces 2,16,000 tons, Bihar 18,000 tons, Orissa 12,000 tons and Assam 9,000 tons. West Bengal and East Punjab were unable to fix a definite target due to disturbed conditions resulting from partition. This was the programme for growing more food in the year 1947-48. It was to be achieved by increased use of manure in the form of oil cakes, chemical fertilizer, compost, green manure and kenereal and also through the distribution of improved seed and the construction of minor irrigation works of the nature of wells, tanks and other similar small projects.

Five-Year Programme

As you all know agriculture is a provincial subject and the Centre has to depend wholly upon the action taken by Provinces and States to implement any central plans for food production. The Central Government makes a small grant or loan towards this five-year programme of food production and otherwise assists through the recently started special measures for land reclamation, tubewells and the fertilizer pool.

I have no doubt that during the last year, 1947-48, the provinces put forth their best efforts to complete the provincial targets but as I have explained above the vagaries of monsoon influence a large proportion of our country than before the partition. This has affected the result of efforts in more than one province. Reports now received from all the provinces except Orissa show that as a result of the specific schemes relating to manure, seeds and minor irrigation for which the Central Government spent only about Rs. one crore as grant or loan a total yield of nearly 7 lakh tons has been achieved as against the target of 9 lakh tons. When it is realised that the provinces could only receive one-third of their planned quota of chemical manure, cement, and steel for wells and ploughs was equally in deficit, the results achieved during the first year of food production programme are in no way discouraging specially in view of the reduced percentage of irrigated area after partition. The grow more food campaign during 1947-48 has to be judged against the target fixed for that year and not against the background of the great shortage due to the transfer by partition of vast areas or irrigated land to Pakistan.

TABLE I

Name of the Fertiliser.	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49 *estimated*
Sulphate of Ammonia.	22,000	70,000	1,57,000	1,45,974	1,18,000	1,46,000
Ammonium Phosphate.	14,000	14,000	6,634	10,150	7,254	4,464
Diammonium Phosphate.	..	..	..	..	2,000	2,000
Ammonium Nitrate	..	..	2,000	6,035	7,950	7,607
Sodium Nitrate	..	..	..	..	21,357	28,000

TABLE II

Year	Quantity of Sulphate of Ammonia applied	Additional production
1943-47	.. 4,20,000 tons.	8,40,000 tons
1947-48	— 78,094 ,,	2,12,222 ,,

Increased Provincial Yields

I have given you in concrete outline the result of the special effort which the Provinces put forth in 1947-48 with the aid of grant and loan of a crore of rupees from the Centre. But apart from this effort in certain parts of each province aided by the Centre it is useful to know the achievements in the whole area of different provinces of the normal programme of cultivation.

A study of the figures of total yield from the entire area within the jurisdiction of the Provinces shows that Bombay, C.P., and U.P. produced between themselves in 1947-48 nearly 19½ lakh tons of foodgrains more than in the preceding year. Bombay's contribution to this additional yield was 2,27,000 tons, C.P. 8,95,000 tons, and U. P. 8,17,000 tons. These figures show the possibilities of development when the season is favourable.

On the other hand the failure of monsoon in Madras which threatened famine at the end of 1947 was responsible for a deficit of more than 11 lakh tons in that Province and the disturbed political and economic conditions in West Bengal and East Punjab affected the cultivation of land resulting in a deficit of nearly 3½ lakh tons in these two provinces. Assam, Bihar and Orissa also reported a total shortage of about 2½ lakh tons in comparison to the preceding year. The effect of the season on these latter regions thus wiped off a good portion of the result achieved both through the special target programme and of the favourable conditions in Bombay, U. P. and C. P. At the end of the year 1947-48 the excess in yield over 1946-47 was reduced to 2 lakh tons. Had the monsoon not played unfair in Madras, we would have had from the Provinces a net additional yield of 19 lakh tons which is more than two thirds of the quantity of foreign imports of food in 1948. Including the reporting States, the total yield in 1947-48 exceeded the yield in 1946-47 by nearly 6 lakh tons.

Concentration on Food Schemes

On our Council are represented all the provinces and States through their Ministers and Directors of Agriculture. I find round this table many of those who are in effective authority in the sphere of food production. I may venture, therefore, to place a few more figures before you so that we may all know the distance which each Province has to cover to ensure a sound position in regard to food. Taking the figures only of last year, that is 1947-48, and after deducting 12½ per cent from the total yield of each Province for seed, wastage etc., it will be found that the per capita production of foodgrains in C.P. was 18.2 ozs., Assam 15.8 ozs., Orissa 15.1 ozs., West Bengal 14.4 ozs., United Provinces 13.5 ozs., Bombay 12.8 ozs., East Punjab 11.3 ozs. Madras 11.0 ozs., and Bihar 9.0 ozs.

I have not given the figures for the States because statistics of most of those areas are not completely available. The only province which could come up to what are considered as minimum nutritional needs in a country where cereals form the principal item of diet is the Province of C.P. Assam and Orissa are also near the target but the rest of the provinces have a great headway to make, and so also I believe many of the Indian States.

The Provinces have somehow to close the deficits in their food budgets. The Centre cannot for long continue to make up the provincial deficits by foreign imports. A datum line has to be fixed beyond which the Central Government must decline, except in a grave emergency, to assume any responsibility for supplying foodgrains to deficit regions. I think the Provincial Governments and legislatures which have to face food deficits should now consider whether their other developmental schemes which draw away money and men and yet are not more vital than food, may not justifiably be postponed or modified so that the topmost priority for money and men could be given to food production schemes. As it is, the needs of some provinces for dollar exchange for plant and machinery for these developmental schemes is made available only at the cost of the exchange needed for imports of food—imports which have been made necessary by the food deficits of these very provinces. I feel the problem is important and urgent enough, to necessitate an almost exclusive concentration of money and men on schemes for the production of more food in the Provinces and States which are chronically deficit since years or in whose cases the fitful monsoon is the main source of water supply.

Intensification of Research

I have taken a little of your time and somewhat tried your patience by giving all these dry figures so that we may have before us a concrete picture of the problem and its main features. I know that the solution of an increase in irrigation for our food crops is not within the purview of your organization but the situation which confronts us calls for a greater effort also in the sphere which is within your jurisdiction.

I have been feeling that our plan for agricultural research should be inspired by a sense of relevance and urgency in view of the serious food situation which the country has had to face as a result of partition. I would venture to suggest that our procedure may well undergo a change and on annual meetings of this nature our Council should debate the broader questions of policy related to the main functions of the Council in the context of the agricultural situation of the country. Most of the comparatively small questions which take up the time of the Council at the annual meeting could well be finally disposed of by a smaller body leaving it open to a member of the Council to raise discussion on any of the questions if he felt the need. In any case I feel it incumbent upon me to suggest to you to intensify your research in areas which are irrigated to help the increase of yields of foodcrops in those regions whether through high yielding seed or pest-resistant varieties of seed or other improvements in the technique of cultivation. It is essential also, if we are to terminate soon our anxiety in regard to food production, that our food farms ought to be covered by an extensive network of research sub-stations which should help to carry speedily to the farmer the result of successful research.

All plans of progress, however, in any field are greatly assisted by a continuous check-up of the achievements of the plans from time to time. Until some years ago Agricultural Statistics in India were largely the result of guess work. Estimation by the eye was quite a common method. We have been slowly progressing towards accuracy.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has made a great contribution in achieving this progress. Since 1943, the method of random sampling has been applied to estimate the yields in different provinces. The scheme of crop cutting surveys has been progressively extending and under the recommendations of the Gregory Committee and the Bengal Famine Enquiry Commission, the method of random sampling is now to be applied so as to cover all principal crops in all the provinces. All this will constitute a most essential foundation on which to build our policies and programmes of work in the field of agriculture.

Co-ordination of Research

The pioneering work done by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has drawn attention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of U. N. O. which has decided to send young men from Eastern countries to learn this method of estimating crop yields at our training centre in Delhi. All the provinces have agreed to a scientific scheme of crop estimates for the coming years, but it is a matter of great regret that financial considerations have for the time being held up the necessary sanction for it. To this scheme and to the coming Agricultural Census of 1951, I attach greatest possible importance. We will all be stumbling in the dark without the light which these two measures will throw on our path. I hope that it will somehow be possible for money being found both for the crop cutting surveys and the agricultural census.

An important aspect of the Council's function is the planning and co-ordination of agricultural research in the country. Up till now a certain system has been in practice for sanctioning schemes of research but experience has shown that in the present method there is a certain amount of waste of funds and duplication of efforts. In this connection the question of organisation of research programmes on a regional basis has been engaging the Council's attention for some time. I am glad that this problem was fully considered by the Advisory Board at its last meeting and their recommendations will now come up for your consideration. I hope the regional committee will soon

start functioning and prove useful in focussing attention on problems of regional importance.

During the course of the last year the expert staff of the Council and the research reorganisation committee have also reviewed all the schemes of the Council at present under operation. Each scheme was personally seen in operation by the Commissioners and Advisers, and their report was considered in detail by the Committee which was appointed under your instructions last year. The recommendations of the Advisory Board regarding the new schemes and extensions have been made in consonance with the recommendations of this committee. A number of general suggestions made by this committee are also before you for consideration. I should like to refer to one of these in particular, namely, the necessity for giving an opportunity to research workers to meet each other periodically, exchange ideas and profit by the experience of all workers in the field. I attach great importance to the value of such periodical meetings for the co-ordination and progress of agricultural research.

I had recently asked the Indian Agricultural Research Institute to call a conference of Agricultural [research workers and I feel that this Council also should give to co-ordinating research their earnest consideration.

Before I close I would like to bring to your notice one of our chief difficulties in going ahead with some of our very important projects. I am referring to the policy of retrenchment more vigorously adopted by the Government of India recently, as a result of which it may not be possible for the Central Government to undertake in the very immediate future, some of the important developmental activities which should in the normal course be undertaken without delay.

I find that in a number of cases this Council expects either special funds to be provided by Government or certain activities to be taken over and financed by them direct. Among these may be mentioned the all-India research scheme for control measures over cereal rusts, the co-ordinated five year crop-cutting scheme, research work on potatoes in northern India including seed certification, all-India research on fruit including technology, and expansion of the Council's publication activities. There can be no two opinions about the necessity for undertaking these activities at the earliest possible moment, but I am afraid that owing to the Government measures for enforcing strict economy in public expenditure it may not be possible for us to obtain the necessary funds required for these activities or for the Government of India to take over some of these major activities with the desired speed. However, I can assure you that I shall try my utmost to see that as many of these valuable schemes as possible are financed at the earliest possible date. I am glad to say that the Government have already agreed to take over the potato research work and the Central Potato Research Institute is expected to be in full working order from the beginning of the next financial year.

Governing Body's Decisions

Several important decisions affecting the fundamental principles of agricultural research including re-organization of research on regional basis, a comprehensive plan of crop cutting survey to estimate crop yields, model schemes of research on agronomic, varietal and manurial trials to assess optimum yields and setting up an Information Bureau in the Ministry of Agriculture to collect and disseminate information on results of research, were taken by the Governing Body of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

To reorganize research on a more scientific basis, the Governing Body decided that the scientific committees should be renovated into really expert Committees with specialists in the line as Chairmen. Their functions should include not only the examination of schemes and reports submitted to them by the Council but also planning of research in their respective spheres and preparation of schemes for future work and suggesting priorities in tackling various problems. Frequent meetings of the research workers, in order to exchange ideas and profit by the experience of other workers in the field, were strongly recommended.

Regional Basis

The Governing Body also accepted the recommendations of the Advisory Board about the planning of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry research on a regional basis. Research schemes are to be classified as fundamental, regional and local. Fundamental items will be allotted, as far as possible, to the Central Institutes, universities and other Stations such as the Central Commodity Research Station ; regional problems to be financed on a contributory basis by the I.C.A.R. and the Province best suited to take up a particular item of research ; and local problems being assigned to the respective Provincial Departments. Below are the broad regions suggested for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry research :

(1) Dry Northern Region comprising of East Punjab, Western United Provinces, Western Central Provinces and Berar and Gwalior ; the foremost crop is wheat ;

(2) Eastern Region comprising of Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Eastern Central Provinces and Berar, Eastern United Provinces and North East Madras ; the principal crop is rice.

(3) Southern Region consisting of two sub-regions—*viz.* Jhansi Division in the United Provinces, C.P. and Berar, C.I. States, Eastern Hyderabad, West Madras, Bombay, Baroda and part of Mysore ; Millets are the principal crops.

(4) Temperate Himalayan Region consisting of Assam (Hilly parts), Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal, Kumaon, Garhwal, Simla, Kulu, Chamba and Kashmir State.

(5) Coastal Region comprising the two coastal strips in South India, bordering on the Eastern and Western Ghats, parts of Mysore, Coorg, Travancore and Cochin.

Animal Husbandry

On the Animal Husbandry side, four regions were accepted for the present. These would be the same as those on Agriculture except that the fifth region would be included in the Eastern Region. This latter may be separated later on, if necessary.

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, in course of the debate, emphasised the need for more decentralised research, otherwise he felt that there was no future for development of cereal crops in India. The Minister visualised the day when the country would be dotted with crop research stations all round, each sharing in common the major problems of all-India importance and at the same time specialising in he particular problems of the area in which they are located. He hoped that although the present proposal of regionalisation is more in the nature of an administrative reform, a time would soon come when a large number of research stations could be set up in different parts of the country to take up research problems on regional basis.

A five-year co-ordinated scheme on crop cutting survey of principal crops, which was recommended by the Advisory Board of the Council, was unanimously approved by the Governing Body who recommended that the Government of India should be approached to make the necessary funds available to the Council for carrying on the work. In the absence of reliable data on crop yields, it was felt, the results of Government development schemes on Grow More Food, land reclamation and others could not be gauged properly and the need for a suitable statistical machinery to collect accurate figures was great.

The crop-cutting survey plan on which research has been carried on since 1943 and which has been recommended both by an Inter-Departmental Committee set up in 1946, under the Chairmanship of Sir Theodore Gregory, then the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, and the Famine Enquiry Commission, is based on random sampling method and experts are of the opinion that this is the best method to ensure accurate results. This method has also received recognition in foreign countries, including U. S. A.

The main objects of the scheme are : to evolve a random sampling technique for conducting crop cutting experiments under the auspices of the Provincial Agriculture Departments, to demonstrate to the Provinces the feasibility of adopting the method so devised, to train the existing Provincial staff in the technique, to estimate the yield per acre for the Provinces as a whole and to revise the present basis of estimation of district normal yields.

Schemes for Research

The Council's schemes for research in Provinces on agronomic, varietal and manurial trials to determine optimum yield of crops which were recommended both by the Advisory Board and the Governing Body in their last meetings were again recommended by the Governing Body to the Government of India for making the necessary funds available to carry on the work. These are model schemes which aim at the application of the results of research to cultivation in all its aspects and to promote co-ordinated work on a scientific basis. Provincial Governments have been requested to submit suitable schemes.

The Governing Body approved of the continuance for a further period of one year, of the Delhi Development Scheme which aims at development of a compact group of villages in all aspects of agriculture and animal husbandry, as a model endeavour for other Provinces to follow, if the results are found to be satisfactory. This scheme was approved by the Governing Body at its last meeting and some preliminary work has already been done in its practical implementation. The broad objectives are : encouragement of mixed farming ; improving the yield of crops by means of improved seeds and implements ; better use of farm-yard manures and artificial fertilisers ; conservation of field wastes for manurial purposes ; improving the breeds of cattle ; encouraging cottage industries like poultry and pisciculture and improving the social and cultural life of the villagers and creating an interest among the villagers in development schemes by organizing Panchayats and building Panchayat *Ghars* in each village. For the present the scheme has been started only in the irrigated area comprising 10 villages of Delhi, *viz.* Badli, Shampur, Sahibabad, Pehladpur, Barwala, Puth Khurd, Sultanpur Diwas, Bawana, Daryapur Kalan and Archandi.

Publicity

How it was best to make the results of research available to the cultivators in the fields and in the farms was considered at length by the Governing Body and a Sub-Committee was appointed with the Hon'ble Mr. N. A. Sherwani, Minister for Agriculture, U. P., as Chairman, to recommend the necessary steps to be taken. The report of the Sub-Committee which was accepted unanimously by the Governing Body made the following recommendations:

The present publications of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research were useful and they should be continued. Besides, the Council should also issue consolidated periodical reports and leaflets in popular language giving the results of research.

In addition to Press publicity it was recommended that all other methods of publicity *viz.*, films, radio, exhibitions, particularly model exhibition trains and cinema shows at railway stations, should be employed. Towards this end, an Information Bureau was recommended to be set up in the Ministry of Agriculture which would collect information from scientific bodies under the Council as well as from the Provinces and from foreign countries on matters concerning agriculture and disseminate the same to the Provinces in popular language so that they could arrange to publicise them among the cultivators.

The Provincial Governments were asked to set up similar Information Bureaus to provide the necessary link with the Centre. The responsibility for bringing results of research to the farmers, it was recognised, developed on the Provinces and they were as urged to strengthen their organisation to take up this work.

INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL CEREALS

During 1947-48 there has been an increase of about 6 lakh tons in the production of eight principal foodgrains, namely rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, gram and barley, over the 1946-47 figures, said the Hon'ble Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Parliament Minister for Food and Agriculture, in a written reply to a question in the Dominion, on February 2, 1949.

The total production of these principal grains in 1947-48 was 42,663,000 tons as against 42,068,000 tons in the previous year. This shows an increase of 1.4% over 1946-47 production, in spite of the extensive damage to rice crop in the South owing to the failure of monsoon.

Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram said that the total acreage of cultivable waste land brought under cultivation during 1948 was 4,45,833 and the additional quantity of foodgrains produced from this area, exclusive of Bombay and Orissa, was nearly 1,22,895 tons. The reclamation schemes were in operation in the Provinces of Bihar, United Provinces, Orissa, C. P. and Berar, Assam, East Punjab, Bombay and West Bengal.

Nearly 40 per cent of the waste land was reclaimed with the help of tractors while the remaining 60 per cent was brought under cultivation by the farmers in co-operation with the Central and Provincial Governments which rendered assistance by one or more of the following means :

Subsidies from the Grow More Food Fund ;

Taccavi loans free of interest given by the Provinces ;

Supply of tractors at reasonable subsidised rates ;

Exemption from payment of land revenues or reduction of rates of payments ; and

Loans and subsidies for purchase o cattle, implements, seeds, manures, etc.

The question of organizing reclaimed land on co-operative collective or individual basis, the Food Minister said, is for the Provincial Governments to decide. However, according to information available, U. P., Orissa and Bombay have got plans for developing a portion of the reclaimed land on co-operative and collective farming basis.

FOOD AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA

It is reliably learnt that under an agreement signed with Russia, India will receive 81,000 tons of Russian wheat in exchange for 5,000 tons each of jute and tea, and 1,000 tons of castor oil. In addition India is purchasing 20,000 tons of Russian wheat.

Under the first food agreement signed with Russia in July 1948, India supplied 5,000 tons of tea to Russia in exchange for 50,000 tons of wheat.

I. L. O. Coal Mines Committee

The third session of the Coal Mines Committee of the I. L. O. will be held at Pitsburgh, Pennsylbania (U. S. A.) from April 19, 1949, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Labour on February 3, 1949. The session will last for about ten days. The agenda will be as follows :—

(1) General Report dealing particularly with :

(*a*) The action taken in the various countries in the light of the conclusions of the Second Session :

(*b*) The steps taken by the International Labour Office to follow up the studies and enquiries proposed by the Committee ; and

(*c*) Recent events and developments in the industry.

(2) The protection of young workers employed underground in coal mines :

(3) The retraining of physically incapacitated miners ; and

(4) Hours of work in coal mines.

The delegation of each country may include two Government representatives and two representatives each of employers' and workers' organisations having a substantial number of members in the industry concerned.

All organisations of Employers and Workers desirous of sending delegates were invited to send the names, qualifications and complete addresses of their representatives whom they like the Government of India to nominate as delegates along with the names and membership of their Constituent Units in the industry concerned, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, New Delhi, before February 19, 1949.

GRAIN IMPORT POSITION SECURE

A categorical assurance that supplies of foodgrains would not be allowed to run out in any part of the country despite a considerable failure of crops in Gujrat, Saurashtra, Baroda and certain other areas, was given by a spokesman of the Food Ministry on February 13, 1949. He affirmed that never before had the Central Government been in a more secure position in the month of February, as far as import plans were concerned, than this year. Arrangements had already been completed for securing almost the whole of 4 million tons of imports needed by India during the current year. Negotiations for the small balance left were continuing and would be finalised within the next few weeks.

The view that deficit provinces and States should, before long, become self-sufficient or nearly so, does not imply, it is stated, any repudiation of the Central Government's responsibility of meeting any emergency in regard to the question of feeding the people.

PLANNED PRODUCTION OF COTTON

Sardar Datar Singh's Address to Central Committee

PRESIDING over the 59th meeting of the Indian Central Cotton Committee in Bombay on February 7, 1949 Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, said that their immediate objective was to produce in India itself their full requirements of medium and long staple cotton. It was unfortunate, he stated, that the extension of the cultivation of cotton at the moment was linked with the overriding necessity of producing more food crops. The Central Government was fully alive to the whole situation and was trying to deal with the matter in as practical a way as possible. Sardar Datar Singh also announced that the Government of India had sanctioned Rs. 30 lakhs grant to the Committee from the Cotton Fund to continue and extend the scope and sphere of its activities.

Those present at the meeting were H. E. Raja Maharaj Singh, Governor of Bombay, Mr. V. L. Mehta, Finance Minister, Mr. M. P. Patil, Agriculture Minister, and representatives of various provinces and trade interests.

After welcoming H. E. the Governor and the Ministers, Sardar Datar Singh continued:

Arising from the recent constitutional changes in the country, there have been changes in the constitution of our committee. By the amendment of the Indian Cotton Cess Act last September, the States Unions of Madhya Bharat, Patiala and East Punjab States, Rajasthan, Vindhya Pradesh and Saurashtra have been accorded separate representation on the Committee. To the representatives of these States Unions and to the new members attending the meeting of the Committee for the first time, I should like to extend a hearty welcome. I feel sure that these additions to our membership will not only advance the cause of cotton in the country but will also be helpful in the solution of the many problems which have to be tackled by the Committee.

Financial Position

As regards the financial position of the Committee, members will recall that over a year or so ago, our funds, owing to various causes, had fallen very low and this was a source of anxiety to us. Although we were able to carry on our work by grants given to us by the Government of India from the Cotton Fund, work had to be held up owing to lack of the necessary finances. I am glad to announce now that the Government of India have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 30 lakhs to the Committee from the Cotton Fund. This money, together with the additional income which the Committee will derive on account of the doubling of the Cotton cess and the collection of the cess on all cottons either consumed in mills or exported, will, I trust, not only enable us to tide over our difficulties in the immediate future but also to extend the sphere and scope of our activities.

One of the most important subjects we have to consider at this meeting is 'planned production of cotton.' You will see from the note on the subject that by the commencement of the next cotton season, the position of our stocks of cotton will be very serious and some thing will have to be done to improve the situation if our cloth production is not to suffer. Already, at my suggestion, the Secretary has undertaken tours in several of the important cotton growing tracts of the country with a wiew to ascertaining in what area cultivation of American cotton can be extended and also stimulating further endeavours in the tracts in which American cotton is now grown.

From his reports which are before you, you will see that much good work has been done by him and I am glad to say that his advice and suggestions to the Provincial and State Governments concerned are being followed up. He has been asked to keep me informed of the position and if and when my intervention is necessary for the implementation of the suggestions, I write a personal letter to the authorities concerned.

Cotton Policy

It is rather unfortunate that the extension of the cultivation of cotton at the moment is linked with the overriding necessity of producing more food crops, but I may assure you that the Central Government is very much alive to the whole situation and is trying to deal with the matter in as practical a way as possible. Our immediate objective is to produce in India itself our full requirements of medium and long staple cottons for which we are at present dependent on Pakistan. In this connection, your Agricultural Research Sub-Committee have made certain recommendations in their report which is now before you.

The cotton policy of the Government of India figures once again on our agenda and in this connection Mr. Chunilal B. Mehta will move a resolution which deserves your earnest consideration. Our Vice-President, Mr. R. G. Saraiya, has also made the suggestion that cloth manufactured from quality cottons produced in India should be given the same premia as cloth produced from imported cottons of similar quality. This suggestion, if agreed to, will no doubt result in encouraging the cultivation of better quality cotton and the payment of a proper price to the grower.

Arising from the control of cotton prices, a subject which is of special interest will be found in the report of the local sub-committee. This sub-committee considered a reference from the Central Provinces and Berar wherein it was suggested that growers of cotton in the reserved area should be paid the parity for their Kapas and that the loss suffered by them due to the prevailing market rates being higher should be made good by paying to them a corresponding higher price for pure seed purchased from them.

The sub-committee felt that this was the only way of ensuring stocks of pure seed and accordingly unanimously agreed that the Government of India should be requested to sanction a sum of Rs. 60,000 for this purpose. I am glad to be able to say that the Government of India has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 60,000 from the Cotton Fund for the purpose of subsidising the purchase of pure Jarila seed, and another sum of Rs. 40,000 for Buri and Cambodia seed.

The question of sending an expedition to foreign countries with a view to selecting suitable breeding material for producing better quality cottons for cultivation in this country has made further progress and here again, we have the recommendations of the Agricultural Research Sub-Committee for consideration.

Shortage of Baling Hoops

You will be glad to know that we have now definitely turned the corner in the matter of the supply of hoops to cotton pressing factories. As you are aware, during the last cotton season, there was a very acute shortage of baling hoops and we urged hard that adequate supplies of this material should be manufactured in the country itself. This recommendation was given effect to, so that this season of indigenous hoops is expected to amount to about 5,000 tons. This, taken together with imports of such material, has eased the situation a great deal.

Before I conclude, I should like to mention the Conference of Cotton Research workers which will meet on February 9 and 10, 1949. I hope that as many of you can find it convenient will attend, as it will give some idea of the work being done on cotton. Your presence will also serve as an encouragement to our cotton research workers in their efforts to improve the Indian cottons both in quality and quantity, and thus give better returns to the cotton grower.

IMPORT OF RAW COTTON FROM PAKISTAN

An announcement was made early in November 1948 regarding the Government of India's decision to bring imports of raw cotton from Pakistan within the scope of their licensing procedure with effect from the 20th of that month. On a review of the position it has not been decided that import licenses should be allowed freely in respect of raw cotton from Pakistan, on the production of evidence of purchase. Intending importers should apply to the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Bombay with the necessary evidence.

PLEA FOR REDUCTION IN SUGAR PRICES

More Area Under Improved Varieties

"WE are all alive to the fact that the present price of sugar is double the world price and that India will not be able to stand foreign competition, until it can reduce its sugar price and bring it down in parity with world prices," observed Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, presiding over the annual meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee held at Walchandnagar, Bombay, on February 12. He added that if the 5-year Development Schemes which the Provincial Governments had undertaken to work are pursued, significantly larger yields of cane and sugar per acre would accrue and the target of production of 16 lakh tons per annum would have been reached by the end of the period.

Sardar Datar Singh said: The research work sponsored by the old Sugar Committee and the present Indian Central Sugarcane Committee has borne fruit and has helped appreciably in developing the sugarcane and sugar industries in India to their present standards. Both fundamental and applied research in agricultural and technological aspects of sugarcane and its products have indeed played a very important role in developing this industry and in making India the largest sugarcane-growing country in the world. The rapid spread of the Coimbatore varieties of cane in nearly 85 per cent of the cane area in India and of their extension into many other countries like Australia, South Africa and others, bears sufficient testimony to the importance and value of research and of its extension into the cultivators' fields.

The main changes brought about recently by application of research may be judged by the figures given below for the years 1931-32 and 1945-46.

		1931-32	1945-46
Area under sugarcane (lakh acres)	.. ..	29.72	38.47
Area under Improved varieties (lakh acres)	.. ..	11.68	35.46
Percentage of area under improved varieties	.. ..	39.30	83.10
Average yield of cane per acre (Tons)	.. ..	14.10	14.00
Percentage of cane utilised for	.. ..		
(a) Manufacture of white sugar	.. ..	6.50	25.00
(b) Manufacture of Gur	.. ..	64.70	52.00
Total production of factory sugar (000 tons)	..	158	944
Consumption of white sugar (000 tons)	.. ..	982	1045
Total imports (000 tons)	.. .. ..	836	*Nil*
Average sugar recovery for			
(a) India as a whole (%)	.. .. ..	8.89	10.09
(b) U. P. (%)	.. .. ..	8.59	10.09
(c) Bihar (%)	.. .. ..	9.06	10.49
Number of operating sugar mills	.. .. ..	31	145

Although remarkable improvements in most of the items mentioned in the table given below have been secured, the average yield of cane per acre has unfortunately remained stationary between 14 to 15 tons in the last decade and a half. It is in the agricultural sphere where greater attention and more intensive research appears to be necessary.

Aim of Self-Sufficiency

We are proud of our achievements so far, but we are also fully conscious of the fact that we have still a great way to go, in order to reach our national goal of self-sufficiency in respect of sugar. Though India is the original home of the sugarcane, it was surprising that it has had to depend for the supply of almost the whole of its white sugar requirements on imports from Java and other countries until the industry was granted fiscal protection in 1931-32. This discriminating protection is still in operation and the Indian Tariff Board is now busy examining whether this industry still needs these tariff walls. At its last meeting, the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee had recommended the continuance of protection for at least one year more, and the long-range policy that should be adopted in this connection has been discussed by your *Ad Hoc* Sub-Committee on February 8, 1949, and its report is now in your hands for consideration.

We are all alive to the fact that the present price of sugar is double the world price and that India will not be able to stand foreign competition, until it can reduce its sugar price and bring it down in parity with world prices. This will be possible only with larger production of sugar as well as of cane per acre. The chief remedy for stepping up cane production lies in providing good quality, disease and pest-resistant varieties of cane to the growers, to supply them enough manures and fertilisers as well as adequate irrigation facilities.

The latent qualities of the valuable cane material we have now produced can only be developed and brought into full play by intensive and not extensive methods of cane cultivation. If the programme framed by this Committee for its 5-year Development Schemes is carried out timely and properly by the various Provincial Governments who have undertaken to work out these schemes, it is hoped that significantly larger yields of cane and sugar per acre will accrue and the target of production of 16 lakh tons of sugar reached at the end of the next 5 years. If this objective can be achieved, it is also expected that larger and larger areas that are now under cane will be released for the cultivation of food and other essential crops that are in short supply now and a time will come, within the next decade, when almost 50 per cent of the present cane area would be diverted to other essential crops, without effecting adversely the production and supply of sugar in this country.

The concerted efforts of the agriculturists, the industrialists, the traders as well as the full co-operation of the consumers and the help and guidance of the scientists and the technologists will be needed to lead us to this goal. I am sure all concerned with the sugarcane industry will not hesitate to consider this national interest more important than their own personal interests.

RAW COTTON IMPORTS FROM ABROAD

Licences for the import of foreign cottons stapling 7/8" and above from sterling area and soft currency countries, excluding East Africa and Sudan were being granted freely provided the imports are made against actual sales to mills, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 12.

It added: With a view to ensuring adequate supplies of cotton, the Government of India have since decided that the stipulation regarding prior sales to mills should be withdrawn forthwith. This means that licences for imports of foreign cotton other than East African and Sudan's, stapling 7/8" and above from all sterling area and soft currency countries will henceforward be granted by the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Bombay freely. As regards imports from Pakistan, licences will be granted freely against proof of actual purchases, as announced recently.

The Government of India has included Art Brassware in the list of commoditie covered by Open General Licence No. 3. Accordingly, no licence will be necessary for its export to hard currency areas, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 9, 1949.



Pandit Nehru going round the Gandhi Mandap Exhibition at Rajghat. Here, the Prime Minister is looking on with interest at a painting depicting the last moments of Mahatma Gandhi's life

Prime Minister of India, on behalf of the Government and people of Burma on the first anniversary of Gandhiji's death :—

"We remember with gratitude Mahatmaji's supreme leadership and eternal message of love and peace to mankind. We ardently hope that this torch lighted by him shall ever remain and give light to the troubled present day world."

RANGOON

The anniversary of Gandhiji's martyrdom was observed in Rangoon on January 30 in a solemn manner. Prayers and *Bhajans* were offered in various parts of the city, these being non-stop for twentyfour hours in some places. Most newspapers had leader articles and special full-length articles concerning Mahatmaji's life and activities. They all emphasized his principles of truth and non-violence and his insistence on truthful means to reach ends.

An exhibition of paintings and photographs of Gandjiji arranged by the All-Burma Indian Youth League, which has been open since yesterday, was visited by large numbers. At a number of places crowds gathered to listen to All India Radio broadcasts.

A public meeting which was largely attended was held on January 30 in Rangoon's main square under the chairmanship of U Ba Win, a well-known teacher and internationalist. Gandhiji's favourite extracts from the different religious scriptures were read out. Speaking in Hindustani, Dr. Dugay, Leader of the Indian community, reminded the audience of Gandhiji's sacrifices and emphasised his message of love and truth.

BATAVIA

A prayer-meeting was held on January 30 at the residence of Dr. S.C. Alagappan, Indian Consul-General in Indonesia, in observance of the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. A distinguished gathering assembled round a portrait of the Mahatma draped in the national flags and bedecked with flowers, to pay their homage to the great departed soul. A large number of Indians, Mr. T. K. Critchley, Chairman of the United Nations Commission for Indonesia, Dr. Sutan Sjahrir, Presidential Adviser, Dr. Dharma Satyavan and other Republican leaders at present in Batavia and a representative of the Far Eastern Office also attended the function. The programme commenced with Bhajans. Gandhiji's favourite song, '*Raghupati Raghava Rajaram* was sung in chorus by a group of Indian girls led by Miss Chandra Alagappan.

The Consul-General then read out the messages issued by the Congress Working Committee and His Excellency the Governor-General in Hindustani and English. A one-minute silence was then observed in memory of the Mahatma, after which *Jana Gana Mana* was sung. A short film depicting scenes of the Mahatma's Ashes-Immersion ceremony in Malaya was then screened. A representative selection of photographs showing the Mahatma in various walks of life were on exhibition. A remarkable feature of the occasion was the large gathering of Indonesians, both men and women.

CANADA

Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on January 30 was observed in a most impressive manner by the Indian community in Vancouver. During the day a Religious Service at the Sikh Gurdwara was attended by the High Commissioner for India and a large congregation of British Columbia Indians. The High Commissioner in his speech paid a tribute to the greatness of M. Gandhi and his matchless services to India and humanity, and called upon the congregation to emulate his example in his honour and the glory of India.

Songs were sung by several local Indians in praise of M. Gandhi. In the evening a public meeting organised by the Khalsa Diwan and attended by 1,000 people, was presided over by Mr. Norris, President of the Board of Trade, and a prominent Vancouver citizen. Speeches in tribute to the Mahatma were made by several prominent Canadians and by the High Commissioner.

TORONTO

Two thousand people representing all aspects of Toronto's life, including almost the entire Consular Corps, Dominion and Provincial officials, civil dignitaries, representatives of trade and industry, and practically the entire Indian population (students and residents) crowded the beautiful Timothy Eaton Memorial Church on Sunday evening for a moving Gandhi Memorial Service. The Church Trustee's invitation to the Memorial Service stated :

"On this date in 1948 Gandhi died. In his death men and women of goodwill of various religious loyalties lost a noble friend and leader. Ministers and officials of this Church count it an honour to have one of his Memorial Services held here. To Mr. Ahuja, representing the Indian Government and his colleagues, friends of India and citizens of our great sister Dominion, we extend sincere welcome and warmest greetings. We are glad also to have associated with us in this Service representatives of Judaism, of the coloured community and of some of the other great religions. With the Christian flag and the Union Jack, the flag of India will be carried tonight in our Service."

The procession to the Church which preceded the Service was led by 3 standard-bearers, the first carrying the Church flag and two others side by side carrying the Indian flag and the Union Jack. As the procession marched up the aisle, the organ played a prelude followed by the hymn, "When I survey the wondrous cross"—one of Gandhi's favourite hymns. The Service opened with the Lord's prayer followed by the presentation of offerings.

After readings from the Bible and Gitanjali, Mr. Ahuja read out a message based on that issued by the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress. Then followed a rendering of *Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram* by three Indian girls, with the organ providing a suitable accompaniment. Addresses by Rabbi Feinverg, Rev. Dawson and Dr. Khan followed, after which Rev. Maclennan spoke on M. Gandhi's life and wound up the Service with prayers for Gandhi and India. The customary benediction was followed by another of Gandhi's favourite hymns "Lead Kindly Light."

The Church Trustees asked Mr. Ahuja to convey to the Prime Minister of India their own faith in truth, love and non-violence, and their wishes for India's advancement under the Prime Minister's leadership and in the spirit of Gandhi's message.

EGYPT

The Egyptian Press gave prominence to Gandhiji's death anniversary by publishing editorials, special articles and photographs. Special Radio programmes were broadcast by Cairo Radio.

A public meeting organised by the Indian Union was presided over by Dr. Syud Hossain, Indian Ambassador, who in his speech emphasised the application by Mahatma Gandhi of the essential teachings of all religions and the strict adherence to truth and non-violence. The successful application of these to Indian politics was truly a revolutionary innovation.

Other speakers were Doctor Howard, a Dean of the American University, and Tewfik Diab Bey, a well-known writer. The latter referred to Bapu as the God-given apostle of non-violence leading a successful struggle for independence, and later risking his own life to bring communal peace. The representative of Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, was present in his unavoidable absence.

The two Radio programmes arranged and broadcast included recorded excerpts from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's speeches and a talk by Dr. Syud Hossain on "Good response by the Indian Government and people to Gandhiji's teachings in past year." Dr. Syud Hossain also broadcast in Arabic a talk on universal significance of Gandhiji's message.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A crowded meeting of the citizens of Czechoslovakia held at Prague on January 31 to observe the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom listened with rapt attention to a dozen Czech speakers including Professor Leany, Head of the Faculty of Philosophy and of Oriental Institutes, Professor Bartucheck, Editor of the 'Novy Orient' and Mr. Hayek, who paid tributes to Mahatmaji.

Resting under the National flags of India and Czechoslovakia, a painting of Mahatma Gandhi which was draped in black dominated the hall. A large number of people unable to find room inside the hall followed the proceedings from outside.

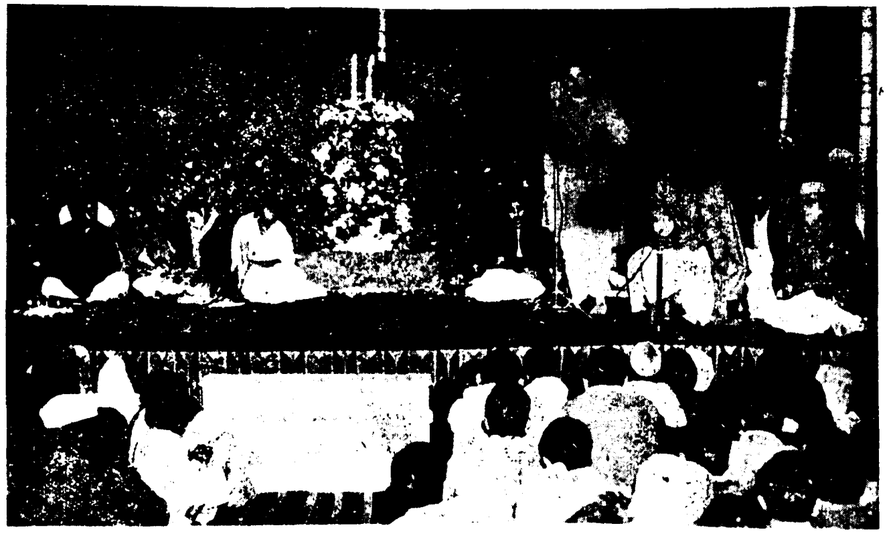
Mr. N. Raghavan, Indian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, and other Indian Embassy officials and members of the Indian community also participated in the function. Various speakers expounded the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, and the audience after placing flowers below the pictures sung 'Ramdhun,' the favourite song of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Indian ambassador at another meeting held at his residence declared in a speech that Mahatma Gandhi had



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari visited the Gandhi Mandap Exhibition on Feb. 13. On His Excellency's right is Shri Kanu Gandhi, Mahatmaji's grandson

SOLEMN OBSERVANCE OF GANDHIJI'S FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, addressed a gathering of Government House staff and their families at a prayer meeting held on Jan. 30, the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Shri Devadas Gandhi translated His Excellency's speech into Hindi, sentence by sentence

Governor-General's Counsel

SPEAKING at the prayer gathering held at Government House on January 30, 1949, in commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi's First *Maha Prayana* Anniversary His Excellency, Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, said:

Twelve months ago Gandhiji passed away from us. Like the song which we heard on the violin just now and which has united with *Akash* now Gandhiji's life ended suddenly and we cannot see him any more. So also Gandhiji has joined *Akash*. We can see the violin made of wood and string. But the song is gone. The musician can play again but we cannot make Gandhiji again. The pictures or busts we have are like broken fiddles which cannot produce the song.

It will not do to continue grieving. Our elders tell us that after the first month is over, there should be no more weeping. We should perform *Shradh* in order to please the dead spirit. Our daily work and thoughts must be the *Shradh* for our departed leader. Once a year when we meet and gather like this in memory of our dead leader, we should not weep. We should make it into a festival which will give us inspiration and strength.

We must derive from the memory of our departed leader courage to speak the truth, to be patient and bear with one another. If this gathering and the meeting we had at Rajghat this evening and the gatherings all over the country that have been held today, give us more strength to speak the truth and to bear with one another, then there is no doubt about it that Mahatmaji's spirit will be gladdened.

While he lived, every day Mahatmaji was appealing to God that we may all have the good sense to love one another. We are all men, women and children—born in this world to love one another. It is only fools that hate each other. This was what Gandhiji taught up to the point of his death.

Gandhiji's Message of Love

It is not enough if we are proud that we had Gandhiji among us. What we have to do is to do what he desired us to do. Living men may be pleased by flattery, we cannot please Gandhiji's soul by flattery and empty praise. We can please him only if we do as he wanted us to do.

Children can understand what Gandhiji wanted us to do—love one another. Grown up people find it more difficult to understand it. They think there are difficulties in the way of loving one another. Once upon a time Gandhiji was telling people that they would get Swaraj. Many people did not believe him. In the early days, many people were asking 'How can you get Swaraj without war', 'whether there was any nation in the world that got free without bloodshed?'

India has however achieved the seemingly impossible. India has gained freedom and we are now completely independent without having war and without shedding blood. We are not only independent, but without being a great Power, without great armies and navies, India enjoys the highest prestige in councils of the world. That strength has been obtained by us by reason of the truth contained in Gandhiji's guidance of us.

Just as what Gandhiji told us about achieving Swaraj through non-violence proved true, what Gandhiji has told us about loving one another will prove to be equally true if we try and do as he told us.

Some people doubt whether Hindus can love Muslims or Muslims can love Hindus. Take it from me that what Gandhiji said that we can and must love one another is true. Nothing else is true. If we try, God will help us to succeed. We shall be not only as great as we are today, but we will grow in our greatness before these children here grow up.

"Work and Make India Great"

If we learn how to overcome prejudices in respect of communities, India will be great before the next few years and the world will respect us and follow us.

When on the first of this year, India and Pakistan said they had stopped fighting, India immediately grew twice as powerful as she was before in the eyes of the world. Her voice now has influence with the whole of Asia. Asia met recently at Delhi and the voice of that conference has been powerful enough to save and help the people of Indonesia. In the path which Gandhiji has shown us lies our greatness and prosperity. If any man hates you, do not bother about it. Try to love him and that man will begin to love you. If other people tell lies, do not bother about them. Speak the truth and everything will go on well.

Our Government now is very strong and has great prestige in the world, but unless we keep our home affairs in good order, that prestige will topple down. If people in our country in their daily lives speak the truth and do not deceive one another, then our national prestige will be great. If we are dishonest and corrupt in our daily lives, everything will go down. Do not think of other people's faults: every man must try himself to be good. No cake can be good if the flour in not good.

"Be Honest and Industrious"

If people are lazy, the Government will be poor. When we were not free, we had many people to look after us. Now that we are a free nation each one must look after himself. If I am a gardener and if I am digging, now that our country is free, it should not be necessary to have an overseer above me to supervise my work. I should do the digging properly myself.

If you have seen bees collecting honey, you will have noticed that each does its work and the hive becomes full. There are no supervisors over the bees. We must be independent of any supervision. We must be honest and industrious, each by himself. It should be the pride and honour of every workman in free India to do his work properly without anybody goading him or threatening to punish him.

MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

U Win's Broadcast

Broadcasting from the Rangoon Radio Station on January 30, U Win, formerly the Burmese Ambassador in India, and now Burma's Education Minister, paid a moving tribute to Gandhiji on the occasion of the first death anniversary.

In his 15-minute broadcast U Win called his personal association with Gandhiji and the poignant scene witnessed by him at Birla House last year.

He said: "Saints do not visit earth often and they do so only when there is a noble task to perform beyond powers of ordinary mortals. The task Gandhiji had set upon was to lead the world back to ways of love and truth."

Truth and Non-Violence

Referring to Gandhiji's part in obtaining Indian independence, U Win said; "He vowed to fight for the enfranchisement of the Indian people. But unlike the ordinary patriot he insisted that the means of achieving the aim should be moral. He set out to achieve freedom through the irreproachable weapon of truth and non-violence. In his long fight against the British domination he had never uttered a word of malice and untruth against the character and institution of British people."

U Win continued: "We of the East are easily persuaded of the truth of Gandhiji's teaching.....Gandhiji by teaching the way of non-violence as a means of political struggle brought the ideal of love to millions who would otherwise have ignored it as distant and impracticable.

"Bapuji is the rallying point of all who have at heart the peace and orderly progress of the world.....His teaching brooks no barrier whatsoever—of race, religion, or State. He thereby constituted the greatest single factor contributing towards world unity."

Concluding U Win said "To us followers of Buddha familiar from birth with *Mingala Sutta* (sermon on noble conduct in life) and *Mijitta Sutta* (sermon on love) Bapuji's teachings are indeed very precious. They give practical form to our beloved master's teachings. It is for this reason why Bapuji is loved and revered by us. We forget he belonged to another religion, another clime and another race. We only know he was great in life—great in thought and great in deed. In the act or dance teachings of *Mingala Sutta* "revering those who deserve reverence" we revered Bapuji.

Union of Burma's Message

"In revering Bapuji we are revering an Indian and our goodwill flows towards our Indian brethren. Bapuji has cemented therefore, the age-old friendship which existed between the two countries. The destinies of the two countries are closely bound up..I am convinced this friendship will ever be strengthened through the memory of Bapuji who lived and died for unity and accord among nations."

The Charge d'Affaires for the Union of Burma in India has sent the following message to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru



Pandit Nehru speaking on the occasion of the opening of the Gandhi Mandap Exhibition at Rajghat, New Delhi, on Jan. 31. Seated behind him are Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Shri N. V. Gadgil and others

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO GUJERAT



(Above) Pandit Nehru inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Gujerat Vidya Sabha at Ahmedabad during his visit to the city last month. Here, Mr. Abu Zafar Nadvi is addressing the distinguished gathering.

(Below) Pandit Nehru studying the texture of hand-made textiles in the Textile Museum, Ahmedabad, which he opened on Feb. 12



Pandit Nehru unveiled a bust of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Deputy Prime Minister, at Godhra on Feb. 13. (Below) The Prime Minister laying the foundation stone of Vallabh Nagar at Anand on Feb. 13. The new township is on the border of Karamsad village, the birth-place of Sardar Patel

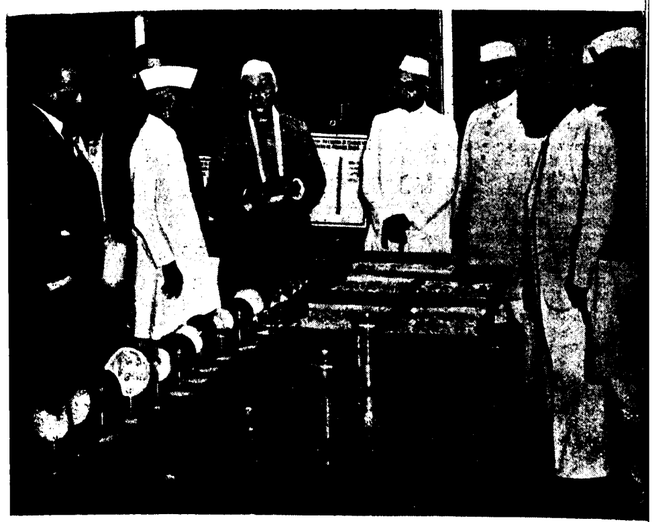


(Above) Pandit Nehru addressing representatives of Labour at the Congress House, Ahmedabad, on Feb. 12. Seated behind are Shri B. G. Kher, Premier, and Shri Morarji Desai, Home Minister, Bombay.

(Below) Pandit Nehru at the Anand Agricultural Institute









Indians in Tokyo assembled in the Indian Liaison Mission Office to pay homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi on Jan. 30, when Mr. B. N. Chakravarty, Head of the Indian Mission, read out the Congress Working Committee's message

entrusted his children with the duty of propagating the results of what he modestly termed his 'experiments.' That duty, added the Indian Ambassador, cannot be fulfilled by precept but by example.

IRAN

Members of the Indian community in Teheran, numbering over one hundred, met at the Indian Embassy today to observe the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Working Committee Resolution was read out by Syed Ali Zaheer, Indian Ambassador to Iran. A minute's silence was observed in reverent memory of the Father of the Nation.

KABUL

At a simple, solemn ceremony, Kabul Indians observed the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30. The function was attended by the Representatives of Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, as well as of Afghanistan.

The function began with a two-minute silence followed by *Ramdhun*. The "Message" and quotations from Gandhiji's writings were read out. Photographs of Gandhiji were also on exhibition.

MAURITIUS

A series of solemn meetings and gatherings throughout the island, an exhibition of Gandhiji's photographs and books, special radio broadcasts and the screening of Mahatmaji's films marked the observance of the first death anniversary of Gandhiji in Mauritius.

The occasion was observed throughout Mauritius. Scores of solemn public meetings were held in villages, schools and *baithkas* and *havan yagna* were performed in temples in many parts of the island. Mr. Dharam Yash Dev, the Indian Commissioner, accompanied local members of the Mauritius Executive and Legislative Council in a 145-mile tour round the island and addressed eight meetings.

At every meeting the text of the "Message" was read out and brief speeches were made drawing attention to the Mahatma's work and his message of unity, goodwill and service of India and humanity irrespective of class, colour or creed.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Station arranged a special seventy-minute programme paying homage to the Mahatma. The programme included recitation of hymns, a recorded speech of the Mahatma and talks by Hindus and Muslims. A special ten-minute tribute to Gandhiji in Hindustani was broadcast by Mrs. Mohini Devi, wife of the Indian Commissioner.

A small exhibition of photographs, paintings and statuettes of the Mahatma as also his writings and many books about him were arranged on display in the Comissioner's office.

Two Indian films, "Amarsangam" and "Immortal Mahatma" were screened on January 29 and 30 in over a dozen important cinemas throughout the island.

The day's programme ended with a broadcast by the Indian Commissioner in English.

TOKYO

The first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed on January 30 at a meeting of Indians in the Indian Mission Tokyo when Mr. Chakravarty, Head of the Mission, read out the Congress Working Committee's message. The gathering observed two minutes' silence in memory of Gandhiji and *Ramdhun* was sung.

General Peckhkoff, the French Ambassador, Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps associating himself with the commemoration in a message, said: "For many years since I remember anything in the world I have been a humble admirer of the great man. I have followed step by step his struggle for greater comprehension among men and for respect of the human person, no matter to what race or creed he belonged. I am also a great admirer of Rabindranath Tagore, but it is the ideals for which Gandhi lived and fought and died that have conquered my heart and soul."

TRINIDAD

It was one of the most largely attended memorials ever held in the history of Trinidad when thousands of people assembled on January 30 at the Grand Stand in Queens Park, Savannah, Fort of Spain to pay their homage to the sacred memory of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his first death anniversary. Since morning, special trains arranged by railway authorities began to steam into the capital bringing large numbers of Indians from the rural areas. All sections of the people of this cosmopolitan colony, Indians, Chinese, Negroes French, Spanish, Portuguese, Americans and Englishmen were present, including Consuls of various countries and high Government officials.

Mr. Satya Charan, Commissioner for the Government of India in the British West Indies (including British Guiana) presided at the memorial meeting and among the speakers, apart from Indians, were His Excellency Sir John Shaw, Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, the Hon'ble Dr. Patric Soloman and the Hon'ble Albert Gomes, the Negro and Portuguese members, respectively, of the Trinidad legislature.

The Commissioner in his opening remarks, paid eloquent tributes to Mahatmaji and dwelt on his humanitarian ideals. The Governor, Sir John Shaw, said: "All right-minded and peace-loving men view with concern the ever-growing discord and strife between nations which have been the feature of our time for two generations. The world could ill afford to lose such an apostle of concord as Gandhiji."

The only recorded speech of Mahatmaji, his spiritual message and the song, "Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram," were played and the meeting ended with "Bande Matram."

ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES

Among messages received by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, on the anniversary of Gandhiji's death are one from the Government of Burma and the other from Dr. Naicker, President, South African Indian Congress:—

From the Government of Burma:

"On this day of the anniversary of the death of the Mahatma, I send this message of condolence on behalf of the Government of the Union of Burma and myself. We remember with gratitude his supreme leadership and eternal message of love and peace to mankind. We hope that this torch lighted by him will ever remain and give light to the troubled present-day world.

Kyam Khine."

From Dr. Naicker, Durban:

"Humanity in its search of peace has deeply felt the vacuum caused by the tragic and sudden death of Bapuji for the past twelve months when his guidance and advice was so necessary in this troubled world. We in South Africa who have had the privilege of Bapuji's presence on our soil and the inspiration of his first satyagraha struggle solmenly pledge together with peace-loving peoples all over the world to continue to pursue the noble ideals of Mahatmaji.

Dr. Naicker,
President,
South African Indian Congress."

MRS. BOLTON'S TRIBUTE TO GANDHIJI

The following speech on Mahatma Gandhi by Mrs. Bolton, of Ohio, appeared in the "Congressional Record" for January 31, 1949. The "Congressional Record" is the official report of the proceedings of the House of Representatives:—

It was my privilege to be included amongst those invited by the Ambassador of India at the impressive and deeply moving memorial service held in the auditorium of the Department of Interior. With great understanding, the Indian Embassy recognized that here in Washington are many who revere this great spirit that chose to serve mankind in this moment of universal need in the frail form of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known to us as Mahatma and to many of his followers as Bapu—an untranslatable name of love.

No one who was present could fail to have been deeply moved by the simplicity of the service. For myself, I was lifted up as I have not been in many long moons. The reality of spiritual force pervaded me, the universality of truth enveloped me and I came away renewed in body and soul. It is with deep appreciation that I take this method of thanking the Ambassador from India and Lady Rama Rau for this uplifting experience that has given me new courage and certain hope that one day all the people of the world will live together in complete understanding and demonstration of non-violence for which Mahatma Gandhi gave his life.

That there may be in record a less personal word of this memorial hour, I am inserting a clipping from the "Washington Post" of this morning.

INDIANS AT NANKING SAFE

According to information received from the Indian Embassy, Nanking, the Indian staff of the Embassy and the Consulates and Indian students are well, despite the rigorous conditions prevailing in China, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, on February 7.

It is feared that letters are not regularly reaching their relatives and dependents in India on account of the extreme irregularity of postal communication between India and China, but this should not cause any anxiety or worry.

TRANSFER OF HYDERABAD SECURITIES TO PAKISTAN

Bill Introduced in Parliament for Cancellation

INTRODUCING the Scheduled Securities (Hyderabad) Bill which provides for the control of the transfer of certain securities in the Dominion Parliament on February 8, the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, said:—

"The House is, I think, aware of the history of the loan of Rs. 20 crores which was made by the Hyderabad Government in December 1947. This loan was negotiated at a time when the Standstill Agreement between the Hyderabad Government and the Government of India was in existence, and when negotiations were going on for settling the future relationship between the Government of India and the Hyderabad Government after the termination of the Standstill Agreement. Without a word to us, or any kind of intimation to the Government of India, the Hyderabad delegation—the Leader of the Delegation was the Prime Minister of the Government of Hyderabad—was at that time negotiating for a loan of Rs. 20 crores to be given to the Pakistan Government.

Breach of Standstill Agreement

"The Prime Minister of Hyderabad entered into this financial transaction concealing the facts from us and transferred securities to the extent of Rs. 20 crores, which were held by the Hyderabad Government, to Pakistan. As soon as we came to know of it, we made our attitude quite clear to the then Hyderabad Government and the Prime Minister that this was a clear breach of the Standstill Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Hyderabad, and that the Government of Hyderabad would be responsible for all the consequences. As a result of that, he, the Prime Minister of Hyderabad, negotiated with the Pakistan Government and came to an arrangement that the securities will not be cashed and that they will not be negotiated in any manner.

"After this it was brought to the notice of the Government of India that an application was made to the Reserve Bank for the conversion of some of these securities into promissory notes of small denominations. Such a conversion was obviously intended for the purpose of disposing of the securities. That was, therefore, a fresh breach of the undertaking given by the Hyderabad Government.

"In lieu of these securities, the Hyderabad Government were to receive securities of the Pakistan Government. We had evidence that the Hyderabad Government were making frantic efforts to purchase warlike materials, obviously with a view to prepare the Hyderabad Government militarily. Large blocks of Hyderabad Government's holding of India Government's securities were also being sold. This could not but have a detrimental effect on the Indian market. To protect these interests, therefore, it became necessary to promulgate an Ordinance on July 1, 1948, so as to prevent the sale or transfer of Government of India's securities held by, or on behalf of the Hyderabad Government, in the Hyderabad State Bank, including the securities worth Rs. 20 crores which had been transferred to Pakistan.

Irrefutable Evidence

"Till then, of course, we were not in full possession of facts leading to the negotiations of the transfer and of the part which was played by the various parties in this transaction. We have now irrefutable evidence to show that the then Prime Minister of the Hyderabad Government, Mr. Laik Ali, exceeded the instructions of His Exalted Highness the Nizam and the Council in regard to this transaction and concluded an agreement which was quite different from the one originally contemplated by the Nizam and his Council. I am saying this not in order to excuse or mitigate the breach of the Standstill Agreement, but only to provide clearly the close and intimate relationship which then existed between the leading personalities in Hyderabad Government and the Pakistan Government whose Finance Minister was, of course, an ex-employee of the Nizam, and subsequently became his pensioner.

"In November, 1948, His Exalted Highness the Nizam declared that the transfer of securities worth Rs. 20 crores to the Pakistan Government was beyond the competence of the Hyderabad Government and, therefore, invalid. The Government of Hyderabad thereupon wrote to the Pakistan Government through us requesting them to return those securities. The Pakistan Government refused to do so on various grounds which were found to be quite untenable.

"The Hyderabad Government then wrote to the Government of India to authorise the Reserve Bank of India to cancel these securities and issue duplicates to them. We felt that the request was reasonable and, therefore, in order to protect the interests of the Government of Hyderabad as well as those of the Government of India, issued an Ordinance on December 31, 1948, giving such authority to the Reserve Bank. This Ordinance would expire on June 30, 1949. At the same time, it is necessary to protect the interests of the Government of Hyderabad as well as of the Indian Government and so we think that the provisions of this Ordinance should now be incorporatted in a small piece of legislation. This is now brought before the House. The provisions of this ordinance have, therefore, been included in this Bill."

You will, however, realise that in view of the present financial difficulties, it may not be possible to do all that is desirable or necessary. Nevertheless, archæology is so important for a proper appreciation of our history that something must be done in spite of present difficulties. I can assure you that the Government of India will do whatever is possible within the limitations of finance. You must also advise the Government how best to utilise our limited resources, during the period of stringency and prepare a long-term programme of work which can be undertaken as soon as economic position improves.

PAKISTAN'S MESSAGE OF GOODWILL

Mr. S. A. A. Naqvi, Observer from Pakistan, addressing the meeting said :

Mr. President, and Members of the Board, it is a proud privilege for me to be present once again at this meeting. I was myself member of this very Department of Archæology of India before the Partition, and now again I am here as the representative of Pakistan Government. I rise at the instance of the Honourable Member on the other side of the table.

This morning he wanted to know whether we were preserving the monuments in places in which of course more interest lies to those people who now reside in India and not in Pakistan. Before I say anything about the activities of the Archæology Department in Pakistan, let me acknowledge and let me express the deep sense of appreciation and gratitude of the Government of Pakistan at the invitation which you were so kind to extend to us for this meeting. I am sure such gestures of goodwill are bound to go a long way in creating that atmosphere of perpetual happiness and cordial relationship between the two countries which we definitely claim and we rightly deserve.

Now Mr. President, I am not a politician and I do not claim to be one, but as a student of Archæology I know that the reconstruction of human history and history of different cultures which are our main task as Archæologist, become simply impossible if we start looking at life in separate watertight compartments. Mutual co-operation, therefore, in the sphere of our activities becomes all the more essential. Now to-day's report of the Director-General of Archæology, has impressed me that they have been able to do a lot during the course of the past one year. As regards my Department of Archæology in Pakistan, we have also got almost the same programme as you are pursuing here. We have the main task before us of preservation of ancient monuments. In that connection I would like to impress on my friend on the other side that as far as national monuments are concerned, whether they be in India or Pakistan or any part of the world, they are of help to the country concerned and they are more dear to us than for others. We are preserving them and we are conserving them as best as possible and I am sure that when we have the opportunity of inviting you there, you will definitely appreciate that we are doing our very best in preserving and conserving them.

The second work which we have been pursuing very enthusiastically is a general survey of the pre-historic sites. Of Course, they have warranted the amplifiation of the pre-historic map which was formerly prepared by the late-lamented Mr. Mazumdar. In order to have the highest degree of accuracy and efficiency, our Government have also enlisted the enlightened co-operation of Dr. R. M. Wheeler who was formerly Director-General of Archæology in India and I hope with his help and further of course with the services of the staff including myself, I hope we shall be able to do good work.

We have also striven hard to prepare the structural and architectural features of the entire group of monuments at Makli and Quetta and you will be pleased to know that work has been completed with very satisfactory results. Epigraphy, numismatics and museology have also received our attention and the conditions of those studies are on their way to press.

I must not forget to say that we in the Archæology Department of Pakistan still cherish the highest regard and reverence for our erstwhile colleagues and friends in the Archæology Department of India from whom of course when need arises we shall never hesitate to seek co-operation and guidance in resolving the puzzles and problems of Archæology. And we in our turn shall be always at their disposal.

DR. TARA CHAND'S SPEECH

Dr. Tara Chand, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India, speaking on this occasion said :

We have listened to the speech of the last speaker with very great pleasure indeed. We are very much struck by what he has said regarding the efforts of the Pakistan Government to preserve and conserve the ancient monuments in that part of, shall I say, India. The monuments in Pakistan are so intimately connected and linked with the history of our country that we are all anxious to know what treatment they are receiving at the hands of the Pakistan Government. Therefore it gives us very great pleasure indeed to know from Mr. Naqvi that they are being looked after so efficiently and so well.

There is no doubt in our mind that the relations between India and Pakistan should continue to develop and it should be possible for the two countries to work hand in hand. After all the culture of Pakistan and India have great many things in common and for a long time our history has been the common history of both Pakistan and India and nothing will give to the people of this side greater pleasure than to see these relations made stronger, so that whatever evil memories we may have had of the recent past may disappear completely and the two countries should go together to develop still further what we have done in the past.

I am sure I am giving expression to the feelings of all members present here when I ask Mr. Naqvi to carry to his Government and his Department our very best feelings of appreciation of the work that they are doing.

KING FAROUK'S BIRTHDAY

His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, sent the following message to His Majesty King Farouk I of Egypt on February 11, on the occasion of the latter's twenty-ninth birthday :—

"On my own behalf and on behalf of the Government and people of India, I send warm greetings to Your Majesty on the twentyninth anniversary of your birthday."

Properties of Mangrol and Manavadar

Introducing in Parliament on February 7, 1949, a bill to provide for the vesting of certain properties belonging to the States of Mangrol and Manavadar in Kathiawar in the Managers of the States, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Minister of States said :—

"The administration of Manavadar and Mangrol States in Kathiawar was taken over on October 22, and November 1, 1948 respectively. The Ruler of Mangrol had signed an accession which he subsequently repudiated under pressure from Junagadh. The Ruler of Manavadar had no independent existence as a Ruler and Manavadar was merged at one time in Junagadh. Subsequently it was detached and like all the detached States which were taken over by us afterwards in accordance with our Notification issued on August 14, 1947, this State was also taken over. Subsequently, the Rulers were won over by Pakistan and are reported to have signed some sort of an agreement of political relationship with Pakistan.

Having regard to our earlier claim, however, we took possession of these States and the Rulers were taken over under our protective custody. The States were placed under Managers who work directly under the supervision and control of our Regional Commissioner stationed at Rajkot, the old headquarters of the Residency of the Political Department in Kathiawar. Both these have properties consisting of Government securities, stocks, industrial shares etc. in the name of Chiefs or Rulers or Karbaris or other officials of the State.

It was, therefore, thought best to vest these properties by law in the Managers, so that they could be safe and be operated on by the Managers in the interests of the State. Government of India, therefore, issued an Ordinance to that effect on August 16, 1948. That Ordinance is likely to expire on February 15, 1949. It is, therefore, necessary to continue the arrangements by an act of the legislature. Accordingly, this Bill has been introduced. It is a very small incontroversial measure which I hope the House will have no difficulty in passing.

INDIAN HISTORY IN STAMPS

Release Of New Series

An epoch will be opened in the history of India's postage stamps with the release of a new series, known as the archaeological series. Some of them will be on sale from April 1, 1949. The stamps which contain illustrations of historical monuments of ancient India depict its art and culture through the ages.

The Mohenjo-daro Bull, Ajanta, Trimurti, Konarak Horse, Sanchi Stupa, Kandarya Mahadeva Temple and Bhuvanesvara on stamps of lower denomination take us to the farther most era of Indian civilisation, while the impact of more recent history can be seen in stamps of higher denomination which are impressed with the Gol Gumbad of Bijapur, the Victory Tower of Chittorgarh, the Golden Temple of Amritsar, the Red Fort and the Taj Mahal, Agra. The Rs. 10 stamp has the imprint of the Qutab Minar of Delhi.

Printed on watermark paper in appropriate design ond colour and with the denominational value inscribed both in English and Hindi, the stamps are of the denominations of 3 pies, 6 pies, 9 pies, 1 anna, 1½ annas, 2 annas, 2½ annas, 3½ annas, 4 annas, 6 annas, 8 annas, 12 annas and 1 rupee, 2 rupees, 5 rupees, and 10 rupees, respectively. They are printed at the Security Press, Nasik ; those of anna and pie denominations by Letter-press and the others by Offset Lithography.



The Designs

The designs of the Ajanta panel on the 3 pies stamp and Sanchi Stupa East Gate on the 2½ annas stamp have been adopted from the drawings submitted by Miss Veermati D. Jadhav of Poona and Mrs. Karoona Shah of Calcutta, respectively, in the Postage Stamp competition held by the Posts and Telegraphs Department early in 1948. The Mohenjo-daro Bull on the 6 pies stamps has been drawn from the photograph obtained from the Department of Archaeology, although a similar design was received from Shri K. Vembu of Masulipatam. All other designs have been prepared from photographs obtained from the Director-General of Archaeology in India.

These stamps will be sold simultaneously with the present King George series of stamps till the latter are out of stock.

Brief Description

Following is a brief description of the new stamps :

3 Pies Stamp : blue grey, AJANTA PANEL—Taken from a pillar in Ajanta, it is favourite decorative motif representing an elephant dallying in a lotus pond. It bears similarity to the figures on the ceiling of Cave I (end of 5th century A. D.)

6 Pies Stamp : light brown, MOHENJO-DARO BULL—A most typical object of the historic Indus Valley Civilisation of the 4th-3 prmillennia B. C. This powerfully modelled bull occurs on seals found at Mohenjo-daro and Harappa, the two principal city-sites of this civilisation.

9 Pies Stamp : bright green, TRIMURTI—Principal colossal image, representing Siva in the triple functions of creation, preservation and dissolution in the rock-cut cave at Elephanta (near Bombay), excavated in circa 8th century A. D. under the Rashtrakutas.

1 anna Stamp : Turquoise, BODHISATTVA—A splendid piece of medieval sculpture representing an image of Bodhisattva Simhanada Lukesvara from Mehoba, now in the Provincial Museum Lucknow.

1½ annas Stamp : Red Brown, KONARAK HORSE—Powerfully modelled specimen of animal sculpture in the Sun-temple at Konarak—a gem of Orissan architecture—built between A. D. 1238 and 1264.

2 annas Stamp : Carmine, NATARAJA—The famous bronze image of Siva, conceived as the Great Cosmic Dancer, from Tiruvelangadu in the Chittur District of Madras assignable to circa 1100 A. D. This represents the high water-mark of the Chola art of bronze-casting.

2½ annas Stamp : Orange, SANCHI STUPA, EAST GATE—One of the four ornamental gateways of the great stupa at Sanchi in Central India, constructed during second-first centuries, B. C. The

Education Ministry's Periodical for Blind

THE Ministry of Education, Government of India, recently brought out *DEEPAVALI*, a periodical devoted to the education and welfare of the blind.

"I cannot conceive of a graver crime," says Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, in her Foreword, "that a civilised people and their government can perpetrate than the continued neglect of a section of the nation richly endowed with powers, the cultivation and proper exercise of which would lift their own lives from the depths of misery and would also contribute in no small measure through creative work to promote public welfare."

The pages of this first issue of the journal, in the words of the Health Minister, amply demonstrate how much has to be done to advance the cause of the blind. The number of the blind is estimated at two millions. There are altogether only 38 schools and other establishments for the education and care of these people in the country as a whole. These institutions provide accommodation only for 2,000 persons. The number of the blind between the ages of five and twenty—the age group on which effort must be concentrated—is over 58,000. The tragedy of the situation is that even the existing provision for 2,000 is not being utilised to the full, only some 1,100 blind persons being accommodated in these institutions. The problem of the partially blind is equally important. Here is a hopeful field where active measures, medical and others, should be able to rescue many from total blindness and from a life of prolonged misery and incapacitation.

According to the periodical a unit for the education and welfare of the handicapped, especially of the blind, has already been established in the Ministry of Education and the immediate tasks before it are the perfection of a standardised uniform Braille code for Indian languages, the setting up of a Central Braille Press for the whole of India together with a Central Publishing and Circulating Library, the formation of a Central Council on Blindness and the encouragement of the setting up of Provincial Councils on blindness.

Deepavali is being published in Braille and ink-print. It is hoped that this journal will fill a long-felt want and draw the attention of the public to a section of our people who deserve every help from society and the State.

TELEGRAMS TO SOUTHERN KOREA

It is notified for general information that all restrictions on the telegraph service to Southern Korea have now been lifted and telegrams may now be written in any recognised language. Code and Cypher are also permitted. Telegraph transmission will terminate at Seoul beyond which delivery will be made by Korean mail.

LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Finance Minister's Statement

THE following statement on loans from the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank was made by the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister of Finance, Government of India, in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on February 1.

As considerable interest has been evinced in the country and by Hon'ble Members regarding the subject of India taking loans from the International Monetary Fund and International Bank, I should like with your permission, Sir, to make a full statement dealing with the matter.

The International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are two connected but independent organisations which were established by International agreement in the year 1944. India is a founder member of both these institutions and has a permanent seat on the Board of Directors of both.

I lay on the table of the House a statement (see table below and on next page) showing the membership of these institutions, the quota of each member in the International Monetary Fund and the share capital owned by each member in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. India's quota in the Fund is 400 million dollars and so is her share capital in the Bank.

The functions of these two institutions are entirely different in character. The International Monetary Fund is an organisation which lends currencies to its members for short terms to meet temporary disequilibria in their balances of payments. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, on the other hand, lends money on a long-term basis either for particular projects needing to be financed or generally for the reconstruction and development of a member country's economy.

India has been taking advantage of her membership of the International Monetary Fund to meet her dollar deficit. She started borrowing from the Fund in March 1948 and has hitherto borrowed 80 million dollars. This money has been used for current purposes, and it is not possible to say that any particular class or category of goods was purchased from this money.

This, however, is short-term finance and is not suitable for the provision of funds for capital and development projects which take a long period to attain productivity. To provide foreign exchange for such projects is a function of the International Bank. It is the practice of this Bank to send out a technical mission to countries which feel that they will require a Loan with the object both of assessing their economic and financial situation and of helping the country concerned to make out its case for a loan in the form desired by the Bank.

The Government of India feel that many of their development projects have now reached a stage at which work might be started on them or accelerated if arrangements could be made for making available the necessary foreign exchange. They, therefore, invited the Bank to send out a Mission with a view to acquainting themselves at first hand with the Indian situation and its requirements and for discussion with Government the projects which might qualify for a loan from the Bank. Accordingly, a Mission headed by Mr. A. S. G. Hoar, Assistant Loan Director of the Bank, arrived in New Delhi on January 24, 1949, and has been engaged in conversations with officials of the Government of India ever since. This Mission will shortly proceed on tour to see for themselves the works which are in progress in various parts of the country as also to acquaint themselves with the existing industrial potential of the country. They expect to stay in India, for about six weeks, and it is after their departure, that India will put in a formal loan application to the Bank.

The Government of India are examining with the help of the Bank Mission all their developmental plans with a view to determining which of them may be suitable for being financed by a loan from the Bank. These plans include projects for bringing under cultivation waste and weed-infested lands, for the sinking of tube-wells, for the development of fisheries and the purchase of locomotives, ships and hydro-electrical equipment. As these matters are still under discussion, I cannot, obviously, at this stage, give any indication to Hon'ble Members either of the amounts for which we might ultimately apply for a loan or the terms or conditions on which the loan might ultimately be granted.

Statement showing the members of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and their quotas.

Member	(In million dollars) Quota in the I.M.F.	Share capital in the Bank
Australia	200.0	200.0
Belgium	225.0	225.0
Bolivia	10.0	7.0
Brasil	150.0	105.0
Canada	300.0	325.0
Chile	50.0	35.0
China	550.0	600.00
Columbia	50.0	35.0
Costa Rica	5.0	2.0
Cuba	50.0	35.0
Czechoslowakia	125.0	125.0
Denmark	68.0	68.0
Dominican Republic	5.0	2.0
Ecuador	5.0	3.2
Egypt	6000	53.3
El Salvador	2.5	1.0
Ethiopia	6.0	3.0
Finland	38.0	38.0
France	525.0	525.0
Greece	40.0	25.0
Guatemala	5.0	2.0
Honduras	2.5	1.0
Iceland	1.0	1.0
India	400.0	400.0
Iran	25.0	33.6
Iraq	8.0	6.0
Italy	180.0	180.0
Lebanon	4.5	4.5
Luxembourg	10.0	10.0
Mexico	90.0	65.0
Netherlands	275.0	275.0
Nicaragua	2.0	0.8
Norway	50.0	50.0
Panama	0.5	0.2
Paraguay	3.5	1.4
Peru	25.0	17.5
Philippine Republic	15.0	15.0
Poland	125.0	125.0
Syria	6.5	6.5
Turkey	43.0	43.0
Union of South Africa	100.0	100.0
United Kingdom	1,300.0	1,300.0
United States	2,750	3,175.0
Uruguay	15.0	10.5
Venezuela	15.0	10.5
Yugoslavia	60.0	40.0
Austria	50.0	50.0

DARGAH KHWAJA SAHIB, AJMER

THE Dargah Khwaja Sahib (Ajmer) Committee of Inquiry, appointed last November by the Government of India to report on the affairs of the Dargah, has issued a comprehensive questionnaire for eliciting information and suggestions from the public for the better administration of the Dargah.

The Committee consists of Mr. Justice Ghulam Hasan of the Allahabad High Court, Chairman, and Sir Mohammed Yamin Khan and Nawab Mahmud Yar Jung of Begumpet (Hyderabad State) members, and its terms of reference include investigation into the administration of the Dargah Endowment by the Dargah Committee and recommendation of such measures as appear necessary to secure the conservation of the Shrine in the interests of the devotees as a whole. The Committee recently visited Ajmer and held discussions with a number of persons and organisations interested in the Dargah.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire deals with various aspects of the administration of the Dargah and seeks information, among other things, on whether the administration of the Dargah Endowment by the Dargah Committee has been satisfactory, whether the Dargah Committee, which consists of 16 outstation members and 9 local members from Ajmer, is unwieldy and incapable of functioning satisfactorily and whether any changes in the constitution of the Committee will be necessary. A number of questions relate to Khadims and usage relating to the distribution of offerings (*Nazar*).

The Committee would be glad to receive separate memoranda on any or all the questions from persons having special knowledge of the Dargah administration. Copies of the questionnaire may be had from the Secretary, Dargah Khwaja Sahib (Ajmer) Committee of Inquiry No. 1, Cassels Road, Lucknow.

WAR AGAINST MALARIA

The Government of India, it is learnt, are to intensify their campaign against malaria during 1949.

Arrangements have been made with the World Health Organisation for four expert demonstration malaria teams to arrive in India shortly for field work.

With a view to cover the entire field of malariology, including latest researches, it has been decided that the six-week malaria course at the Malaria Institute of India should be extended to twelve weeks and that the number of lectures should be increased to 75 and practical work to 275 hours.

The first expanded course, which commenced on February 7, included practical demonstration of field work in hyperendemic areas in the United Provinces and visits to irrigation and multi-purpose projects. Twenty seats for the course are allotted to Indian candidates and six to foreign candidates.

gateway, which is a marval of architecture conceived in wood and executed in stone, has panels carved with scenes from the life of Buddha.

3½ annas Stamp: Maltese Blue, BODH GAYA (BIHAR PROVINCE)—The nucleus of this much-restored temple dates from circa 6th century A. D. and commemorates the spot where Buddha received supreme enlightenment. It is a place of special sanctity to the Buddhists all the world over.

4 annas Stamp: red purple, BHUVANESVARA—The Lingaraja at Bhuvanesvara with a *sikhara* of superb grace is the most majestic Indian temple now standing and marks the culminating point of temple architecture of Orissa. Built in circa 1000 A. D., it originally consisted of a sanctum and a porch or *Jagmohan* to which were subsequently added the Nata—and Bhoga—*mandapas*, probably during the 12th century A. D.

6 annas Stamp: mauve, GOL GUMBAD, BIJAPUR—The dome of the Tomb of Muhammad Adil Shah (A. D. 1626—1656) is one of the largest in the world, measuring 124½ feet in diameter internally and 144 feet externally, leaving a 12-feet wide 'whispering gallery' all round the interior. The floor area of its hall is the greatest unbroken space (18,357 sq. ft.) of any single-domed structure in the world, while its architecture is remarkable, for simple and massive grandeur and constructive boldness.

8 annas Stamp: jade green, KANDARYA MAHADEVA TEMPLE—This temple, situated at the old Chandela capital of Khajuraho in Bundelkhand, is the finest of a group of monuments, remarkable, as much for architectural beauty as for the excellence of its sculptural decoration. It dates from circa 10th century A. D.

12 annas Stamp: light blue, GOLDEN TEMPLE, AMRITSAR—This temple, begun by the Sikhs in the reign of Akbar (A. D. 1556-1605) and rebuilt in 1776, is a square two-storeyed building in an eclectic style decorated largely with marbles taken from the tomb of Jahangir. Its interior wood-work is admirably ornamented with ivory inlay, in a manner still practised in the Punjab.

Rupee One Stamp: dark green border and inset deep purple, VICTORY TOWER, CHITTORGARH—Constructed between A.D. 1442 and 1449 by Maharana Kumbha to commemorate his victory over Mahmud Khilji, Sultan of Malwa; it is a nine-storeyed tower of marble, containing a large variety of labellied images of the Hindu pantheon.

Rs. 2 Stamp: purple border and inset deep red, RED FORT, DELHI—Built by Shahjahan between A. D. 1638 and 1648, this fort, around which has centred centuries of Indian History, measures about 1½ miles in circumference and contains in a picturesque setting of gardens numerous palaces and buildings, including the Diwan-i-am, Diwan-i-Khas, Mumtaz Mahal, Rang Mahal, Moti Masjid, etc.

Rs. 5 Stamp: red brown border and inset dark green, TAJ MAHAL, AGRA—Extolled in world's poetry and architecture as the noblest and most beautiful monument; it was built by Emperor Shahjahan between A. D. 1631 and 1648 as a mausoleum for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. In 1666 the mortal remains of the Emperor were also interred in this tomb.

Rs. 10 Stamp: dark blue border and inset red brown, QUTAB-MINAR, DELHI—This lofty (238 ft. high) tower for sounding the *azan* or call for prayers belongs to a large mosque complex and constitutes a landmark of Saracenic architecture in India. It was begun in 1199 A. D. by Qutabuddin who built the first storey and was completed before A. D. 1235 by Iltumish who added 3 further storeys to it. Further additions and restorations were effected by Firozshah Tughlaq and Sikandar Lodi (1503 A. D.).

No Contravention of Chicago Convention

Denial of Facilities to Dutch Planes Justified

IN the course of an answer, Mr. Bevin is reported to have said in the House of Commons: "I must point out that international agreements are international agreements. The British Government cannot, under the Chicago agreement, ban the Dutch from using this route unless it also banned itself and the French. These are the conditions laid down in the Convention. No sanctions have been applied on this matter and we are averse to applying unilateral sanctions".

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are free to place their own interpretation on the Chicago agreement and determine their own policy as regards the use of their territory by Dutch planes. The Government of India's action, however, is neither in contravention of the Chicago agreement nor a unilateral application of sanctions to the Netherlands. They have denied the right of transit across or landing in India to Dutch planes under Article 89 of the International Civil Aviation Agreement which provides that—

"In case of war, the provisions of this Convention shall not affect the freedom of action of any of the contracting States affected, whether as belligerents or as neutrals."

The so-called police action of the Dutch Government in Indonesia constitutes an act of war against the Government of the Indonesian Republic, which the Government of India have recognised de facto, and fully justifies the denial of facilities to Dutch planes to land in or fly across India under the Article quoted.

Night Air Mail Service

HIS Excellency Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa, Governor of C. P. and Berar, inaugurated the night air mail service at the Sonegaon aerodrome, Nagpur on January 30. At 10-15 p.m. the Governor assisted by a priest chanting prayers ascended the staircase leading to the plane, cut the tape tied across the doorway and opened the door. Placing a garland on the plane and handing in the first mail bag to the pilot, he declared the service open. There was a distinguished audience present which included the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Minister for Communications, Government of India, Mr. Khurshed Lal, Deputy Minister for Communications, some of the Provincial Ministers and prominent citizens of Nagpur.

In a brief speech the Governor said that as a common man he was interested in the quick delivery of his post and from this point of view welcomed the new service. Any service whether by Government or by private enterprise should be of service to the people, and it was in this same spirit he declared that the Government of India have undertaken this service. He wished them success in this experiment and congratulated all those connected with the planning of this service for the efficient and expeditious commencement of the same.

Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai revealed that the scheme of night flying of mails, parcels and passengers was long under consideration of Government but had to be delayed for reasons of safety as arrangements were not perfect for night flying and the original proposal for carrying passengers had to be dropped. But then it was contended that mails alone might not provide enough load for the plane. However, the Indian Overseas Air Lines Ltd. offered to run the service with mail and parcels and not only accepted the present rates but even 25 per cent. less of the freight charges. While admitting that it was difficult to foresee the success of this scheme in view of the heavy expenditure involved, he assured that Government would make efforts to see that the loss is minimised to the Company. He further added that if the experiment was found successful, the service would be extended to other routes as well.

Earlier Mr. J. M. Akhaney, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Indian Overseas Air Lines Ltd., welcomed the Governor and thanked the Government of India for encouraging him in his experiment which, he said, he had undertaken mainly in the spirit of service for the people.

Insured parcels up to a limit of £50 and Insured letters up to a limit of £200 can now be transmitted to the British P.O. in Tangier Morocco, via the U.K. Insured letters are also accepted for the French Zone of Morocco, said a Press Note issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, on February 8, 1949.

THE RAILWAY BUDGET

(*Continued from Page 204*)

number of old Second Class compartments to this Class. Arrangements have been made to reserve seats in new Class II. It has not been possible to provide sleeping accommodation for Class II passengers in all trains, but a beginning has been made and Railway Administrations have been instructed to investigate ways and means of extending this facility. The conversion of all the previously existing stock into stock of the new type requires a large-scale withdrawal of some of the old stock for necessary readjustments and would entail a considerable curtailment of the limited coaching accommodation now available on the line till they were returned from the workshops. To avoid this some old Second Class compartments were downgraded to new Class II, while others were upgraded to new Class I.

This naturally resulted in a difference in the standard of accommodation to which new Class II passengers were entitled, but this particular complaint will only be temporary until conversions have been taken up and completed to new standards. There can be no doubt that the re-classification has evoked a large volume of criticism. Class III passengers have had no benefit from it. Old First Class passengers, who travel in new Class I have definitely benefited. Old Inter passengers who are able to obtain accommodation in old Second Class compartments converted into new Class II, get better amenities at practically old Inter rates. The old Second Class passengor, if he has to be sure of the same comfort and sleeping accommodation as he was previously entitled to must go in for a new Class I ticket, which means a 50 per cent increase in his fare. If, however, he elects to travel in new Class II, he has to be content with old Inter discomfort without being sure of obtaining sleeping space in all cases.

The Railway Administrations have been directed, however, to watch carefully the effects of the new classification and the reactions of the travelling public thereto. The first reports on this subject have been received from General Managers. The period they relate to was, however, too short to base any definite conclusions on. The views expressed are not uniform, though from the purely revenue point of view they do not appear to give much room for anxiety. The matter, however, requires further watching, but I trust that the additional facilities which have been ordered to be gradually provided for Class II passengers will, when they are implemented persuade them to settle down to the new system. It is premature however, to pronounce a final verdict in the question whether the change that has been brought into effect in deference to the views expressed in this Assembly and in the Central Advisory Council calls for any reconsideration.

Criticism has been loudest against Railways in respect of goods services. There are bottlenecks in railway transport. But it is well to remember that there are bottlenecks also in other forms of transport and in industry and trade. I am free to confess that Indian Railways in their present condition cannot carry concurrently all the traffic offering. But all essential traffic has, subject to exceptions, been moved in reasonable time having due regard to the conditions that prevail, while all other traffic has been obliged to wait until the needs of essential traffic have been satisfied or to be content with a scramble.

The daily average coal loading from January to December 1948 was about 4 per cent. higher than that during 1947, in November 1948, it was higher than in any month since 1943. In the Iron and Steel industry, despite a decrease in production, despatches during January to December 1948 were higher than those during 1947. The bottleneck in this industry has in the recent past, been its difficulty in facilitating the clearance of previously accumulated stocks and not the lifting of current production. But even these stocks are now being moved by planned train loads to the extent that the industry is able to load wagons. The movement of textiles during the period between January and December 1948 was 18 per cent. higher than that during 1947. During the first eleven months of 1948, the movement of cement was 9 per cent. more than in the corresponding period of 1947. For the sugar industry, rail transport has been regularly programmed and the sugar factories, despite accumulation of stocks, have not been able to utilise all the transport facilities that were offered to them.

Rail Priorities

So long as rail transport resources fall substantially short of the demand, their rationing and control from the public point of view are inescapable. The Rail Priorities Organisation, with five Regional Controllers assisted by Local Regional Advisory Committees and supervised by a Chief Controller of Priorities at the Centre working in close association with the Railway Executive and the Central Board of Transport, has done and is doing good work. The weekly meetings of the Standing Committee of the Board are of the greatest value in this connection. They ensure co-ordination between the competing claims of different Ministries for transport. What is more, they serve to keep continuous watch on movements and to detect and to remove bottlenecks in rail transport wherever they occur.

The most notable decision of the Board itself was the determination of national priorities. Food movements of course, come first and then industries. The Board decided that full transport facilities should be provided for steel, textiles and cement to start with. A programme for each quarter has to be framed in advance of it and the Standing Committee of the Board prepares movement programmes to implement such targets. The planning for these three industries for the first quarter of 1949 has already been completed and wagon quotas have been fixed so as to ensure that these industries work on the optimum planned level. A new scheme has also been intrdouced by which an efficient follow up machinery will ensure that every consignment covered by a priority order is assured of movement.

It is, I trust, appreciated all round that considerable improvement has been effected in recent months. This has been achieved by special measures such as careful programming of movements and a steady stepping up of operating efficiency from the low levels to which it had dropped. One of these important steps is the movement of traffic in full train loads. During the month of December 1948, for instance, as many as 329 Broad gauge specials were run on the different railways. The daily wagon loadings on the Broad gauge have improved from 9,800 in June 1948 to 11,267 in December. The turnround of wagons over the same period has shown an encouraging decline from 15.03 to 12.21 days. The average speed of goods trains, to refer to another aspect, has been registering an upward trend.

These are reassuring features in recent railway working, though I concede that a great deal more requires to be achieved before public satisfaction can be extorted. It is not enough in my judgment to meet industry's immediate needs. Industries must be given the confidence that additional calls on transport due to the stepping up of production in existing industries and to the establishment of new industries will be met if and when they come to be made. There is still a considerable gap between the actual demand for transport and the capacity of railways to meet it in full in proper time. The problem of bridging the gap is one of adequacy of power, rolling stock and line capacity.

Having regard to the difficult power position and the urgent need to strengthen it, the Chief Commissioner of Railways went to Europe and Americca during 1948 to seek manufacturing capacity for locomotives to be quickly built to India's specifications. As a result of his visit and on an examination of the quotations of prices and delivery dates, orders have been placed in the U.S.A., Canada, the U. K. and France for 390 locomotives, in addition to 473 previously ordered, making a total of 863 locomotives consisting of 640 B. G., 203 M. G. and 20 N. G. engines. 303 of the total number have been ordered in the U. S. A., 350 in Canada, 190 in the U. K. and 20 in France. 19 B. G. and 33 M. G. locomotives have been received in India by 15th January, 1949. By 31st March 1949, 120 more B. G. locomotives are expected to be received.

The total receipts during the current year will thus amount to 139 B. G. and 33 M. G. locomotives. According to the scheduled delivery dates 202 B. G. and 22 M. G. locomotives are expected to be received in India before the end of September next; 90 B. G. and 91 M. G. locomotives by the end of December and 45 B. G. and 57 M. G. lovomotives by March 1950. We hope therefore, to receive a total of 337 B. G. and 170 M. G. locomotives during 1949-50. Of the balance 164 B.G. and 16 N.G. lovomotives are expected to be received in India during 1950-51 and the remaining 4 N. G. locomotives during 1951-52.

Questions have sometimes been asked as to why loco orders have not been



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, addressing the sixth meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology in New Delhi on February 7. (L. to R.) Dr. Tara Chand, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Maulana Azad, Dr. N. P. Chakravarti; Director-General of Archaeology

DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Maulana Azad's Address to Advisory Board

"IT would be literally true to say that the history of India is still concealed in the depths of the soil waiting for the archaeologist who will bring new data to light for reconstructing the history of ancient India," said the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, addressing in Hindustani the 6th Meeting of the Central Board of Archaeology, held at New Delhi on February 7, 1949.

The following is the English translation of the speech :

In welcoming you to the annual meeting of the Advisory Board of Archaeology, I wish to share with you certain thoughts about the development of archaeological studies in this country. Our main concern must naturally be with the programmes of future expansion, but it is only right and proper that before we do so, we should give some thought to the progress of such studies in India and elsewhere till now.

It has for many centuries been recognised that outside China the three most ancient centres of civilization in the world have been India, Mesopotamia and Egypt. For centuries scholars all over the world have been interested in their history. It has also been recognised for the last 200 years that archaeology offers almost the only key to the history of ancient times. Paper was unknown in these early days, and even after it was discovered, records written in paper perish far more easily than the history which is written in stone and metal.

Egypt, Mesopotamia and India.—Recognition of this fact led extensive archaeological survey and excavation in Egypt and in Mesopotamia with the result that we have to-day a fairly satisfactory account of their ancient history. In the case of Egypt not only have the secrets of her ancient hieroglyphics been deciphered, but her history ranging back to 5,000 B. C. with the achievements of her 32 royal dynasties has been uncovered. In Ninneveh and Babylon, excavations have unfolded to us the history of the ancient civilization built by the Sumerians and the Akkadians some five thousands years ago.

Entire libraries of books written on earthen tablets and even a dictionary of the language have been found giving us an insight into the life of the times. It is, therefore, surprising that so far as India is concerned, no attempt was made to utilise the resources of archaeology to discover her ancient history. It would be literally true to say that the history of India is still concealed in the depths of the soil waiting for the archaeologist who will bring new data to light for reconstructing the history of ancient India.

One reason of this comparative neglect of archaeology in India may be that Egypt and Mesopotamia are right on the fringe of European civilization. For many centuries, the Mediterranean basin has been the home of European culture and modern European civilization has obvious affiliation with these areas. Nor can it be forgotten that the Old Testament is full of reference to both Egypt and Mesopotamia so that Europe felt a natural interest in their past history. Another reason for European interest in these areas may be that the Arabs had developed historical science to a high level of excellence. We find that even before the rise of modern Europe, elaborate studies had been undertaken by Arab historians in the civilization of Egypt and Mesopotamia. It was, therefore, natural that European scholars should take to the study of these civilizations and carry out the extensive excavations which have lit up the history of ancient times.

In spite of the facts mentioned above, it still seems somewhat strange that archaeology should have developed so late in India. A European power was paramount in the country for almost two centuries. It saw specimens of architecture and monuments which proclaimed a proud and ancient civilization. It was also aware that the civilization here dated back to a dim past of which only fragmentary knowledge was available to the world. Its officers must have come across ruined cities and monuments which promised to be an excavator's paradise. It is on record as early as the beginning of the century the well-known historian Elphinstone and Barnes when they were marching towards Afghanistan were struck by the mounds they found in the district of Rawalpindi. They also came across Greek coins and speculated whether the mounds they saw contained the ruins of the ancient city of Taxila. In spite of all these incentives to archaeological survey, hardly anything was done in any part of India till the middle of the nineteenth century.

Beginnings of Archaeological study in India. The Asiatic Society of Bengal was, as in so many other fields, the pioneer of archaeological studies in the country. It decided in 1796 to found a museum for housing collections made by officers of the East India Company. An impetus to the study of Indian archaeology was given by the discovery in the 2nd quarter of the nineteenth century of the key to Brahmi and Kharosh scripts by James Prinsep. In 1848 General Alexander Cunningham impressed upon the Government of India the necessity of preserving ancient monuments by the appointment of a suitable officer. His suggestion was accepted and in 1860 Lord Canning established the Archaeological Department with Cunningham as the first Archaeological Surveyor of India. To Prinsep and Cunningham, India owes an incalculable debt for the preservation of Indian monuments.

Brief History

I do not wish to go into the details of the chequered history of the department since then. In 1866 the department was sought to be abolished, but it was revived in 1870 under pressure of public opinion. The work of the survey was extended to South India only in 1874. There was an impetus to the development of the department under Lord Lyton and the Indian Treasure Trove Act VI of 1878 was passed. After 1889 there was again a disruption in the department and for several years the work was in a state of complete abeyance. The department was reconstituted after 1895, but it was only with the arrival of Lord Curzon that it received a fresh lease of life.

Lord Curzon regarded the promotion of archaeological study, the encouragement of research and the preservationof the relics of the past as part of the "Imperial Obligation to India" and reestablished the department with Sir John Marshall as Director-General of Archaeology in 1902. It was at the instance of Lord Curzon that the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act VII of 1904 was passed by the Indian Legislature. In 1921 archaeology including the Epigraphic Branch was taken over as a central subject and since then it has continued as such even though the activities of the department were seriously curtailed during the retrenchment campaign of 1931.

Present activities.—During recent years, the department has undertaken important work of excavation of which the most notable are the Khokrakot Excavation, District Rohtak, East Punjab, in 1937; Sardhari Excavation in N.W.F.P., in 1938 and the Ahichchhatra Excavations in Bareilly, U. P. during 1941-43. Some work was also done in 1940 in Rajghat, Banaras. In 1944 the excavation branch was reconstituted by the Government of India and excavations were undertaken in 1944 at Taxila, in 1945 at Arikamedu near Pond cherry, in 1946 at Brahmagiri and Chandravall in Mysore State at Harappa in 1947 and at Sisupalgarh in 1948. Exploration of Megalithic sites in the Madras presidency was also started from 1946. Survey of the Chitaldurg district has now been completed and some work done also in Cochin. There are several new sites which the department propose to take up as soon as the work at Sishupalgarh has been completed, and its report published. There are at Amravati in Guntur and Rajgir in Bihar.

Work in States

Till now, not much work of excavation has been done in the Indian States. Such work especially in Bikaner and Jaisalmer, has however, attained a new importance since the partition of India. Most of the sites explored to have a clear idea of the Indus Valley civilization have fallen within the boundaries of Pakistan. Bikaner and Jaisalmer were, however, an important centre of that civilization in the past. It is, therefore, hoped that a thorough exploration of sites in these areas may throw new light on the history of the civilization connected with the Indus Valley organisation and set up.

The department has no provincial centres but for purposes of carrying out archaeological work in the provinces, it has been divided into seven circles namely :—

1. Northern Circle, Agra.
2. Central Circle, Patna.
3. Eastern Circle, Calcutta.
4. South Eastern Circle, Vizagapatam.
5. Southern Circle, Madras.
6. Western Circle, Poona.
7. Delhi Circle, New Delhi.

The department has also helped societies and bodies whether governmental or private in carrying out excavations. It is now helping the Allahabad University in the excavations at the well-known site of ancient Kausambi. It has also offered assistance and advice to various local societies and research institutions.

The work of the department is divided into four branches, namely, Epigraphical Branch, Chemical Branch, the Excavation Branch and the Museums Branch. Another important activity of the department is the publication of the results of excavation and other research work. The publications of the Archaeological Survey of India have at times assumed different forms and represented various degrees of scholarship and merit, but they have on the whole constituted a noble mine of information for any future historian of India.

Future Programme.—It is now proposed to revive publication of the Archaeological Memoirs which was suspended during the war. Material for two volumes are already in hand. In addition the department propose to issue a series of short guides to archaeological monuments and corpori of inscriptions. It is also proposed to publish picture post-cards, albums of monuments and museums in addition to the regular journals like "Ancient India," "Epigraphia India," "Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica" and the various annual reports.

The publication policy of the Department also requires revision and expension. Till now almost all our publications have been in English. The time has now come when publications in important Indian languages must be undertaken in order to make the results of research available to the general citizen I propose to make a beginning in this respect as soon as possible.

I have referred to the desirability of the issue of albums and picture postcards in order to popularise the work of the department with the general public. This must be done on a far wider scale than has been the case till now. Two types of albums should be produced. There should be albums for presentation at a somewhat higher price which could be used not only by lovers of art in India and outside but also by schools, colleges and other educational institutions for prizes to deserving students. A second type of cheaper album should also be placed in the market to bring it within the reach of the general public. Simultaneously, the department should discuss with the Ministry of Communications for arranging for the issue of picture post-cards by post offices throughout the country. This would reach a far wider public than any other method.

I feel that we must also canvass the possibility of utilizing the film in order to present our archaeological and architectural monuments to the people of our country and the world ourtside. Well produced films would not only bring out the beauty of such buildings but also make them alive and interesting to vast numbers of our people. Other countries have used films as a media for educating the people in the ancient history of the land. Here in India also a provision could be made by which every-cinema would be required to show for at least 10 minutes films dipicting some aspect of Indian History and Culture.

National Museum

I have pointed out to you that our history is still concealed beneath the surface of the earth. A fresh start of exploration and excavation on a much larger scale is necessary for unearthing that history. This requires strengthening the staff in all branches and a complete re-organisation of the department. I am also impressed with the necessity of providing permanent training facilities for students outside the department. Such training is essential for successful archaeological work and you will be glad to hear that we have recently sent two officers for advanced training in the U. K. I have not lost sight of the urgency of a properly equipped National Museum for India. A beginning has already been made and I am doing all that is possible to bring the scheme to a successful conclusion as early as possible.

laced in other countries in the world. n order to clarify the problem, it may s stated that three factors governed the placing of orders. Firstly, locos which we require must be built to our specifications. Designs suitable elsewhere do not conform to our standards and interchangeability in stock is important. Secondly, the price quoted should be competitive, and lastly the delivery dates should be acceptable for our needs.

Our dependence primarily on the foreign manufacturer for our locomotives has thus been largely responsible for our present sorry plight in this connection. The Central Legislative has for years demanded the setting up in the country of a locomotive industry of our own. There had been regrettable procrastination in this respect in the past, but I am glad to be able to say that we are making rapid progress in meeting this demand now. At Chittaranjan, 20 miles from Asansol, close to the coal and steel producing areas, work is proceeding in full swing on the erection of the Locomotive Building Workshops designed to manufacture 120 steam locomotives and 50 additional boilers per year. The smaller shops in this factory for the manufacture of components are expected to be ready early in 1950 and the main assembly shop for the production of complete locomotives by early 1951.

For the time being, however, we have to do the best with a shortage of power. Our overaged locomotives on March 31, 1949, B. G. and M. G. number 1,291 and it will be some time before they are all replaced. Quite apart from the fact that it is uneconomical to maintain obsolescent types, one has to reckon with engine failures which assumed serious proportions during certain months of 1948 and interfered with punctuality of operation. To add to our difficulties, the efficiency of the periodical overhaul of engines in workshops was impaired by lack of, or inadequate, stocking of spare parts. There had been protracted delays in the placing of orders for and in the receipt of spares both in India and from abroad, and these have had serious repercussions on the maintenance schedules of the workshops. The outturn in workshops of rolling stock has been adversely affected in consequence. Steps are being taken to minimise avoidable delays in finalising contracts and expediting delivery.

Wagon Requirements

As regards wagons our requirements per annum are of the order of 10,000 in terms of 4-wheelers. Up to December 31, 1948, 2,349 wagons of different types (in terms of 4 wheelers) have been put on the lines. By March 31, 1949 another 485 wagons would come into service. The orders placed in the year amount to 3,600 wagons. The numbers expected to be delivered during 1949-50 are 4,400 wagons. The shift in the traffic flow due to war-time changes in our industrial production and to Bombay having to take over the role of Karachi as the principal port for North India, have stressed the need for increase in line capacity. This matter has received attention. The Delhi-Mathura track is being partially doubled. An additional line between Budni and Barkhera on the Bhopal Itarsi section of the G. I. P. Railway is being constructed.

As the existing line in this length has steep gradients and requires the use of banking engines, the additional line is being constructed on a separate alignment with flatter grades. The existing line will be used for down traffic without banking engines and the new line will be used for up traffic, also without banking engines. On the B. B. & C. I. Railway, Anand Barejadi single track on the Baroda-Ahmedabad section will soon be doubled. The quadrupling of 52 miles of track between Saktigarh and Sitarampur on the E. I. Railway has already been completed while the doubling between Ekdil and Kanpur is now in progress. Along with line capacity, we have to consider yard capacity as well. For speeding up of traffic, several large yards are being remodelled. The work on the New Delhi yard is nearing completion and that on the Delhi Main yard will soon be taken in hand. On the O. T. Railway the remodelling of Gonda and Gorakhpur yards is likely to be completed on 1949-50. I will not weary the House with more details.

There is, however, one important point to which I should draw the attention of Hon'ble Members, namely, that progress in works of the kind referred to and in rehabilitation has been held up by shortage of supplies of steel to Railways. The increased wear and tear and the deferred maintenance of locomotives and other rolling stock have accumulated large arrears of maintenance and repairs. The present supplies of steel to Railways fall far short of the full tonnage required to maintain the repair schedules. The short allocation of steel has also placed limits on the actual orders for rolling stock with indigenous manufacturers. For instance, we desired to place orders for 5,080 wagons against annual normal requirements and for an additional 4,500 wagons to meet the industrial needs of the country.

Owing, however to the limited supplies of steel available, the orders had to be reduced to 3,500 B. G. wagons representing only about 40 per cent. of indigenous capacity. The shortage of steel has affected permanent way maintenance also. The need for the topmost priority being given to demands of steel from Railways to meet their minimum requirements for essential maintenance and replacement hardly requires stressing.

I have already referred to the proposed Locomotive Building Workshops at Chittaranjan now under construction. Railways in this country have experience of work on repairs and maintenance of locomotives. They have little or no experience of the manufacture of locomotives on modern production lines. If therefore, we are to avoid the very expensive method of learning by mistakes, we require to import specialised technical aid for a temporary period. The Railway Board has now under consideration the possibility of making arrangements with foreign manufacturers for obtaining such technical aid. The intention is to secure the loan of trained technicians for service at our workshops where they would be required to organise the production side as well as train our men in the technique of production.

It may be necessary to get the assistance of any firm with whom an arrangement of this kind is made for producing to a planned scheme such parts of locomotives as we may find it not possible to manufacture at our workshops or elsewhere in India until our own factory comes into full competitive production. It would be necessary for such a firm also to undertake to train, where necessary, our technicians in their own workshops.

The Railway Board has, further, under examination at present the whole of the locomotive position on Indian Railways. The normal life of a locomotive is 40 years. The average age of locomotives on the line should be half that figure, namely, 20. At present, the average age of our locomotives is very much higher than that, being about 28 years. This indicates that we have in use more older than younger locomotives on the line. With due regard to the expected delivery dates of locomotives on order and the number and types of locomotives on order and the number and types of locomotives which will become overage by then, it has been calculated that we shall require, without embarrassing our own production, both from our workshops as well as from Tatas, from 400 to 500 more locomotives to be imported. The details, however, have still to be worked out.

The House will remember the Silver Arrow model train which was exhibited round India in 1947. Many enquiries have since been received as to when stock of that kind could be seen on Indian Railways. Progress has been made in manufacturing the all-metal light-weight type coach in India. The position at present is that we have prototypes under construction and these will have to be given the various buffing and other tests required before we go in for mass production. The Railway Board has been examining the possibility of establishing for Indian Railways a Central Coach Manufacturing Workshop where such all metal light-weight coach construction could be done with a view to adding to indigenous capacity in this sphere. For this workshop also, as in the case of locomotives manufacture, the Railway Board is considering the question of obtaining technical aid from foreign manufacturers with years of experience of welded all-metal coach building.

Labour Demands

When presenting the Railway Budgets in November 1947 and February 1948, Dr. Matthai referred to the demands of labour on Railways, particularly in connection with the implementation of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. During the year, a Negotiating Committee consisting of representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and of the Railway Board discussed certain issues arising from the application of the Commission's recommendations.

A variety of matters had to be covered during this discussion. Several of them were requests for modification even of the basic recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. At their annual convention at Calcutta, the Federation passed resolutions demanding that there should be no curtailment in Grainshop concessions and drawing attention to certain outstanding points at issue in

connection with the Central Pay Commission scales of pay.

In November, the General Council of the Federation met at Nagpur and decided on the taking of a strike ballot. Towards the end of December, the President of the Federation wrote to me drawing my attention to the clause in the Nagpur resolution expressing the preparedness of the Federation to come to an honourable settlement. In reply I suggested that he might come over and have a discussion with me. During the talks between us last month at Bombay and Delhi, there was a frank exhange of views and we arrived at certain understandings which, I have reason to believe, have cleared the air considerably. As a result, the Federation Executive has now a better appreciation of the policy of Government towards railway labour and its trade union organisations. The General Council of the Federation is timed to meet tomorrow. I trust that good sense will prevail and the decision will be against a railway strike.

Railway Grainshops

It is necessary here to refer to Railway Grainshops. In pursuance of the undertaking given at the last Budget session, the Railway Grainshops Enquiry Committee with Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena as Chairman and Mr. K. Santhanam and Mr. Khandubhai Desai as Members was appointed to examine the structure of the grainshop organisation, the system of procurement, stocking and distribution and the admissibility of the grainshop concessions to the various categories of railway staff. The Committee was also asked to suggest modifications in the present system which, while retaining the essential benefits of the grainshop scheme, would keep the cost within the limits the Railways could afford.

The Report of the Committee was submitted in June and its recommendations were accepted later by Government with only slight modifications. The result was that staff drawing above Rs. 250 were given the full cash dearness allowance payable to other Central Government employees, and an option was given to staff drawing up to Rs. 250 either to continue to enjoy grainshop concessions limited to five essential articles or to give up the concessions in favour of the full cash allowance. Government also offered lump sum payments to those drawing up to Rs. 50 who decided to opt out of the grainshop concessions before 1st January 1949 with a view to enabling them to make suitable adjustments in their domestic budgets.

When subsequently Government decided to increase the rates of cash dearness allowance to all Central Government employees drawing up to Rs. 250 by Rs. 10 per mensem, they sanctioned in the case of Railway workers the same allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem for staff drawing up to Rs. 250 with a proviso that in the case of such of the staff as elected to retain grainshop concessions on the restricted scale, the allowance would be only Rs. 5 per mensem. The period for electing to opt out of the Grainshops was extended up to March 31, 1949, and, in the case of those who did so opt out, lump sum payments on the same scale as for those who opted out before January 1, 1949 were also promised. The new scheme has been brought into operation from January 1, 1949.

Government have no desire other than to deal justly and even generously with labour. The Central Pay Commission scales of pay, the Rajadhyaksha Award, the new rates of pay and allowances to Running Staff, the increases in the dearness allowance which have taken effect from the beginning of this year, all these have added to the financial strain on the Railways, and, therefore, on the community as a whole. It will not help the railwaymen to get their spending power increased when it is unaccompanied by increased production all round.

In the circumstances in which we find ourselves placed to-day in the country, there is need for austerity and sacrifice on the part of every section of the community. The Government are committed to a long term policy of raising the standard of life of every one in the country. But a higher standard of life is not a matter merely of higher wages. It is essentially one of higher productivity. The present situation thus offers a challenge to our capacity and sense of responsibility as well as to the objectives that we must place before ourselves.

I have always felt that, in the long run, labour will rise to the height that it should in promoting the welfare of the country as a whole and in avoiding everything that is likely to conflict with peace and the attainment of that welfare by everybody. I have good reason to think that responsible leaders of Railway labour, including those in the All-India-Railwaymen's Federation, are fully alive to the disastrous consequences of taking a decision which will cause direct injury on a colossal scale to the national interest, and I do trust that they will not allow themselves to be misguided and overwhelmed into taking a wrong course by those who attempt to exploit them and their clientele not for legitimate trade union interests but for purposes of self-aggrandizement or of winning political party advantage.

Labour Welfare

The Railways constitute the biggest nationalised industry in the country, and I am one of those who believe that the administration of this industry should be so ordered and developed as to give labour more and more the feeling that it is participating with the management in raising the public service which the industry renders to the community to the maximum, both in quantity and quality. I am keen, therefore, that the conditions of life of railway workers, should improve with expedition and, in some respects, radically. The Railway Budget provides for many items of expenditure relating to labour welfare.

In spite of the need for economy and the difficulty of obtaining materials at reasonable prices, the Railway Administrations are trying to put up as many houses as possible, especially for those belonging to the lowest income groups amongst the workers. Railway hospitals and dispensaries provide for the railway workers greater facilities for medical relief than are available to the ordinary citizens of India. Other items of expenditure include maternity and child welfare, schools and institutes. It is proposed to review all these activities so that they may be fitted into an effective all round programme of labour welfare. In order to enable Parliament as well as the railway workers to watch the progress of a scheme of this nature, the question will be examined whether all these items of expenditure cannot from the next year be brought under one demand head as in the case of passenger amenities.

The establishment of the most cordial relations between railway managements and the railwaymen who work with them will be the supreme test of the efficiency of Railway Administrations. Past traditions and present conditions have combined to bring about an atmosphere of apparent conflict and hostility between them. The right of workers to combine for the protection of their interests is undoubted. But, on combining together, Unions and Federations of workers should realise that nothing could be to the real interest of the workers themselves unless it is in unison with the interest of the community as a whole.

To exploit trade unions for political party ends merely is a crime, whoever may resort to it. I desire to appeal to all labour leaders, whatever school of politics they may belong to for other purposes, seriously to consider whether for subserving the real welfare of their primary clients, the general body of workers, they should not unite in a common organisation and confine its activities to the realisation of essentially trade union objectives.

New Rating Structure

An important piece of reform was completed during the year with the introduction of a new rating structure on October 1, 1948. I would not weary the House by giving details of the new system that has been introduced. A new Railway Rates Tribunal will shortly commence to function under the legislation passed last year and will, I hope, be welcomed by the trading community. The need for a more satisfactory machinery to decide disputes in connection with rates than was provided by the Rates Advisory Committee had been pressed for long and the functioning of the Tribunal should go a long way towards satisfying the public that their complaints regarding the making or giving of undue preference in rates or charges or of refusal to quote a station-to-station rate will be looked into and decided finally by an impartial authority.

I would here make an appeal to our trading community for co-operation in the matter of the utilisation and release of wagons. In a number of cases it has been found that indents placed for supply of wagons are cancelled or not fully availed of when they have been complied with after a great deal of effort and programming of movements on the part of the railways. To avoid delays in the release of wagons at starting or destination stations, the Railway Board has recently had to reduce the free time allowed for the levy of demurrage from 9 to 6 hours. This has led to an improvement in wagon loading since last April by 2.71 per cent on the broad gauge and 4.74 per cent on the metre gauge as compared with the corresponding period of 1947.

it is not a pleasure to be compelled to institute penal measures for what could readily be accomplished with the willing co-operation on the part of traders and businessmen. I wish our Chambers of Commerce and Trades Associations will build up a code of their own of healthy practices in this regard. This is what has been done for many years in the U. K. and the U. S. A. The absence of responsible conduct of this nature has expressed itself in the enormous accumulation of uncleared consignments, as for instance, was the case in the New Delhi yard.

If some businessmen do not clear wagons in time, they are actually depriving many others of the supply of wagons so essential to the functioning of our economy in a regime of shortages and priorities. I have no hesitation in assuring the commercial community that the Railways will do their utmost to serve their needs. I am sure they appreciate the radical measures adopted recently to clear the arrears of claims which had accumulated during the war and on account of the unsettled conditions of the last two years.

The Indian Railway Enquiry Committee concluded its labours during the year and submitted its report to Government early in November last. To my Hon'ble Friend Pandit Kunzru, who presided over the Committee, and to his colleagues, I wish to express the Government's obligations for the comprehensive survey of railway problems, the painstaking study of those problems and the recommendations thereon made in the Report. These recommendations are individually being processed by a high level Officer on Special Duty with a view to obtaining Government's orders thereon. I need hardly say that Government will give their very best consideration to the recommendations. The Report was sent to the Press soon after its receipt, and printed copies of it will be made available to Hon'ble Members after they are received from the Press.

Statistical Data

I ought to refer to another topic to which reference has been made by the House in recent years, namely, the economic and statistical information relating to railways. The question has a public as well as a domestic importance to railways. Indian Railways have for many years followed a policy that is perhaps unique. There is hardly an aspect of their working—financial, operational, and commercial—on which they not collect, and cannot supply, full information. All this information is necessary for the purpose of managerial control, to maintain efficiency in working, to keep down uneconomic expenditure and to improve financial results.

I am assured that our record in these matters compares very favourably with that of other countries, including the U. K., the U.S.A. and Canada. The principal defect with us has been that we have not been making as good use of the information that is available as these other countries do. We are instituting measures to bring about a rapid improvement in the present set up, taking into consideration the valuable suggestions made by the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee.

What is badly required is the collection and collation in suitable forms of the information we have and its interpretation and correlation with the broad economic, rends in the country. This is of vital importance to all those, such as the members of this House, who have to decide, or pronounce on, questions of policy and must have a correct appraisal of railway working from time to time.

We are also strengthening our economic research side. The resources have to be harnessed to support and promote the economic welfare of the nation. As railways touch the life of the community more intimately than perhaps any other single economic agency, their managements should know as precisely as they can its changing needs, so that the service they render it is adjusted to what is desired. For this, there should be a continuous study in relation to railway working of current trends in industry, agriculture and domestic and foreign trade. Such studies, so common in other countries, should prove to be of great value to our industrialists and businessmen. A beginning on this task will be made in the Budget Year.

Re-Grouping of Railways

The Railways offer a wide field for scientific research. The Research Committees of the Indian Railway Conference Association and the Central Standards Office have a fairly good record to their credit in this respect, but it is recognised that there is need for a more comprehensive effort in this direction. The matter is under active consideration.

Hon'ble Members are, I know, greatly interested in the problem of the re-grouping of railways in this country. Amongst the 9 units of Railway Administrations now in existence, the route mileage in charge of each varies from 1,231 miles on the Assam Railway to 4,457 miles on the E. I. Railway. Their operation ratios vary within fairly wide limits and some of them have been living on the others. Their present geographical distribution has grown haphazardly in some cases and are a product of the history of both State and Company effort in the past. Whether we should interfere with the present grouping at all and, if so, how best to group them with the assurance of giving satisfaction both territorially and functionally is a problem which bristles with difficulties.

The Railway Board and I are studying this problem in all its various aspects. The dimensions of the problem change daily. The political developments in Indian States and Unions of Indian States are at present a disturbing factor in the way of arriving at conclusions which can have any permanence. When, however, the political map of India gets finally settled—as there is every prospect of its doing in the very near future—we should be in a position to re-draw the railway map of India and cut it up into units of Railway Administration, which will ensure both regional and operational efficiency.

There is the other problem also of the re-organisation of the internal administrative set up in each unit of Railway Administration. This also is being studied very intensively, but, in a sense, it is linked with the problem of re-grouping. The matter is under active consideration, but, in view of obvious considerations, it seems to me that a hasty decision in respect of this matter should be avoided.

Proposals have been made from time to time by Committees and individuals, and quite recently by the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee, regarding the changes that are necessary in the central machinery for controlling this huge nationalised concern. I am giving this problem also my best attention and, while improvements for the purpose of achieving greater efficiency with the present Central set up are being and will be effected, the larger problem of the nature and functions of a Central Railway Executive and of its relations with the Minister and Parliament requires the most careful consideration and such legislation as may be required for altering the existing system might, perhaps, be more wisely introduced in Parliament after the new Constitution comes into force.

In a broadcast, which I made soon after I took over charge of Railways, I said—"On the railways, among the station, goods, train and such like staff, the demand and payment and the offer and acceptance of illegal gratification are almost a tradition, deep rooted and of many decades standing. A determined drive is now on to combat this evil with firmness." The House has always evinced the keenest interest in the putting down of this corruption.

Anti-Corruption Drive

The arrangements that exist for achieving this result have been under my continuous consideration and recently I approved of a scheme evolved by the Railway Board under my instructions and after consulting both the Head of the Special Police Establishment and General Managers of Railways. The objective of the scheme is to co-ordinate the activities of the Special Police Establishment and Railway Administrations and to tighten up the executive machinery, both Police and Railways, dealing with the detection and investigation of cases. The main points of the scheme are :—

Firstly, Organisations to suit local conditions for the prevention, detection and departmental investigation of corruption on each Railway;

Secondly, merely departmental or procedural irregularities resulting in preferential treatment to traders, travellers, contractors or firms should be ordinarily enquired into and disposed of by the Railway Administration concerned. If, however, there is reason to think that receipt of some monetary or other consideration can be established against the Railway staff concerned with these irregularities, the cases should be handed over to the Special Police Establishment without delay; and

Thirdly, in dealing with cases of corruption departmentally all non-

(*Concluded on Page 249*)

ROLE OF ROADS IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Bihar Premier Inaugurates Indian Roads Congress

"THAT proper road development is a *sine qua non* of the success of all development programmes," remarked the Hon'ble Dr. Sri Krishna Sinha, Premier of Bihar, in his inaugural address to the 13th session of the Indian Roads Congress which met at Ranchi on February 4, 1949. More than 300 highway engineers, attended the session.

Following is the full text of his speech :

I fully endorse the view so ably stated just now by you, Mr. President, that proper road development is a *sine qua non* of the success of all development programmes. I am also aware of the very important contribution which your Congress has made in promoting the science and practice of road-building in India, and in shaping road construction programmes throughout the country. I believe that Engineers generally, and your Congress in particular, will play even a bigger and a more important role in the future.

I, therefore, deeply appreciate the very great honour you have done me by calling upon me to inaugurate this 13th session of your Congress. Though I have been associated with Engineers for a long time, I am not an Engineer myself and, not qualified to speak or advise you on any matter relating to the science of road building. I agreed, however, to accept this honour mainly to assure you that my Government is keenly interested in the work which your Congress is doing, and we would be glad to co-operate with you and assist you as far as possible.

I must now thank you for kindly accepting the invitation of my Government for holding the present session of your Congress in this Province, and on behalf of myself, my colleagues in the Provincial Government and the public of Bihar, I accord you a most hearty welcome. When we decided to invite you for holding your annual session in this Province, we could not think of a better place than Ranchi as the venue of your meeting.

Road Development Projects

Ranchi is an important centre of road communication. The coalfields as well as the industrial town of Jamshedpur are fairly close from here. The sites of several proposed dams and power stations of the Damodar Valley Project are also within easy distance. Ranchi is known for its good climate and there is much beautiful scenery in its vicinity. You might also be interested in the village and community life of the Adibasis of this district which has many instructive and interesting features.

Turning to the subject of roads, I would like to say, Mr. President, that I have listened with great interest and attention to your very learned, yet illuminating address which gives a comprehensive review of the problem. I have not much to add to what you have said, but I might, perhaps, indicate generally the position of road development projects in my own Province, and also give a few instances to illustrate and underline some of the observations made by you in your excellent address. To begin with, I should caution you against judging the quality and standard of roads in this Province from the good roads you see in and around Ranchi.

The position in the remaining three divisions of the Province, and particularly in North Bihar districts, is entirely different. North Bihar which is the most densely populated part of the province and in fact, one of the most densely populated areas in the whole world, has very few roads and the few that exist are of poor quality. There are several reasons for this. Road metal is not found in North Bihar.

Transport from areas south of the Ganges involves very great difficulty as the Ganges is not bridged at any point in this province. Due partly to the density of population, and partly to the concentration of the sugar industry in a small zone, recurring floods, and also the fact that the soil of North Bihar is very soft, proper maintenance of roads has been found to be a difficult problem there. May I hope that the deliberations of your Congress will help to some extent in solving the problem of road construction and maintenance in such conditions.

Village Roads

I might also refer to the question of village roads. Following the basic principles of the Nagpur plan, it is proposed to build nearly 25,000 miles of village and minor roads in this Province. The construction of these roads may be regarded as necessary and urgent but the programme can hardly materialise unless you, Engineers of India, evolve simpler and cheaper methods of road construction with locally available materials. I was struck, Mr. President, by the reference in your address to the possibility of construction of earth roads.

I believe that mainly on account of the difficulty of maintaining such roads properly, the Public Works Department and also District Boards in nearly all Provinces have, generally speaking, been reluctant to construct earth roads. It is, I think, important that your Congress should give particular attention to research for evolving suitable types of earth roads which would be serviceable, and yet not too expensive, to maintain.

Mr. President, you have rightly placed considerable emphasis on the importance of providing adequate funds for road development, and I find from the records of proceedings of earlier sessions of your Congress that the creation of a non-lapsing road fund, and the earmarking of a definite percentage of the budget expenditure have been regarded throughout by the Indian Road Congress as being of prime importance. I am entirely in agreement with the view that unless there is an assurance of availability of funds spread over a period of some years, there can be no planned road development.

In this province, we have sanctioned a road development programme costing about Rs. 17 crores to be completed by 1951-52. In addition to this, there is a separate scheme for the renovation of roads in sugar factory areas. The Provincial Government have also made a grant of Rs. 1,75 crores to local bodies for the improvement of roads under their control. Since 1946-47, the sum allotted for road development in this province has amounted to an average of 7·5 per cent of the total budget expenditure. Actually a larger allotment could have been made if it had been possible to utilise the money.

In any case, as far as I can see unless there are unforseen developments affecting the finances of the province the inadequacy of funds is not likely to stand in the way. The main obstacles to progress at present seem to be scarcity of materials, shortage of transport and dearth of trained staff. There is, of course another complication, namely, the continuous rise in the cost of living and consequently, in the price of materials and in labour rates. I believe, however, that given patience, the spirit of service and patriotism it should not be impossible for us to overcome these and other difficulties in the not too distant future.

You have said, Mr. President, that the policy of spending crores of rupees on the improvement of District Board Roads, and then of leaving these roads to the mercy of the Boards and again starting fresh repairs and improvement after 10 years or so cannot be regarded as wise. As mentioned by me earlier, my Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,75 crores to local bodies for improvement of roads under their control. Many of these roads were subjected to very heavy military traffic and their repair cannot be delayed any further.

The Provincial Public Works Department have not got the staff required for supervision of the proposed work. It would take them several years to build up an adequate organisation. I had myself been Chairman of a District Board for many years and know that several District Boards have engineering staff who possess both experience and local knowledge. At present there is not enough work for them as funds at their disposal are very limited and the cost of construction is about four times higher than it was before the war. It might, perhaps, interest you to know that we have simultaneously taken steps to strengthen the engineering section of District Boards to some extent and what is more important, to arrange for the supervision of their work and for the co-ordination of road development worl of different local bodies. The posts o District Engineers have been pro vincialised.

A separate organisation has been se up for the supervision of the work o

the engineering staff of local bodies and for co-ordination of their road development programmes. The Provincial Government have also retained control over the selection of roads to be repaired and improved out of the grant. I should also like to mention that I have received whole-hearted co-operation from the Chairmen of District Boards in settling the plan as well as the procedure of work which shows, that they are in earnest about road development.

Our idea is that the resources of both Government and local bodies should be pooled together in the interest of planned road development and it is my considered view that it would not be wise to cut out the local bodies from the scheme. What is really necessary is to find ways and means for bringing about better co-ordination of work between the organisations and I need hardly say that the suggestions of your Congress on this question will receive our earnest consideration.

I am grateful to you for the patience with which you have heard me. You have a very busy programme ahead and you must be eager to commence your deliberations. Before I conclude, I should like, however, to welcome you once again on your visit to this province. Many of you have come from long distances at considerable personal inconvenience. Ours is a poor province, and there may be many shortcomings in our arrangements for your stay and convenience. I would request you to forgive us for this.

As I have said earlier, your Congress is engaged on work of first-rate national importance, and I fervently wish and pray that your deliberations here will be actuated by the spirit of service and that this session at Ranchi will mean another landmark in the progress of research in India in the science and practice of road making. With these words, gentlemen, I declare the thirteenth session of the Indian Road Congress open.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The urgent need for building a network of roads spread throughout the country particularly in the rural areas, was emphasised by Mr. S. N. Chakrawarti, Special Chief Engineer, Works and Buildings, Government of West Bengal, in his presidential address to the Congress.

Below is the full text of his address:

HON'BLE MR. PREMIER & GENTLEMEN,

The Indian Roads Congress is grateful to you, Sir, for kindly consenting to inaugurate this, our 13th General Session. Our sincere thanks are also due to the Government of Bihar for providing us with facilities for holding this Session in this beautiful city of Ranchi.

The province of Bihar has figured prominently in our fight for freedom and we see in our midst today not only you, Sir, but other leaders of the Indian National Congress who have, by dint of their hard work and sacrifice, won independence for our Motherland.

Our first Session after Independence was held at Roorkee—a centre for Engineering Sciences in India for over a century, which has produced some very famous engineers. In the scholarly atmosphere of Roorkee our attention could not but be directed to the need for technical advancement, specialisation and research. This year, it is our privilege to meet in your Province—a Province reputed for its ancient culture and which has given us the Asoka Chakra of our national flag.

We are reminded of the Bharatvarsaha of old, of the glories of the reigns of Chandra Gupta and Asoka and of the great seat of learning, the University of Nalanda. The teachings of Buddha, with its tenets of universal brotherhood and service, spring to our minds, make us dream of the India of the future and inspire us to strive to fit ourselves for the services of the common man.

This Congress was established in 1934 with a small membership of 73 which has now grown to nearly 1,200. Since then, we have not only been actively engaged in promoting the science of road making and maintenance but have progressively attempted to express to an increasing extent, the collective opinion of our Members on matters affecting roads.

Nagpur Plan

In the Session of 1943, this Congress took upon itself the consideration of classifying roads in categories denoting the objects served by them and suggested that roads should be designated as National, Provincial, District, and Village Highways. The Chief Engineers' Conference held at Nagpur which followed that Session formulated proposals for a road plan for India, proposals which are embodied in what is now known as the Nagpur Plan. The Nagpur Plan has been accepted by the Governments of India and the Provinces as a suitable target for a balanced road communication system for this country.

Our Congress has not, however, stood still since 1943. It has been very activety engaged, through its various technical sub-committees in making recommendations to the Governments on the specifications and designs to be adopted for various types of roads. The Specification and Standards Committee has produced many standards, for road layouts, land widths; building lines and controlled widths; horizontal and vertical curves, and sight distances, which have been generally agreed to by the different Provinces. The Bridges Sub-Committee has to be specially congratulated for its publication of a draft "Standard Specification and Code of Practice for Road Bridges in India" which has been adopted throughout the country.

In the field of Research, our labours have borne fruit. On our recommendation the Government of India have agreed to establish a Central Road Research Institute which forms an important link in the chain of National Laboratories now being established under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. This Institute will be located at Delhi and experiments will be conducted under the direction of a Road Research Advisory Committee of eminent road engineers on which the Roads Congress will be represented.

The Research Institute at Delhi will be a Central Institute. It will co-ordinate and guide the activities of Provincial Road Research Stations and experimental work which may be undertaken by the Provincial Laboratories. The Central Institute which will specialise in higher research cannot itself deal with all the problems arising in different Provinces and will not obviate the need for smaller Provincial Laboratories to deal with local problems.

The Provincial Laboratories will have at their disposal the help and advice of the higher technical staff maintained by the Government of India. A Research Station to deal with soil stabilization, concrete, and bituminous pavements, and problems relating to building construction, has already been set up in the United Provinces and, I understand, Madras and Bombay have also decided to establish similar Research Laboratories. These local Laboratories will be mainly concerned with the development of the technique of road construction with locally available materials, the testing of different specifications, the devising of mehods for improving earth roads by admixture of sand and clay, the study of the behaviour of concrete slabs, tar and bitumen carpets and other problems. It will be necessary for these Laboratories to be supplemented and assisted by Research Laboratories attached to the Engineering Colleges and Universities where research on the strength of materials, their properties and such matters as are of general application, could be carried on.

Training Facilities in Colleges

The value of such research depends upon the aptitude and the devotion of the Research Officers. It was extremely difficult to find suitable officers to carry on the work that was undertaken in the United Provinces Laboratory. If we wish to achieve tangible results, we must provide for post-graduate training and Research in our Engineering Colleges where students can in future be trained to specialize in various branches of Engineering and where engineers can also be given refresher courses to acquaint themselves with the latest advances in highway engineering. The Government of India scheme for training road engineers by short visits to foreign countries is a temporary measure which was never intended to produce the engineer specialists required by this country. Such specialists will not only have to be trained in our Colleges but must also be afforded opportunities to serve the country in specialist capacities.

Gentlemen, we have cause to feel gratified with the results of our efforts in the past to produce generally accepted standards and with the fact that our advice to set up road research institutes has been accepted by Governments but we must not forget that the science of road making like everything else, is still in its infancy in India, and it will require active, earnest, and sustained efforts on our part to catch up with the advances that have been made in other countries. We must also remember that our problems are not the same as in other countries and it would, therefore, be inadvisable for us to copy blindly what has been done elsewhere. To be successful, we have to develop our own technique of construction suited to our conditions of geography, climate, and traffic. We can assure the Governments on behalf of this Congress of Road Engineers that, given encouragement and opportunities, we shall not be found wanting.

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I shall now refer to a matter which has caused disappointment to Highway Engineers. The anti-inflationary measures adopted by the Government of India threaten to affect seriously the speed of construction as funds for road development have been severely cut—almost to the point of calling a halt to the new Centrally financed road development projects. This, we hope, is a passing phase. The public has become "roadminded" and the Provincial Governments, who are in close touch with public demand and needs, have begun to feel for the pressure of public opinion in this direction. In the two Provinces I know best, the Governments have taken upon themselves the responsibility of finding the funds required for proceeding with the road works in hand. I expect that funds will also be forthcoming for taking up new road schemes.

Need for Priority

I am not unware of the fact that Government do not curtail funds without sufficient reason. But what I wish to suggest is that Roads must necessarily occupy a position of eminent priority in any true development programme and must therefore, be given the consideration they deserve. We are fully alive to the need for stabilization of the economy of the country. We appreciate, therefore, the necessity of measures devised by the Government for the purpose and we are quite prepared to fall in line with them by revising our plans so as to give preference, for the time being to lower specification work spread over a large milage of roads rather than to spending all the available funds on higher types of construction in a few places. But, this in itself is only possible of attainment if minimum financial provision is assured for a sufficiently long period of time.

The present fluctuations in grants from year to year and their uncertainty particularly in egard to the adequacy of funds prevent us from embarking upon any long-term programme. Instead, we have to hustle and hurry which is inevitable under the present system of finance, that is the system of providing annual grants which lapse at the end of each financial year. It is perhaps not fully realised by the Government that under this system of annually lapsing funds wasteful expenditure cannot be avoided owing to supervision difficulties and the high rates that have to be paid whenever the demand for labour exceeds the resources of a district.

I may be pardoned for laying great emphasis on this point and I can do no better than to quote from the 1924 Report of the Committee on Highway Finance set up by the Advisory Board on Highway Research in America:—

"The highway programme of a State should be limited to the ability of the State to carry on economically a long time improvement programme. It is economically unsound to set as an objective the completion of a large yearly programme of new construction as a mark of achievement. The result of this practice is to increase unduly the demand for labour and materials above normal, which increases the per mile cost of highway improvement. * * * * * This disturbing element can be largely avoided by carefully planning the state highway improvement programme extending over a period of years, adjusted to the yearly highway budget. The highway budget should also be sufficiently flexible to take advantage of periods of low prices."

This quotation depicts a true picture of the dangers existing in India today. All of us have been faced with the problem of continually rising rates demanded by contractors, rates which often bear no relationship to the rise in prices or the cost of living. These high rates are often the direct result of undertaking large projects (and not only road projects) in some area in a particular year, projects which absorb the entire material and manpower resources of the area and then asking the Highway engineer to spend a fixed sum of money in the same area within the financial year. Gentlemen, despite these difficulties, the efficiency of the individual engineers as well as of the Department is judged by expenditure incurred during the year.

Non-Lapsing Fund

All this wastage of public money could be avoided by the establishment of a non-lapsing fund for road construction which would at the same time ensure that a certain minimum amount would be allotted for road construction for say—a period of five years. It would then be possible for road engineers to proceed in a methodical manner and complete their programme by construction in stages in such a manner that on the one hand, available

Shri K. Santhanam's Appeal to Road Engineers

The Hon'ble Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways, Government of India, sent the following message to the Roads Congress:

I have great pleasure in sending my greetings and good wishes to the Engineers who have gathered from different parts of the country to participate in this session. I wanted to attend the session and come into personal contact with you all, but I am not able to leave Delhi on account of the work in the Indian Parliament which is now in session.

The next few years will be the critical period of Indian history. They will decide whether India will be able to solve her social and economic problems in a peaceful orderly manner or whether she will have to go through disastrous convulsions which have been the sad fate of some of our neighbours. The Engineers of this country will have a significant part to play in this period. The final outcome will largely depend upon their capacity, efficiency and speed.

The people of India will not agree to continue in their present economic condition for any long period. They will be content with nothing less than visible rapid progress before their very eyes. Unless they see it, they will inevitably turn to those who preach the doctrine that by a quick and violent uprooting of existing society all their grievances can be remedied overnight.

I would, therefore, earnestly plead with you to evolve ways and means of convincing the people that freedom is being quickly converted into prosperity for our toiling millions. By executing the road programmes quickly and efficiently, you will not only be speeding up the economic development of the country, but also giving much needed political support to the National Government.

I note with great interest that the Indian Roads Congress is laying increasing emphasis on research. In the field of science, as in others, we have to perform two different tasks. On the one hand we should keep abreast of the modern world. I believe that our Engineers are as intelligent and competent as any engineers in the world. But I would like them not only to copy and assimilate the latest work of engineers in other countries, but that they should also contribute in proportion to their numbers and the greatness of the country, to which they belong, to the development of engineering science. You all know how much the Prime Minister of India is anxious to foster the spirit of research. I may assure you that you will have my whole-hearted support in every attempt to develop the spirit of research in your members.

Productive Projects

It is a pity that owing to causes beyond our control we should be overtaken by the curse of inflation during the first years of our freedom. This is forcing the Central and Provincial Governments to restrict expenditure even on the most desirable and productive projects. We have all to accept this restriction with good grace and try to make up for it by using the money available to the greatest advantage. I wish to appeal to you to try and make the utmost economy in all our estimates. All margins have to be cut to the narrowest limits. If the present difficulties force you to give good roads at cheaper cost, there will have been some good out of evil.

I shall watch your deliberations with great interest. I have full faith and confidence that you will fulfil the expectations of the Government and the people of India.

economy of the measures suggested for maintenance. Its use might enable us to regulate our improvements of surfaces in such a way as to release a part of the existing maintenance grants for new extensions to the highway system. Maintenance costs under varying conditions could be compared to see whether, for example, high maintenance costs on certain sections do not point to the fact that a change in the composition of traffic is warranted by encouraging the greater use of pneumatic tyres in bullock carts, by segregation of traffic, by improving the wheels of bullock carts, or by other means.

I shall, with your permission, Sir, now venture to invite the attention of my fellow Engineers to another important matter and, in doing this, I shall quote a few sentences from the message given to us at our last Session by Dr. John Matthai who was then Minister for Transport in the Government of India. He said: "Too often Engineers appear to play the role of big silent men. I have often felt that with their education and their experience as men of affairs, they could achieve much more if they would only emerge from their shell and take the trouble to explain their views while at the same time being prepared to be guided by the will of the people."

Role of Engineers

This correctly describes the attitude of most engineers. We feel that our activities should be limited to the professional field only. We seem to think we are only skilled workers fit only to work and it is for others to think and plan. This attitude may be the result of the organisation set up by a foreign Government, but it is high time that we realised that engineers must plan and guide Governments in their policy for the development of the country.

I do not wish to suggest that engineers should leave their role of technical officers and become purely administrative officers. But we should have opportunities to formulate schemes based on scientific data and explain these schemes and our point of view to the public and the Government. We should also be more closely associated with the general policy of Government than we have been in the past so that when we make our plans, such plans will be based upon a wider knowledge of Government policy.

I must not keep you too, long listening with polite patience to a technical man's unvarnished and boring speech. I shall not detain you much longer, but before I end, I have to make a few observations (based upon my own experience) on the organisation of our engineering departments and the opportunities we give to our engineers to become specialists. Earlier in this address, I commented upon the useful work done by this Congress in the matter of producing specifications, Road Layouts, Standard widths, etc., and the excellent work done by the Bridges Committee.

While carrying on with the excellent work, I think the Congress could, in the near future, take up for examination the question whether any reorganisation of our Engineering departments would not be beneficial. Do we give enough scope and incentive to keen engineers to specialise or do we not rather encourage them to become jacks of all trades. Should we not try to lay down a "standard" for the organisation of a Public Works Department (just as we lay down so many other standards) which will cut out red tape and encourage our young engineers to give of their best according to their aptitudes and so establish a tradition of service where merit and initiative will be the criteria for advancement to success.

It is a President's privilege to throw out suggestions for the consideration of the Council and of the Members in general and I have today taken full advantage of my privilege by asking you to examine more than one urgent matter. I should particularly like Members to consider carefully the question whether we should not encourage specialisation in engineering matters more than we have done in the past.

Let me now summarise or, at least, recall to your minds the main points of this address, points which I would like to emphasise. First of all, there is the urgent need that the Government should provide some regular source of finance for road development. It is only on the basis of regular, non-lapsing grants that we can plan properly, so as to ensure on the one hand that our work is so spread throughout the country as to prevent the creation of boom conditions, and on the other that we do not build beyond our capacity to maintain. I have also touched upon the necessity for Research and to make our men Research minded. By Research I do not mean only enquiry into the properties of materials but investigation of economic problems to guide us in placing our roads where they are really required.

The other point which I hope I have clearly made is that in these days of shortage of funds we should not neglect the roads to the villages or at least to the areas which produce our food.

NEW FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on February 8, 1949 said:

Mr. A.K. Chanda, at present Deputy High Commissioner for India in London, is appointed Financial Commissioner of Railways in succession to Mr. I.S. Puri who retires at the end of February 1949. Mr. Chanda will take over his new duties in May 1949 and in the interim period Mr. P.M. Joseph, Director of Accounts, Railway Board, will officiate as Financial Commissioner of Railways.

The London School of Economics and Political Science are again holding this year an examination in India on April 21, 1949 for admission to the B.Sc. (Economics) course beginning from October, 1949.

The examination which will be held at various centres in India will be open only to graduates of at least second class honours standard. Applications should be forwarded through the local University authorities.

RAIL PRIORITY CONTROL

The Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Transport and Railways, presiding over the Standing Committee (for subjects other than Roads) for the Ministry of Transport on February 5, 1949, discussed the continuance of rail priority control, reorganisation of road motor transport in Delhi and petrol rationing.

Rail priority control is now exercised under the Railways (Transport of Goods) Amendment Act, 1948, which expires on March 26, 1949. Despite the improvement noticed latterly, rail transport conditions in the country are still difficult except in South India. Further, "there is still an acute shortage of certain essential commodities and, therefore, so long as the present shortage of such commodities renders necessary their movement by rail without delay and so long as the railways are not in a position to handle all the traffic offering, priority control is essential. The Committee agreed to the continuance of rail priority control for another year.

As regards the Delhi Transport Service the Committee approved of the proposal to vest its administration in a statutory body. The Standing Committee agreed to the continuance of petrol rationing in view of the general world shortage of petroleum products and the shortage of tank wagons.

Another item on the agenda which was approved by the Committee, related to a proposal to amend the Bombay Port Trust Act, 1879, empowering the Trustees to self goods if not removed from the docks by consignees after a certain period.

CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

A meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways was held in New Delhi on February 5, 1949 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Railways. Among the subjects discussed were departmental catering, anti-corruption measures on railways, and provision of reserved compartments for servants of Classes I and II passengers.

The Council decided that while departmental catering should be the long-term objective, the Railway Board should proceed with caution in changing over from private to departmental catering, especially as Railway Administrations have other more important problems on hand at present.

On the anti-corruption measures on railways, the Council decided that the suggestion to have a separate and self contained anti-corruption department under the Railway Minister was not feasible, and that an organisation to supplement the Special Police Establishment in its work should be established on all railways.

A proposal to reserve separate compartments for the servants of Classes I and II passengers was rejected.



GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN MADRAS

H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, India's Governor-General, inspecting a Guard of Honour provided by the Services Corps at Government House, Madras, on Feb. 8 when he visited the Provincial capital. (Below) Officials of the Madras Government being presented to His Excellency by the Premier of Madras, the Hon'ble Shri O.P. Ramaswami Reddiar, at Government House.



THE QUESTION OF LANGUAGE

BY

Jawaharlal Nehru

"IN India we are rightly committed to the growth of our great provincial languages. At the same time we must have an all-India language. This cannot be English or any other foreign language, although I believe that English, both because of its world position and the present widespread knowledge of it in India, is bound to play an important part in our future activities. The only all-India language that is possible is Hindi or Hindustani or whatever it is called," observed the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, in a special article written by him on the subject of a national language for India.

The following is the full text of the article:

I am writing this article not as Prime Minister but as an author and as a person intensely interested in the question of language. I am interested in this question because of its political and, unfortunately, communal aspects. Of far greater importance, however, are the wider cultural aspects of this question. Though I am not a scholar in any language, I have loved the beauty of language, the music of its phrases, and the magic and power that lies in words.

I believe that a language is a greater test of a nation's character than almost anything else. If a language is strong and vigorous, so are the people who use it; if it is rather superficial, ornate and intricate, the people reflect it. Of course, this may be more correctly put the other way about, for it is the people who create the language. But there is some truth also in the language moulding the people. A language which is precise makes the people think precisely. Lack of accuracy and precision in meaning leads to muddled thinking and, consequently, confused action.

Functions of a Language

A language, which is confined in a strait jacket, with no doors and windows open for progressive change, may be both precise and graceful, but is apt to lose touch with a changing environment and the mass of the people. This inevitably leads to a loss of vigour and a growth of a certain artificiality. At any time this would not be good, but in the present dynamic age, with almost everything changing round about us, a strait jacket will deaden a language. The courtly languages of previous ages had much to commend them. But they are totally unsuited to a democratic age, where we aim at mass education.

A language, therefore, must fulfil two functions: it must base itself on its ancient roots and, at the same time, vary and expand with growing needs and be essentially the language of the mass of people and not of a select coterie. This is all the more necessary in this age of science and technology and world communication. In so far as possible, that language should have common or similar words with other languages in regard to scientific or technical terms. It must, therefore, be a receptive language, accepting every word from outside that fits into its general structure. Sometimes that word may be slightly varied to suit the genius of the language.

Classical languages have played a very great part in the development of human society. At the same time they have rather impeded the growth of popular languages. So long as the learned thought and wrote in the classical language, there was no real growth of the popular language. In Europe, Latin came in the way of growth of the European languages till about the 16th century. In India, Sanskrit had such a dominating influence that the Prakrits and what subsequently became provincial languages, were rather stunted. Later Persian also became a language of the learned in large parts of India and this also came in the way of the growth of popular languages in some parts of India.

All-India Language

In India we are rightly committed to the growth of our great provincial languages. At the same time we must have an all-India language. This cannot be English or any other foreign language, although I believe that English, both because of its world position and the present widespread knowledge of it in India, is bound to play an important part in our future activities. The only all-India language that is possible is Hindi or Hindustani or whatever it is called.

These are certain basic propositions which we must bear in mind in considering this vital question. We must remember that any hurried decision of it on a political plane or under the influence of momentary passions or prejudices, may well prove harmful. We have to build for the future and a false foundation may well stunt our future growth not only linguistically but in the wider domain of culture and human advancement. It is far better to go slow and avoid every kind of rigidity. Language is a very delicate instrument, evolved in its higher aspects by fine minds and strengthened by the popular use of it. It grows like a flower and too much external compulsion retards that growth or twists it into a wrong direction.

It is not very material what we call this language, whether Hindi or Hindustani, except for the fact that every word has a history behind it and connotes something very definite, which limits its meaning. What we must be clear about in our minds is the inner content of the language and the way it looks at the world, that is, whether it is restrictive, self-sufficient, isolationist and narrow, or whether it is the reverse of this. We must deliberately aim, I think, at a language which is the latter and which has therefore a great capacity for growth. The English language, probably more than any other today, has this receptiveness, flexibility and capacity for growth. Hence its great importance as a language. I should like our language to face the world in the same way.

I am distressed at the way this question of language is considered and debated in India today. There is little of scholarship behind this argument and less of culture. There is no vision or thought of the future. Language is looked upon more as a kind of extended journalese and a perverted nationalism demands that it should be made as narrow and restricted as possible. Any attempt to expand it is branded as a sin against this form of nationalism. Beauty in a language is often supposed to be an extreme ornateness and the use of long and complicated words. There is little vigour or dignity in evidence and one gets the impression of extreme superficiality and shallowness. Just as poetry is not a mere collection of rhymes and meters, so also a language is not just a display of intricate and difficult words. Recent attempts to translate well-known common words from English are fantastic in the extreme. If this tendency persists, that surely is murder of a fine vehicle for the expression of thought.

Sanskrit: India's Greatest Treasure

If I was asked what is the greatest treasure that India possesses, and what is her finest heritage, I would answer unhesitatingly it is the Sanskrit language and literature and all that this contains. This is a magnificent inheritance and so long as this endures and influences the life of our people, so long will the basic genius of India continue. Apart from its being a treasure of the past, it is, to an astonishing degree, for so ancient a language, a living tradition. I should like to promote the study of Sanskrit and to put our scholars to work to explore and bring to light the buried literature in this language that has been almost forgotten.

It is surprising that while we talk so much of language in terms of an extreme nationalism, only lip homage is paid to it or it is exploited for political ends. Very little is done to serve it as a language should be served. Whether in Sanskrit or in the modern Indian languages, constructive work is rare. We often follow a dog-in-the-manger policy of disliking any other growth and at the same time not doing anything ourselves. A language will grow ultimately because of its inherent worth and not because of statutes or resolutions. Therefore, the true service of a language is to increase its value, practicability and inherent worth.

However great Sanskrit may be, and however much we may like to promote its study, as we should, it cannot be a living language. But it must be, as it has been, the base and inner substance of most of our languages. That is inevitable. But an attempt to force this is neither inevitable nor desirable and is likely to lead to evil results.

Persian has played an important role in the last few centuries in developing some of our provincial languages, more especially Hindustani and has affected our ways of thinking also to some extent. That is an acquisition and it makes us richer to that extent. It must be remembered that no language is nearer to Sanskrit than Persian, and indeed Vedic Sanskrit and Ancient Pahlevi are nearer to one another than Vedic Sanskrit and classical Sanskrit. So a certain overlapping of the two is easy and does no violence to the genius of our language or our race.

In any event a few hundred years of history and the life of the people have fashioned us for what we are and it seems to me rather absurd and certainly unwise, to try to undo this work of history. From the cultural point of view, such an attempt at undoing and going back would mean depriving us of a cultural heritage which we possessed. It would mean making ourselves poorer. We should rather aim at richness and at accepting whatever adds to that cultural content. Therefore, any attempt at excluding what we have already absorbed is wrong from every point of view.

If these considerations are borne in mind, it follows that the all-India language that we should seek to promote must be flexible, receptive and must retain all the cultural features that it has imbibed through the ages. It must also be a language essentially of the people and not of a small coterie of learned men. It must be dignified and full of power and it must rigorously try to put down artificiality, shallowness and ornateness. Inevitably its base and a great deal of its content will be derived from Sanskrit, but it will include any number of words, phrases and ideas from other sources, notably Persian and also English and other foreign languages.

In regard to its technical terms we should first of all accept every word that has been accepted in popular use. In coining new words, we should again try to approximate to popular use and understanding, and in regard to technical words, as far as possible, we should not detract from the world language that is growing up.

Basic Words

It would be desirable to collect a number of basic words, say 3,000 or so, which might be considered well-known common words, used by the people generally. These may often include alternative words for the same idea, provided both are in common use. This should be the basic vocabulary which every one, who desires knowledge of the all-India language, should know.

Yet another list of technical words should be prepared on the lines indicated above. I must say that many of the new words being used for technical terms are so extraordinarily artificial and meaningless in the real sense of the word, because they have no background or history behind them, that they horrify me.

If these two lists are prepared, the rest should be left to the natural growth of the language. No limitations should be put on anyone writing on what might be called pure literary Hindi or pure literary Urdu or anything in between. With the growth of education and a vaster reading public, this itself will exercise a powerful influence on the writers and speakers. Gradually, I have no doubt, that a fine and vigorous language will grow and expand without any compulsion from above.

It is an astonishing thing that while we argue so much about a language, we have hardly any proper dictionaries. Look at any other great language of the world, how many dictionaries and encyclopedias and the like there are in it? Our test of language has become something which is used in a court room or in a school textbook. Our dictionaries are also meant for school boys. One of the earliest steps to be taken, therefore, is to concentrate on the production of scholarly and comprehensive dictionaries, both for Sanskrit and our modern languages.

As I have said above, it is the content of a language that counts and not the name so much. Judging from the content I have indicated above, and using the words as they are used today, the word Hindustani comes nearest to the content of my choice.

Question of Script

As for the script, it is clear that the Nagri script will be the dominant script. But again, because I think it wrong to be exclusive, both from the cultural and political point of view, I think that the Urdu script should be recognised and taught, where desired. We cannot ask all people to learn both these scripts. That is too much of a burden. But the Urdu script should be recognised more especially for presentation of documents and other papers and for teaching in schools where a sufficient number desire it.

This fits in with our general language policy, which has been declared both in the Congress and the Constituent Assembly, to be: that every child should be given primary education in his or her mother tongue, provided there are a sufficient number of pupils in a particular place to make this practical. Thus in Bombay or Calcutta or Delhi, if there are a sufficient number of Tamil-speaking children, they should have an opportunity to have their primary education in Tamil.

If in any part of India there are a sufficient number of children, whose home language is Urdu, they should be taught the Urdu script, in addition to the language of the province. This principle has been accepted and it is desirable to give effect to it in practice as soon as possible. Many difficulties arise at present, more especially in the areas where two provinces meet together. On either side of this border, there is a bilingual area. It is necessary here, even more than elsewhere, that primary education should take place in the mother tongue.

I do not think it is possible for us to adopt on any wide scale the Roman script. But it must be remembered that the Roman script has been used with great effect in the Army. It has been found very easy to teach the Roman script and it has proved a certain unifying force in the Army. Therefore, it would be desirable to explore the possibilities of the Roman script and to use it where possible or desirable.

I stated at the beginning of this article that I wrote as an author. May I put in a word for authors, more especially for authors in Hindi and Urdu? It has pained me greatly to see how some of our best and most promising authors have suffered at the hands of publishers and have often been exploited by them. While journalists flourish, the real author of talent has little chance. I know of cases where publishers have bought up the copyright of books in Hindi for a mere song, because the poor author was starving and had no other choice. Those publishers managed to make a good deal of money out of these books, and yet the author continued to starve.

I think this is a scandal and a public disgrace and I would appeal to the publishers of such books not to take this unfair advantage of authors. Publishers will only flourish if authors flourish. It is a foolish policy, even from the publishers point of view, to kill the author or to prevent him from doing worthwhile work. But from a national point of view this question is even more important, and it is up to the nation to see to it that our authors of talent have an opportunity to do good work.

RAILWAY BUDGET

(*Continued from page 240*)

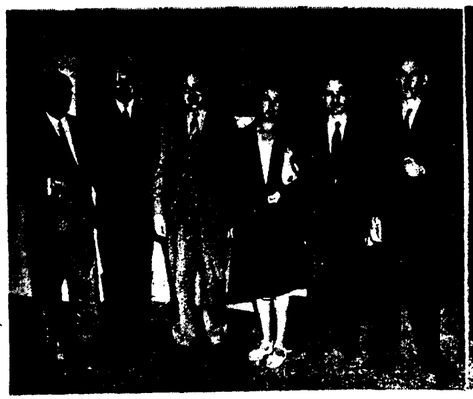
Railway authorities and organisations however influential they may be commercially or politically, should be entirely excluded.

"The House will be interested to know that the number of cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment up to the end of December 1948 was 837, of which 389 cases were sent up for trial to Courts or Tribunals. 282 persons were convicted and 188 acquitted. 163 cases were referred back to the Railway Administration for departmental action. The number of Railway Gazetted Officers implicated was 35. The anti-corruption drive will be continued with the maximum of vigour, and I am glad to be able to tell the House that the officers in key position in the Railways are quite alive to this and have given evidence of keenness for putting it down."

Before I close, I should like to pay a tribute of appreciation to the Chief Commissioner of Railways and his colleagues on the Railway Board, to the officers and staff serving under it, to the Heads of the nine Railway Administrations and the officers and staff serving under them, and particularly to the large body numbering over 8 lakhs of Railwaymen for the hard work they have been and are doing as well as for the service they have been rendering to the public under conditions of a certain amount of disorganisation and confusion, for which they certainly could not be saddled with responsibility. The House will no doubt, agree with me in paying this tribute. To Hon'ble Members who have served on the Railway Standing Finance Committee and on the Central Advisory Council for Railways, I wish to express my gratitude and that of the Railway Board for the helpful criticism and the willing assistance we have throughout received from them.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, photographed with Sardar Mohd. Naim Khan (left) Leader of the Afghan Trade Delegation, H.E. Abdullah al Qassab, Leader of the Iraqi Trade Delegation and H.R.H. Prince Ahmed Shah (right) at Mogul Gardens of Government House, New Delhi. The Afghan and Iraqi Delegations recently arrived in New Delhi to negotiate trade pacts between their respective countries and the Government of India.



The Sterling Balances Mission from U.K. photographed on arrival at Palam Aerodrome on Feb. 4, 1949. (L. to R.) Mr. Keith Roy, Deputy Secretary, and Mr. B. K. Nehru, Joint Secretary, Finance Ministry, Government of India; Mr. A.T.K. Grant, Leader of the Mission; Miss Bevan; Mr. I.A.H. More and Mr. G. Davey.



Members of the Tibetan Trade Delegation who recently concluded trade negotiations with the Government of India. (L. to R.) Dhepon Surkhang, Khenchung Chhangkim, H. E. Tsepon Shakalepa (Leader) and Rmahi Pangdatshang. On extreme right is the interpreter, Mr. K. Ratna.

Inter-Dominion Conference Decisions on Evacuee Property

THE following agreements have been arrived at between the Dominions of India and Pakistan, says a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on January 29 :—

Money due to Evacuees from Government, Quasi-Government and Local Bodies.

(a) *Pensions payable to Provincial Government servants by Provinces (other than partitioned Provinces) and to servants of States* :

(i) *Sanctioned pensions* : Payment will be made in the first instance by the Province in which the Pensioner is residing, and the Accounts Officer of that Province will recover it currently from the Accounts Officer of the Province sanctioning the pension. Such payments will only be made on the authority of the Accounts Officer of the Province to which the pension is debitable.

In the case of pensioners of States which have acceded to either Dominion, the necessary authority will be issued by the Accountant-General, Pakistan Revenues, or the Accountant-General Central Revenues, as the case may be, on the basis of a certificate of the acceding State concerned and the necessary recoveries will be effected by the paying Accounts Officer of the Dominion concerned from the other Dominion. It will be the responsibility of the Dominion to which the State has acceded to make the necessary recovery from the State concerned.

(ii) *Pending applications for pensions* :

It was agreed that each Dominion will ask its Provinces and States to expedite the sanction of pensions for which applications are pending.

(b) *PROVIDENT FUNDS OF Provincial Government Servants and Servants of States who retired and then migrated, and of those who have migrated before the due date of retirement* :

Payment of provident funds of employees who have either retired from service and then migrated, or have migrated before earning their pension will be made on the authority of the Accounts Officer of the Province maintaining the fund account. In the case of States, payment will be made on the authority of the Accountant-General, Pakistan Revenues, or the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, as the case may be, who will get the necessary information for themselves from the State concerned.

(c) *Arrears of pay and leave salary of Provincial Government servants who have migrated* :

It was agreed that each Dominion will help in the speedy resettlement of such cases by issuing the necessary instructions to the authorities concerned.

All applications for pension, provident fund and other dues of the non-Muslim refugee Provincial Government servants other than the partitioned provinces and servants of the States be made in triplicate, showing full details of their claims, the name of the office in which they last served in Pakistan etc. to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, North Block, New Delhi.

(d) (i) *Claims for pension and provident fund from servants of local bodies* :

It was felt that the two Dominions could only use their good offices in the settlement of these claims. It was agreed that machinery should be set up for the purpose, which would be as follows :—

All applications for these pensions or provident fund balances from servants of local bodies should be sent to the Chief Secretary of the Province in which the applicants are residing. It would be the responsibility of the Chief Secretary to see that these applications are complete in all material respects.

They would then forward them to the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, New Delhi, who will in their turn transmit them to the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan, Karachi, or the Deputy High Commissioner at Lahore, as the case may be. The High Commissioner or the Deputy High Commissioner will take up the matter with the other Dominion. Each Dominion will do its best to ensure speedy sanction and payment by the local bodies concerned.

(ii) *Arrears of Leave-Salary and Pay*:

The procedure for receiving and transmitting such claims will be the same as for pensions and provident fund of local bodies.

(e) *Payment of other dues of evacuees from the Government or quasi-Government bodies*:

(i) It was decided that all money due from Government or quasi-Government bodies (like Universities, District and Municipal Boards and other local bodies) should be payable by them direct to the evacuee concerned without the intervention of the Custodian of Evacuee Property and should be subject to any agreements regarding exchange control subsisting for the time being.

Examples of such payments were the sums due to the Contractors for work done or goods supplied or otherwise under the contract; pay, leave-salary and provident fund amounts of Government servants and servants of Universities, local bodies and quasi-Government institutions, security deposits of contractors and public servants; court deposits and scholarships due to students. These items are illustrative only and not exhaustive.

(ii) *Teachers other than those employed by Government and Quasi-Government bodies* :

It was agreed that teachers other than those employed by Government and quasi-Government bodies should also be given the benefit of the arrangement referred to in para (e) (i) above.

Another Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on January 31 says :—

MOVABLE EVACUEE PROPERTY.

To facilitate removal, disposal etc., of movable property left behind in either Dominion it has been decided that three Joint Committees should be set up. The first Committee shall be composed of the Deputy High Commissioner (Pakistan) at Jullundur and the Deputy High Commissioner (India) at Lahore who will be concerned with movable property in West Punjab, N. W. F. P., and Bahawalpur State in Pakistan, and East Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Patiala and East Punjab States Union in India.

The second Committee will be composed of the High Commissioner for Pakistan in Delhi (or his representative) and Capt. T. D. Sachdeva, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, New Delhi (India), who will look after Delhi Province and the States of Bharatpur, Alwar and Bikaner.

The third Committee will be composed of the Liaison Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan at Karachi and a representative of the Ministry of Refugees and Rehabilitation (Pakistan) for Sind, and Baluchistan and the State of Khairpur.

The function of these Committees will be :—

(a) to supervise the working of agreed arrangements in regard to evacuee movable property and in particular to assist evacuee owners in the expeditious disposal of their requests for help for police protection or special transport facilities.

(b) to set up an organisation for facilitating movement by rail or road of evacuee movable property, and

(c) to receive complaints and arrange for the redress of grievances of evacuees in the disposal or transport of their movables.

The Committees will pay particular attention to facilities being provided for disposal, recovery, restoration and movement of —

(a) goods lying pledged with banks,
(b) goods lying at Railway Stations,
(c) goods lying at dock,
(d) parcels and money-orders lying undelivered and unremitted at post offices, and
(e) valuables buried underground.

All applications from evacuees now in India regarding their movable property should be addressed to the Indian representative of the zonal Committee concerned.

SALE AND TRANSFER OF SHARES.

It was agreed that the existing restrictions on transfer and sale of company shares belonging to evacuees should be

withdrawn by both Dominions immediately. Any difficulty experienced by the evacuees in India should be referred to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, New Delhi.

CLAIMS OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLIES MADE OR SERVICES RENDERED PRIOR TO AUGUST 15, 1947.

All applications for claims against States and local bodies in Pakistan should be submitted in triplicate to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, North Block, New Delhi, who will transmit them to the proper Pakistan authorities.

(ii) All applications for claims against the Provincial Governments in Pakistan should continue to be submitted in duplicate to the Chief Secretary of the Province where the evacuee claimant is at present residing. The Chief Secretary will then forward a copy to the Chief Secretary of the Pakistan Province concerned, who, after necessary verification, will intimate whether the payment may be made.

ESTATES UNDER COURTS OF WARDS IN WEST PAKISTAN.

It was agreed that whether the estates were still under the Court of Wards or had been released and handed over to the Custodian after partition, the wards or ex-wards and dependents or ex-dependents might continue to be paid, as a special case, suitable allowances direct by the Court of Wards or the Custodian as the case may be. All complaints in this connection in respect of evacuees in India should be sent in triplicate to Capt. T. D. Sachdeva, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, North Block, New Dehi.

IMPROVEMENT TRUST PLOTS.

The sale of Improvement Trust plots generally includes a condition that the failure to build within a specified period or to pay the necessary number of instalments would mean forfeiture of the plot of land by the Improvement Trust. It was agreed that such penal conditions should be held in abeyance. This does not preclude the State from acquiring or requisitioning the land for the purpose of rehabilitation of refugees.

TRADE WITH BRAZIL

In view of the misunderstanding that appears to exist in some quarters it is notified for general information that, under existing arrangements, trade between India and Brazil is to be conducted in sterling, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 7, 1949. Accordingly, payment for exports to Brazil cannot be demanded in U. S. dollars by Indian shippers. Likewise, payment for imports from Brazil cannot be authorised in U. S. dollars, even though such a demand is frequently made by Brazilian shippers. The trade should not, therefore, engage in the negotiation of any contract for the purchase of a Brazilian commodity, particularly cotton, which involves payment in U. S. dollars.

LAND CUSTOMS ON INDO-PAKISTAN BORDERS

Brisk Trade Between Two Dominions

THE Land Customs system between India and Pakistan—in operation since March 1, 1948—was imposed more because of the need to preserve the Indian Dominion's economic stability than from consideraticns of revenue. In view of the Inter-Dominion agreement to facilitate the free flow of trade, particularly in indigenous products, the number of dutiable articles has been kept down to the minimum.

Financial implications of the Land Customs scheme, involving an expenditure of Rs. 19 lakhs with receipts estimated at Rs. 344 lakhs, were approved by the Standing Finance Committee in February 1948. Details of the scheme were, however, submitted to the Standing Finance Committee when it met in New Delhi on February 12, 1949, and were finally approved.

90 Customs Posts

The frontier with west Pakistan extends for about 240 miles and that with Eastern Pakistan for 926 miles on the West Bengal border and 500 miles on the Assam border. As there is no national boundary between the two Dominions, numerous problems relating to the provision of accommodation, equipment, uniforms, arms, erection of barriers and sheds for storage of seized goods, and facilities at Railway stations for examination of passengers' baggage had to be tackled following the setting up of the land Customs line. At present there are 24 Customs Posts (excluding 3 preventive posts) in East Punjab, 44 in West Bengal and 22 in Assam. The Inter-Dominion conference held in April last recommended that, as far as possible, there should be parallel Customs posts on the border, and this matter is under consideration.

There has been a fairly brisk trade across the three frontiers since the establishment of the Customs line. In the north-west, the bulk of the trade is concentrated in the Amritsar and Ferozepur areas. On the West Bengal frontier, trade is mainly concerned with the export of essential commodities such as oils, salt, medicines, textiles, matches, soda and chemicals. Main items of import are: certain agricultural products such as betelnuts, raw jute, wood, bamboo and cottage industry products including mats and baskets. Assam's main imports which exceed exports, are dry fish, onions, garlic, chillies, betelnuts, washing soap, furniture of wicker work or bamboo, horn buttons, wooden sandals, lime, cement. Exports include fruit, betel leaf, vegetables, soft wood, coal, lime, stone, cane, tea, spices and oilseeds.

Anti-Smuggling Operations

The problem of smuggling along the long borders is constantly under review. Preventive parties, placed in selected areas, operate to check illicit movement of goods across the borders. They are linked up by an intelligence organisation. In Assam, preventive work is done on foot or in boats, while in the province's hills regular routes and bridle paths are watched.

On the eastern frontiers, staffing difficulties have been experienced and the question of improving and perfecting the existing arrangements by organising preventive squads on a larger scale is under consideration.

The Government of India have decided to lift the ban imposed under Section 19 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, on the bringing into India of copies of "Dawn," a newspaper printed and published at Karachi, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on February 12, 1949.

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

The number of women and children recovered up to December 31, 1948, was 6,927 from East Punjab, 2,677 from East Punjab States and 4,696 from West Punjab, said the Hon'ble Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Transport, replying to a question in the Indian Parliament on February 2, 1949. He added: 11,774 cases of abduction from West Punjab have been registered, including 6,600 still to be recovered. These figures are incomplete. The number of cases of abduction from East Punjab registered by Pakistan are not known.

"Recovery of abducted women and children made particularly satisfactory progress in the two Punjabs till about July, 1948," he said. "When the activities began to flag, about this time, a revision of the procedure was considered necessary and a new agreement was arrived at between the two Dominions towards the close of the year. The new scheme, under which each Dominion has undertaken to effect recoveries within its territory is now being implemented."

Replying to another question Mr. N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar said that it had not been possible to collect statistics regarding women and children abducted from Jammu and Kashmir State, mainly because of continued hostilities in those territories till January 1, 1949. The number of such women and children recovered from the North West Frontier Province was 6, from West Punjab 174 and West Punjab States, nil. The recoveries from East Punjab were 634 and from East Punjab States, nil.

HOUSING SCHEMES FOR REFUGEES

Bombay Government's Plans

THE Government of India have requested the Governments of Provinces and States to expedite their schemes for housing the refugees on the basis of a house or a plot per refugee family, and March, 1950, has been fixed as the target date by which all the schemes should be completed.

Disclosing this in the Dominion Parliament on February 3 in reply to a question, the Hon'ble Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, said that some of the Provinces and States had already forwarded their schemes to the Government of India. The latter had discussed the schemes with representatives of the Provinces and States concerned, and the requisite assistance in finance as well as in building materials had been given from the Centre. Schemes had so far been received from the C. P., U. P., Bombay, East Punjab, Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Ajmer-Marwara, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Madhya Bharat, Mateya Union and Rajasthan Union Governments. Detailed schemes were still awaited from the Governments of Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Bikaner, Saurashtra and Vindhya Pradesh.

In reply to another question, the Hon'ble Minister said that it was difficult to indicate the exact number of refugees so far rehabilitated, but the number could roughly be put at 30 lakhs, out of which about 19½ lakhs were rural refugees. According to the latest available reports, the number of refugees in camps at present was roughly about 8 lakhs. The Government of India bear the entire expenditure on relief incurred by Provincial Governments after deducting contributions by the Provincial Governments, if any, and amounts received by the latter from public donations, charities etc.

"EXODUS FROM EAST BENGAL PRACTICALLY STOPPED"

Replying to other questions the Minister said that the number of refugees who had migrated to India from West Pakistan was estimated at 55 lakhs. The number of refugees from East Pakistan was not accurately known, but might be roughly put at about 18 lakhs.

He added: "Relief Camps have been started for the reception and dispersal of emigrants from East Bengal. Military Camps have been taken over and other buildings have been requisitioned for housing them.

"The exodus from East Bengal has practically stopped and it is hoped that a considerable number of the immigrants from Eastern Pakistan will return to their original homes. It has, therefore, been the policy of the Government to encourage and facilitate such return. It is recognised, however, that many of the immigrants are not likely to return and have to be rehabilitated elsewhere. Some schemes for rehabilitation have already begun functioning and others are in the course of preparation. Vocational training is being imparted and the West Bengal Government have a number of schemes for settlement on land and creation of townships. Educational loans have been advanced to students and business loans to some of the immigrants."

REHABILITATION IN DELHI

Out of 4,000 houses proposed to be built for refugees in Delhi, over 2,332 have been completed. In addition, 5,500 plots are to be allotted to those refugees who will construct their own houses, Allotment work is in progress.

This was stated during the question hour in the Dominion Parliament on February 3, by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.

He added that nearly 3,194 shops and stalls had been constructed by the Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Committees. Refugees inside and outside camps had been given loans individually as well as through co-operative societies to help them in permanent rehabilitation.

The policy in regard to allotment of plots to co-operative societies was under consideration and a decision would be announced shortly.

At present, the Hon'ble Minister continued, there were in all ten refugee camps in Delhi, with a population of about 41,000. The scheme for gradual discontinuance of free supply of rations to refugees residing in camps in Delhi and for converting them into work centres where indigent refugees could earn their livelihood had been finalised and was expected to be implemented very shortly.

The building of a new township for 1,00,000 refugees at Kalyan, 36 miles from Bombay city, at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.5 crores, is the principal feature of Bombay Government's programme for housing the refugees which has now received the Government of India's approval. The total cost of the housing schemes which have so far been drawn up by the Bombay Government is estimated at Rs. 13.68 crores.

These and other schemes were discussed at a recent conference in Bombay between representatives of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, and the Bombay Government. The Government of India have now informed the Bombay Government that the Centre would be prepared to advance loans for the execution of these schemes. A sum of Rs. 45,00,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the Bombay Government for urgent repairs to some of the camps where refugees are now living and which were affected by the recent cyclone.

The Kalyan township, with 20,000 tenements, will be one of the largest to be built for refugees in India. The programme also includes a development scheme for Chembur, 11 miles from Bombay, where about 10,000 refugees are living at present. Also included in the programme is a township at South Deolali and a residential colony at Dapori, Poona.

Among other matters discussed at the Bombay conference were plans for resettling refugees in petty trades and small-scale industries; primary, secondary, collegiate and technical education for about 50,000 refugee children, carn of destitute women and children etc. All these schemes are expected to be finalised shortly.



Shri K. C. Neogy, Commerce Minister, speaking on the occasion of the opening of the Co-operative Health Centre in Delhi on Feb. 5. Seated on Shri Neogy's left is Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation

DISTRIBUTION OF CONSTITUENCIES ON SOUND AND STATISTICAL BASIS

Deputy Prime Minister's Assurance

AN assurance that Government would explore all possibilities of bringing about a proper distribution and allocation of seats and a proper placing of the constituencies on a statistical basis, was given by the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs, speaking in the Dominion Parliament on February 3, 1949, on Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri's resolution relating to the holding of census in the provinces of Assam, West Bengal and East Punjab. "We are not in a position to commit ourselves to any specific method," the Deputy Prime Minister added, "All methods will be properly scrutinised and examined, and everything possible will be done to arrive at proper conclusions which would be fair to all concerned. There would be no injustice caused to any community concerned or to any area concerned."

Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri's resolution was as follows:

"This Assembly is of opinion that Government of India should take steps for taking census of the figures of population community-wise of the provinces of Assam, West Bengal and East Punjab so as to determine the number of seats to be allotted to each of these provinces and also to facilitate delimitation of constituencies thereof."

Minister's Assurance

Speaking on the resolution, Sardar Patel said: "Sir, I wish to assure the House, and more especially the representatives of the three Provinces affected that no one is more anxious than the Government to ensure that the distribution of constituencies and of the seats between the general and reserved categories proceeds on a sound and statistical basis. The Government are also equally keen that elections under the New Constitution take place as early as possible.

"I would, however, like the Hon'ble Members to realise and appreciate the position and the difficulties involved in the task, and not to rush hastily to conclusions in favour of one or the other alternative in this matter.

"The Hon'ble Members may probably be aware that with a view to making preparations for holding early elections as soon as the Constitution is passed by the Constituent Assembly, the Government issued instructions as early as March last to all the Provinces to take steps for the preparation of the electoral rolls in their respective provinces.

"With reference to the position in the provinces we find that the electoral rolls in some Provinces are completed, and on examining these rolls we find that the adult population as brought on the rolls is about 50 per cent of the population as registered in the 1941 census. On this basis we can compute the percentage of the various communities in the total population or apply reservations on the basis of proportion in the electoral rolls. That is one way of solving this difficulty.

"I shall now turn to the alternative suggested in the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member, namely, of taking the census. Our calculation is that we will take about one year or more to print the slips and to train the enumerators for the purpose of taking the census. Then, we have to complete the numbering of the houses before we can proceed to the enumeration and the recording of necessary details. In none of these three provinces has administrative action proceeded any step towards making numbering of houses possible in the near future.

"We have also to realise that the whole administrative fabric of the provinces affected has been seriously damaged as a result of the partition. The administrations of these provinces are engaged in setting right their own administrative machine, apart from their being engaged in the serious problems resulting from the aftermath of the partition. They have still to deal with a large number of refugee rehabilitation problems and other questions of similar importance resulting from the partition. If we now start administrative action or direct them to take administrative action in regard to census, it will easily take us near enough to the normal census of 1951 and would be an unnecessary duplication. In these circumstances, I fear I must request the House to reject this alternative.

The Sampling System

"Now, I come to the other alternative—the sampling system. No sampling system can be relied on for absolutely accurate results to the same extent as the actual counting of heads. We can achieve a fairly reasonable approximation to strict accuracy, but sampling must be based on satisfactory ground units, which again require correct house numbering. The fundamental of a sound sample is the probability theory, which means that every item in the universe—which is a technical word—must have a chance of entering in the sample. The only other possible unit is a village.

"We asked the three provinces to give us a numbered lay-out of their areas, districts, tehsils within the districts, and the villages within the tehsils, but the work has not progressed beyond districts. Other possibilities of area sampling could be devised, but they would be intricate and again would require careful costing, conduct and check. Results from sampling would have to be scrutinised in the light of fuller records before we can say anything certain about the accuracy. In these circumstances, I personally am inclined in favour of accepting the basis which is practicable and comparatively easy, namely, electoral rolls to which I have already referred in the earlier part of my speech.

"There is another method suggested, namely, that of taking the ration cards. This, however, is very imperfect and perhaps very inaccurate and therefore, we cannot safely rely upon ration cards. But I would be prepared to examine the possibilities of sampling and we would try to see what other methods could be devised to meet the requirements of the case.

"I can assure the Hon'ble mover of the Resolution and the representatives of the provinces affected that we shall explore all possibilities of bringing about a proper distribution and allocation of seats and a proper placing of the constituencies on a statistical basis. We are not in a position to commit ourselves to any specific method. All methods will be properly scrutinised and examined and everything possible will be done to arrive at proper conclusions which would be fair to all concerned. There would be no injustice caused to any community concerned or to any area concerned. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Mover to withdraw his Resolution and acept the assurance of the Government to do everything possible in this matter."

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS IN INDIA

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Law on January 29 said:

The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a statement published in certain newspapers in which one Mr. V. R. Bangeri is reported to have stated that he had been commissioned by the Registrar of the Privy Council, under instructions from the Lord Chancellor, to explore the possibilities of disposing of pending Privy Council appeals, without any inconvenience to the parties in India. The Privy Council, he said, were quite willing to send two Law Lords from London to India for this purpose.

The Registrar of the Privy Council has issued a statement to the effect that Mr. Bangeri is not a Privy Council Agent nor has he been commissioned or authorised by the Registrar of the Privy Council, still less by the Lord Chancellor, to make any statement such as he is reported to have made relating to Privy Council appeals in India. No proposal regarding the Privy Council sitting in India has been considered by the authorities concerned or would be considered unless it were made by the Government of India.

The Government of India wish to add that no such proposal is under their consideration.

Insured letters up to a maximum value of £ 200 will now be accepted for Czechoslovakia, said a Press Note issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs on February 10, 1949.

PANDIT NEHRU ON DURBAN RIOTS

THE Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, made the following statement on the disturbances in Durban in the Dominion Parliament on February 2, 1949:

With the permission of the Chair, I should like to make a brief statement on the recent racial riots in Durban in South Africa. The Hon'ble Members must have read the reports in newspapers of these tragic happenings. They must also have seen the two Press Notes which the Indian Government have issued on the subject. I am placing copies of these Notes on the table of the House.

The Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa has stated that the casualties were as follows: Indians killed 58 and injured 768. Africans killed 63 and injured 1085. Europeans killed 1 and injured 30.

The Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa who was at Cape Town at the time, went immediately to Durban on learning of the disturbances which were in fact continuing when he arrived there. He made some inquiry then and later returned to Cape Town. He paid a second visit to Durban from January 25 to 31 and visited most of the affected areas and refugee camps and had discussions with leaders of the Natal Indian Congress and the Natal Indian Organisation at Durban and Maritzburg, and also with the Natal Administrator, the Mayor of Durban and other officials and non-officials.

Damage to Property

He has reported to us that there has been a considerable destruction of dwelling houses and shops owned by Indians. About 250 dwelling houses and 58 shops have been destroyed and according to a conservative estimate the damage to property is £300,000.

At one time about twenty thousand Indians were in refugee camps. The position on January 31 was as follows:—

About 300 Indian families numbering two thousand persons, whose homes were burnt down, are collected at seven Indian Schools which have been recognised as camps by the authorities. Reopening of these schools has been postponed by one week to February 7 and meanwhile other suitable temporary shelter is being sought as it will take some time to find permanent accommodation for them. Food is being supplied through the Municipal City stops and camps are run efficiently with Indian Volunteer committees.

Others have returned to what remains of their original homes. These consist of about 2,000 families numbering 15,000 persons. Besides these, 1000 persons are sheltering in former Cattle Shed at Cato Manor Sub-division. Indian volunteers are supplying food to these people pending their gradual return to homes. For those who have returned to their homes the authorities are considering the issue of kitchen equipment and mattress as homes are only empty shells having been completely looted. Assistance with rations is being supplied by Indian voluntary efforts.

Although there is still tension, shops have opened again and Durban life is returning to normal.

The official Natal Relief Fund has so far received £14,000, mostly from Indian donations. This Fund has no Indian or African representative. Two committees have been formed to deal with the homeless and those whose homes were looted but not burnt. These committees have representatives of Natal Indian Congress and Organisation. So far as the relief of Africans is concerned, this is the responsibility of the Native Affairs Department of the Municipality. About 1200 Africans have also left their homes situated in certain areas.

Inquiry Commission

The Government of the Union of South Africa has appointed an Inquiry Commission consisting of three persons, namely Mr. Justice F. P. Van Heever, Judge of Appeal Court, as Chairman, and Mr. Ryle Masson, Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg and Mr. H. F. W. Schultz, Chief Magistrate of Durban, as Members. This Commission is expected to start work soon. The exact terms of reference have not yet been announced.

The Government of India are seriously exercised at this sudden deterioration in the relations between Indians and Africans in South Africa. It is obvious that so violent a rupture of peaceful relations could not have taken place because of a stray incident and there must have been other causes. As, however, the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Union Government is expected to investigate the causes and course of the riots, the Government prefer to withhold any comment on the origin and course of the disturbances.

In a message to the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, I expressed the hope that not only will the Commission of Inquiry ascertain the basic causes of the riots, but that steps will also be taken by the Union Government to prevent repetition of such incidents in future.

I added that we are instructing the Secretary to the Indian High Commissioner in South Africa to do whatever he can in promoting good relations between the Indians and other sections of the population in South Africa. To this message I have had a reply from Dr. Malan saying that he has noted our request to Mr. Chari and is placing at his disposal all available information.

The Government of India's policy,

(Concluded in next column)

not only in South Africa but all over the Continent of Africa, has been to promote close friendship and co-operation between Indians and Africans. While earnestly desiring the security and well-being of Indians abroad, Government do not look with sympathy on the establishment of any vested interests which may retard the advancement of the African people in their own homelands. This view has been frequently communicated to our representatives in the Continent of Africa.

The Government of India have placed Rs. 50,000 at the disposal of the Secretary to India's High Commissioner in South Africa for use of relief at his discretion, and further sums will be placed at his disposal as required. It has been made clear that relief should be given to all those who stand in need of it and should not be confined to the relief of any particular community.

French Possessions in India

In reply to a question by Mr. R. K. Sidhwa about the conversations reported to have taken place between the Prime Minister of India and the French Foreign Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister, said in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on February 3, 1949:

"It is a fact that I met the French Foreign Minister in Paris in the month of October and we had a general discussion. At that time, elections had not been held in any of the French possessions in India, and the main discussion was that elections should be held under proper auspices and with observers. I pleaded for observers, that is, observers approved of by us. We talked generally about other matters, but in regard to this particular matter we only discussed the elections and the presence of observers and the French Foreign Minister thereupon said that as far as he could see there would be no objection to observers but he would like to consult his Cabinet. Later we were informed that there were difficulties, etc. In other words, they did not agree to our observers being present."

Replying to another supplementary question by Mr. H. V. Kamath, Pandit Nehru said:—

"So far as we are concerned, we have made it clear on every occasion that if there is a referendum there should be observers, but there has been no categorical denial. In fact, it has been generally understood, I believe, that there should be such observers but there has been no clear statement to that effect."

Pandit Nehru added that the position had changed because of various developments since August 1948, and the whole question of referendum itself was a matter to be considered afresh. "We are not awaiting a referendum at all," he said, "but we feel that it is time that the Governments of India and France considered the whole question afresh as to how to proceed in this matter."



Members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps photographed with Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, and officials of the Defence Ministry after their meeting in New Delhi on Feb. 5

THE NATIONAL CADET CORPS

THE National Cadet Corps is now nearly 35,400 strong, including more than 1,000 officers. To this figure, Bombay has contributed the largest share of 6,839. West Bengal occupies the second place with 5,220, while Bihar (5,167) and the United Provinces (4,945) follow closely on its heels, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on February 12.

It added : The Cadet Corps is composed of Senior (Army, Naval and Air Force wings) and Junior divisions, the former being intended for colleges and universities and the latter for schools. The Girls Division units will be raised after the summer vacations in 1949 and training of lady Officers will start sometime in April this year.

The present strength of the senior division is 15,052 while that of the junior division is 20,320. The U. P. occupies the first position so far as the strength of the senior division is concerned with 2,713, and Bombay is a close second with 2,704. (For detailed figures see table in Cols. 2 and 3.)

The distribution of the senior division units of the different arms has been arranged thus : infantry battalions 27 ; independent companies, 5 ; armoured corps squadron 1 ; artillery batteries 3 ; engineer platoons 4 ; signal sections 2 and medical companies 2. All these units have been raised and are under intensive training. Junior division units are also functioning. A plan for the proposed expansion of the Corps next year has been submitted to provincial and States Governments.

The Corps aims at stimulating interest among young men for the defence of India and developing leadership, character, and comradeship. Thus inspired to make themselves fit to become leaders, a sufficient number of educated youth is expected to join the Armed Forces. The Cadets who undergo training in the N. C. C. but do not join the Army, Navy or Air Force will be available in a national emergency to provide a reserve of officers to enable expansion of the Armed Forces.

Units of the Corps are being first raised in educational institutions to ensure that a successful start on a sound basis is made with the scheme. Naval and Air Force wings will be started as soon as the R. I. N. and R. I. A.F. get over their existing shortages of officers and other ranks.

Enrolment to the N. C. C. is entirely voluntary, with no liability for service in the Armed Forces. There is no direct financial inducement to those joining the Corps but uniforms will be provided free and railway fares to and from the training camps will be borne by the Government. They are also given free ration in camps, and in case of an injury received during training they are treated free of charge in hospitals.

Except for a limited number of Regular Army officers attached to the senior division, with a view to ensuring uniformity in training, units of the N. C. C. are to be entirely officered by teachers and professors. Officers with the senior division receive pay of the rank for the period they are in camps while those of the junior division get an honorarium.

On completion of their training, selected teachers and professors on return have to start a training cadre for suitable instructor cadets. These cadets in their turn have to undertake the instruction of other cadets under the supervision of their unit or sub-unit officer.

As their studies are of primary importance to cadets, service training is carried out in such a way as not to interfere with their academic work.

The expenditure on the raising and maintenance of N. C. C. units are paid for by the provinces. The Government of India bears the expenses on the central organization and supplies uniforms on payments to the provinces.

In order to uniformise the standard of training and discipline throughout India, a N. C. C. Directorate was established in April last under Colonel G. G. Bewoor and it works directly under the Ministry of Defence.

The following are the detailed figures to date :—

	Senior Division.		Junior Division.	
	Officers	*Cadets*	*Officers*	*Cadets*
Assam	15	469	27	800
Bihar	32	1,000	135	4,000
Bombay	84	2,620	135	4,000
C. P. & Berar	37	1,154	69	2,000
Delhi ..	10	315	9	300
East Punjab	52	1,624	69	2,000
Madras	42	1,310	..	..
Orissa	20	625	27	800
U. P.	84	2,629	72	2,160
West Bengal	66	2,055	99	3,000
Mysore	10	315	..	..
Travancore	10	315	..	..
Jaipur	5	154	..	..
Ajmer-Marwara	..	..	9	300
Coorg	..	..	9	300
Total ..	467	14,585	660	19,660

INDIAN TERRITORIAL ARMY

India's Second Line of Defence

THE scheme for the Indian Territorial Army, which will have a target strength of 1,300,000 has been finalised. It may, however, take some time before actual recruitment, which will be on a zonal basis, can be taken in hand.

Open to all able-bodied citizens—from the unskilled labourer to the highly qualified technician—irrespective of caste or creed, the Territorial Army will offer an opportunity to the youth of the country to receive part-time military training. The age-limits are 18 and 35 years, relaxable in the case of released personnel and those possessing technical qualifications.

Intended to form a second line of defence to the Regular Army, the Territorial Army will reinforce it if and when necessary. It will also be responsible for anti-aircraft and coastal defence, backed by a nucleus regular cadre, and at the time of a national emergency it will relieve the Regular Army partly or wholly of its internal duty commitments.

The decision to raise a Territorial Army was taken early last year and an Act to the effect was passed by the Dominion Parliament in the month of September. It was specifically laid down that Territorial Army personnel would not be required to perform military service beyond the limits of India except under a general or special order of the Central Government.

Training of Recruits

Although the Territorial Army will be a volunteer organisation, the methods of training to be employed will not only widen the general outlook and help the physical development of its individual members, but also inculcate in them military discipline. Initially, the extent of training will depend upon the type of men volunteering for the various arms of the Territorial Army. But it is expected that a considerable proportion of these will be the released personnel of the Regular Army, who will naturally not require so intense a training as recruits from among the civilian population with no military knowledge at all.

In the case of urban units raised in the towns, training will have to be imparted in the evenings after the day's normal work or during the week-ends. Besides, there will be an annual training camp of a short duration for them. For provincial units recruited from the rural areas, however, only annual training camps of longer periods will have to be arranged in view of the difficulty of the villagers to travel long distances and their inability to attend during the cultivation season.

Before the last Great War, there existed a small Indian Territorial Force constituted under an Act passed in 1920, which was primarily the outcome of the new political conditions created in India by the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. It was then felt that self-Government could not become a reality without Indians acquiring capacity for self-defence, and when democratic representative institutions were established, Indian leaders claimed greater opportunities for the training of citizens to defend their country. The I. T. F. was one aspect of Indianisation of the military services.

In 1929, a committee considered measures for the improvement and expansion of the I. T. F., and subsequently the Act passed in 1920 was amended. The force consisted of three main categories—provincial infantry battalions, urban units and the University Training Corps. In the beginning eight provincial battalions were formed, but the number gradually rose to 20. When in 1939 war broke out, most of the I. T. F. personnel were embodied and there was no front on which the force did not fight with distinction. "The part-time" citizen thus proved his worth and received recognition.

Unlike the Indian Territorial Force, which was composed of only a few Infantry battalions, the Territorial Army plan envisages the raising of units of all types in existence in the Regular Army. It will include Infantry, Armoured Corps, Artillery, Engineers, including Rly. Units, Signals, Ordnance, Medical and Postal units. The pre-war I. T. F. conditions and terms have now been revised to bear relationship to the existing conditions of service in the Regular Army.

Eight Zones

India has been divided into eight zones for purposes of recruitment to the Territorial Army as follows :—

(1) Delhi, the East Punjab, Greater Rajasthan and Matsya Unions, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal, Patiala, and E. P. Union and Himachal Pradesha."

(2) The U. P., the States of Benaras, Rampur and Tehri-Garhwal and Vindhya Pradesh.

(3) The C. P. and Berar, including the States merged in the Province.

(4) Bombay, including the States of Baroda and Kolhapur merged in the province, and Saurashtra.

(5) Madras, including the States merged in the province, Coorg, Mysore, Cochin and Travancore.

(6) Bihar and Orissa, including the States merged in the province.

(7) West Bengal.

(8) Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Cooch-Behar.

Brigadier Gurdial Singh is Director of the Territorial Army.

Achievements of Army Doctors in Kashmir

SOME remarkable results have been obtained by Indian Army Doctors in Jammu and Kashmir after 14 months of sustained research carried out on certain types of diseases common in the State but almost non-existent in the rest of the country. This will now enable the proper diagnosis and treatment of these diseases and thus prove a valuable contribution to the cause of advancement of medical science.

Army doctors achieved their first success when they discovered the prevalence of what is described as relapsing fever, hitherto wrongly diagnosed as malaria, in certain parts of the State. Caused by the bite of a tick, relapsing fever destroys the vitality of the patient, but if rightly diagnosed, it can be easily cured. Major Kalra, who conducted extensive research work in this direction, tried the tick on himself and watched the symptoms after the bite.

Another disease not found in the plains is louse typhus prevailing all over the Kashmir Valley and in certain hilly tracts. This is a winter disease as the louse is fed by physical uncleanliness.

Continued research on different varieties of typhus has also revealed the existence in the State of Murine typhus caused by rat fleas. Unknown here before the Indian Army came, it is a summer disease because flies thrive during the hot weather. Scrub typhus, caused by a mite, heard of in Burma during the last Great War but never before in India, has been found to be prevalent in the State.

Army doctors have also surveyed malarial areas and undertaken research on the effects of living at high altitudes, such as headache and insomnia, and the conclusions they have reached are expected to prove very useful.

The new Kashmir stands to gain enormously from these discoveries of Indian Army doctors as their knowledge and experience will enable them to apply preventive and curative methods in the affected areas of the State.

The Prime Minister of India has constituted a Planning Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. C. Reddy, Chief Minister of Mysore, to help and advise the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in the establishment of laboratories of the Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysore.

KASHMIR SEND-OFF TO DOGRAS

Mr. Bakshi's Tribute to Indian Troops

TO bid farewell to the 2nd Battalion of the Dogra Regiment, one of the first few batches of Indian troops to leave Kashmir following the 'cease-fire' agreement, an impressive parade was held at the Azad 'maidan' in Srinagar on January 28.

Major-General K. S. Thimayya, G.O.C. Indian troops in Kashmir, inspected the guard of honour provided by the battalion and Mr. Ghulam Mohammed Bakshi, Deputy Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, took the salute at the march-past. Mr. Bakshi presented a silver shield to the battalion on behalf of the Chief Minister, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, as a mark of appreciation of the services rendered by the Dogras during their 14 months' stay in the State.

Addressing the parade, Mr. Bakshi said, "When the Pakistan-inspired raiders poured across the frontier with a view to subjugating the Kashmiris by force, you came to our rescue. You freed most of the territory from the hostiles, rehabilitated refugees and won their affection by your exemplary behaviour and kindheartedness. You saved ration out of your own quota and gave that to the hungry villagers rendered homeless by the raiders.

"The regard the villagers had for you was expressed by them when on January 1 they placed a garland of currency notes round the neck of Col. S.N. Thakar, your Commanding Officer, each one of them contributing an anna towards the fund. When you left Kamalkot, the villagers carried your belongings but did not accept any payment for that service as they wanted to do something to repay their debt of gratitude for the help given to them by you in the past."

Mr. Bakshi assured the Dogras that although they were leaving the State, the Kashmiris would always remember them.

Epic Feat

In an order of the day read out at the parade, Maj.-Gen. Thimayya said; "You served under me in the East Punjab Area at the time of the disturbances, during which you did excellent work in evacuating over 7,00,000 Muslims. On November 7, 1947, your battalion was flown to Srinagar and in February 1948, one of your companies took a prominent part in driving the enemy out of the Handwara Valley.

"When there was scare and panic among the people of Ladakh, a party of Dogras crossed the Zoji Pass in blinding snow and blizzard. This in itself was an epic feat and could only have been performed by the toughest and most determined of men. Their subsequent deeds and acts of gallantry against very superior forces in the Ladakh valley will go down in the annals of the Indian Army as great feats.

"During your stay in Kashmir you have helped the resettlement of the local population and made yourselves very popular with them. You are now returning to India to have a well-deserved rest. I am proud to have had you in my division."

MUSLIM VILLAGERS' GRATITUDE

Officers and men of the 2nd Dogra Regiment of the Indian Army and the people of Kamalkot, a village near Uri, lived like a happy family.

When the time came for the regiment's departure from Kamalkot recently, the villagers gave them a touching send-off. Two hundred coolies who carried the soldiers' kit refused to accept any wages and the villagers followed the troops for three miles, and when they bade them good-bye, the eyes of some of them were filled with tears, writes an Army Observer.

When the decision of the 'cease-fire' was made known to the villagers, Sharbat Hussain, the headman of Kamalkot, and Lakshmi Chand, the only Hindu inhabitant, came to Col. S.N. Thakar, the Commanding Officer of the regiment, on the night of January 1, and garlanded him and the village headman requested the Commanding Officer to hold a "Durbar" the next morning.

An open air "Durbar" was held on January 2, when the Commanding Officer explained to the villagers the provisions of the cease-fire agreement. After the "Durbar," the Commanding Officer distributed sweets to the children.

Sharbat Hussain, whom the Army Observer met at Uri, related the following account about the Dogra Regiment: "Lakshmi Chand is the only Hindu resident in our village. When the Kabalis (raiders) came here, we sent away his family to Srinagar and concealed him amongst us and when the Kabalis ran away from this area, we brought back his wife and children who are now living in the village.

"News of the arrival of the Dogra Regiment sometime in July last, horrified us because we were then misled by Pakistan propaganda that the Dogras would cut the ears and noses of our womenfolk and kill us. Within a week of their arrival, however, we found the Dogras giving us their own rations and clothes. I then arranged a "Durbar" at which the Commanding Officer addressed the people and assured them that they would get every help from the troops.

At the Durbar, Maulvi Fakir-ul-din recited verses from the Quran and expressed gratitude that but for the Indian troops, they would not have remained alive. They had tasted life under the Kabalis who had ransacked their homes and carried away their womenfolk. The Maulvi asked the villagers to render all help to the Indian Army."

The village headman continued: "The Dogras helped us in opening shops at Kamalkot where articles of daily use were available. The Dogras also gave us employment and food. We are sorry that the regiment has now left our village".

In accordance with its plan of expansion and modernisation, the Royal Indian Air Force is taking steps to secure the latest ground and airborne Radar equipment and to train a large team of technicians to handle it in a national emergency.



Maj.-Gen. Thimayya (left) G. O. C. Indian troops in Kashmir, and Maj.-Gen. Nazir Ahmed, G. O. C. Pakistan troops, signing an agreement at Uraan, near Chakothi, on the disposition of Indian and Pakistan troops following the 'cease-fire'

INDIAN ARMY'S ROLE IN REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES IN KASHMIR

AS the Indian Army pushed back the raiders and liberated fresh territories, the task of resettling and rehabilitating thousands of people, mostly Muslims, inevitably fell to their lot.

In besieged Poonch, for ten long months, Indian troops protected, fed and clothed 12,000 refugees, taking shelter with them. When the supply position became tight the Indian troops shared their rations with the refugees and even went without milk so that expectant and nursing mothers and little children might get the precious liquid.

About 40,000 people have been rehabilitated by the Army in the Rajaori-Mendhar areas during December 1948 and January 1949. Several thousand inhabitants who returned to Darhal, Mandi and Suran valleys after the restoration of normal conditions, were given protection by the Indian Army and resettled in their original homes.

Ten thousand Hindus and Muslims who had fled from the Riasi district and the area around Poonch, returned to their villages when the territory was liberated. The Indian Army tended to their needs, helped them to resettle in their villages and provided them with medical aid.

In the initial stages of the campaign, when the hostiles infiltrated into the State from the west and the south the Army undertook to provide shelter and relief to the refugees who had run away from raider-held territory. The Indian Army accommodated them in temporary refugee camps hurriedly improvised and later moved in military transport to central refugee organisations in Jammu and Srinagar. These camps in Jammu and Srinagar were run by the Indian Army until taken over by the Civil administration.

Warm Clothing

A vigorous drive for the collection of warm clothing for the refugees in Jammu and Kashmir was launched by the Western Command H. Q. in Delhi and by other formations elsewhere in the country. In October last, three tons of clothing, followed shortly after by another two tons, were despatched for the refugee camps in the State. Not long ago, Indian soldiers contributed, 3,000 lbs of wheat and 1,500 lbs. of pulses out of their own rations, on one single occasion, for distribution among the Kashmir refugees, for which the State Rehabilitation Minister expressed his and the people's deep gratitude.

The Army medical authorities not only established medical centres for the benefit of the locals at Baramulla, Gandharbal and Srinagar but carried out door-to-door campaign for anti-cholera measures in the Naushehra and Rajaori areas. Water supply was controlled, sanitary rounds arranged, anti-cholera innoculations carried out, latrines constructed and even baby shows held and prizes offered for sanitary abodes, and free food distributed among the poorer sections of the villagers.

Selection in Army on Merits only

It has come to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army that a very large number of candidates appearing before selection boards as candidates for commission in the Army bring letters of recommendations from influential officers, both civil and military. This practice is very undesirable and will not be permitted, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on February 8, 1949.

It added: Candidates are selected on their personal merits and not on the recommendations they bring or on the positions in life held by their relations and friends.

Presidents of selection boards have received strict orders from Army Headquarters that in future any candidate producing before either the President or any member of the board any letter of any kind bearing on himself at the time of his interview will be rejected at once. Such candidates will not be given a second chance under any circumstances.

Further, the parents, relations and friends of candidates are advised not to write to selection boards about candidates who may be appearing for such tests in advance. Such letters will definitely go against the interests of the candidates who will be automatically rejected.

In this connection, attention is invited to paragraph 11 of the instructions to candidates applying for admission to the (Military Wing) Armed Forces Academy, Dehra Dun, which lays down that any attempt on the part of a candidate or his relations and friends to enlist support for his application, at any stage of the selection procedure, will disqualify him for admission.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on January 29 said:

As the bulk of raw material for the manufacture of plastic is imported from hard currency areas, the Government of India has decided that the export of plastic and manufactures thereof shall be brought under control.

In view of the difficult supply position, the export of cotton combing waste has also been brought under control.

Commercial Pilots' Training

The Government of India, with a view to producing well-trained commercial pilots ('B' Licence) who will be suitable for immediate employment as Pilot-in-Command on light types of transport aircraft or as co-pilot on heavier types, have adopted a scheme to train a limited number of persons. The training will be given at the subsidised flying clubs at Delhi, Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and at the flying school which has been established as a branch of the Civil Aviation Training Centre, Allahabad.

The curricula of training is based on the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation for the licencing of a commercial pilot, with the additional qualification of Instrument Rating.

The training consists of a Pre-entry course to be completed within six months and for which period the trainee will have to pay an entrance fee from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 and subscription, of about Rs. 5 p.m. levied by the club and will receive flying training at the special subsidised rate of Rs. 20 per flying hour. On this basis, the total payments should not exceed Rs. 2,100 the whole of which will be payable by the trainee in a manner prescribed in the rules and regulations of the club. The second course, namely, the C.A.T.C. course extends for a period of about 6 to 8 months and for which a fee of Rs. 5,000 have been fixed subject to a refund of Rs. 2,500 to a trainee who successfully completes the course and qualifies for a 'B' licence. It may be observed that the amount of the entire fee is less than one sixth of the actual cost of the training provided by the Government.

The training may be discontinued if the trainee appears unlikely to become an efficient commercial pilot. Every pilot thus trained will be liable to be called upon, if required, to enrol in a Reserve or Auxiliary service of the Royal Indian Air Force.

Candidates of Indian domicile not under 18 or over 23 years (25 years in the case of those possessing a degree in Aeronautics, Engineering or Physic) and who have passed the Intermediate Science or its equivalent or Senior Cambridge or Delhi University Higher Secondary Examination with Mathematics and Physics or Chemistry and of first-class physical condition, desirous of undergoing this training should forward their applications on the prescribed form to the Director-General, Civil Aviation, New Delhi, through a flying club of their choice not later than February 20, 1949.

In order to promote and strengthen the friendly relations already existing between their two peoples, the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Argentina have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at Embassy level, says a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on February 3.

THE FORCES WELFARE WEEK

THE Forces Welfare Week, which was celebrated in all the important centres of India, including Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Lucknow, came to a successful conclusion on February 12.

Held in order to collect funds for the welfare of the Armed Forces personnel the Week was organised on a countrywide basis to afford an opportunity to the people to become acquainted with the various aspects of military life. Besides enabling the civilian population to have a better appreciation of the welfare needs of the Defence services, the occasion helped to stimulate closer understanding between the two.

The Week's programme at different places included military tattoos, physical displays, athletic sports, variety shows, cabaret dances, fun fairs and exhibitions of modern arms.

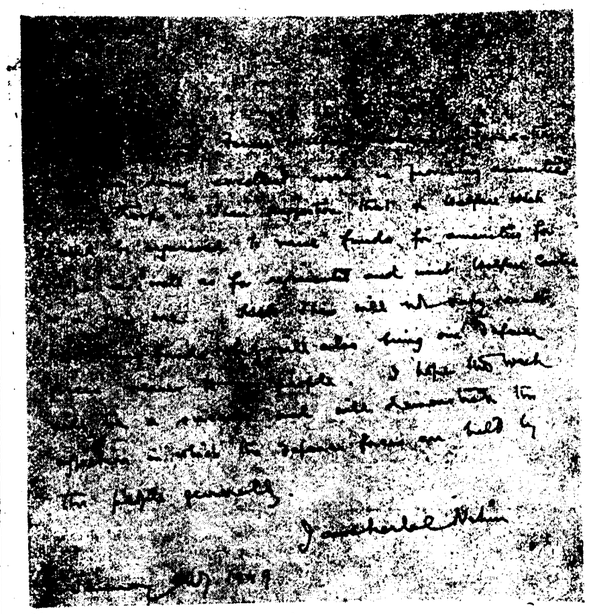
In Delhi, two functions were arranged by the Armed Forces Welfare Women's Organisation—a children's fair and a magic show. The children's fair, held at the Irwin Stadium on February 6, was attended by a large and appreciative crowd. It was interesting to watch not only youngsters but also elders thoroughly enjoying the various amusements and attractions provided. These included gaily-decorated stalls, rides in the Governor-General's horse-drawn carriages, a miniature train, conjuring shows, a joy-wheel and a merry-go-round. Refugee stall-holders and Connaught Place shop-keepers offered several prizes. The armoured car put on view drew an interested crowd. The highlight of the day was a splendid performance of show-jumping and tent-pegging by the Governor General's bodyguard.

On February 8, Prof. B. R. Gyan, the illusionist, gave a demonstration at the R. I. A. F. cinema house. A fascinated audience sat spell-bound for nearly two hours as Prof. Gyan went through his mystifying repertoire.

Credit is due to the organisers for arranging the two Delhi functions, the proceeds of which amounted to Rs. 4,500. Among those who attended were the Nepalese Ambassador and some other members of the Diplomatic Corps, Gen. Sir Archibald Nye, Mr. H. M. Patel, Gen. Roy Bucher, Lt.-Gen. S. M. Shrinagesh, Maj.-Gen. H. L. Atal, Maj.-Gen. P. N. Thapar and Air Vice-Marshal S. Mukerjee.

Growing public interest in what the Armed Forces signify in the new order has already been in ample evidence, and the generous response shown during the Week, which had the blessings of the Prime Minister, was proof of the affection and regard in which our servicemen are held by the people.

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Armed Forces Welfare Women's Organisation

Mrs. W.E. Parry, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of the R.I.N., has been elected President of the Armed Forces' Welfare Women's Organisation in succession to Mrs. Bucher, wife of the former C.-in-C. of the Indian Army.

The election of office bearers for 1949-50 took place at the Annual General Meeting of the Organisation on January 29. Mrs. S.M. Shrinagesh and Mrs. S. Mukerjee were chosen as Vice-Presidents, Mrs. S.H.F.J. Manekshaw as Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Calmedy-Homelin as Assistant Secretary, Mrs. H.V.R. Iengar as Treasurer and Mrs. H.M. Patel as Civilian Representative.

The objects of the Organisation are the welfare of Indian troops and the care of wounded soldiers in military hospitals. It is composed of five sub-committees collecting funds for troops in Kashmir, preparing knitted garments and arranging for dispatch of sweets and cigarettes for them, looking after the comforts of the wounded in hospitals and running a canteen at Aramgah in Delhi for the benefit of soldiers on the way to or returning from Kashmir.

The amenities committee has so far expended about Rs. 19,000.

SOLDIERS IN THE MAKING

A year ago when the Indian Army liberated Naushera, they were witness to a pathetic scene. A flock of orphaned children, hovered around the Indian Army Camp, begging for food.

Taking pity on these famished children in rags, wrote an Army Observer, an I. E. M. E. Workshop Company, with the permission of the Brigade Commander, the late Brigadier Mohammed Usman, "adopted" 14 boys.

Officers and men, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians hailing from different parts of the country, have ever since been sharing their rations with these orphans and paying for their subsistence. Ten to thirteen years of age, they are being trained up in the various trades that will enable them to earn their livelihood and stand on their own feet.

Their "working day" starts at 7-30 a.m. with prayers, P. T. and drill, after which they are taught the three R's. Later, they go into the workshop to learn carpentry, tailoring, fitting, painting, repairing and even the fundamentals of wireless mechanism. In the evening, they have a little bit of recreation and play volleyball or receive lessons in self-defence from Ganpath Saluke of Mandala (Bombay).Poultry and vegetable growing are their additional occupations.

The ambition of these youngsters is to enrol themselves in the Army when they grow up. Asked why, Nathuram, not yet in his teens, greeted the Observer with a smart military salute and emphatically replied, "Everyone in the Army has been good to us. We also want to put on the uniform and belong to the Indian Army."



H. M. I. S. "Rajput", Leader of the Indian Destroyer Flotilla, which has been acquired by India from the U.K.

INDIA'S DESTROYER FLOTILLA

THE destroyers that India has acquired from the U.K. are arriving in India sometime this autumn. They are H.M.I.S. 'RAJPUT' (H.M.S. ROTHERHAM), H.M.I.S. 'RANJIT' (H.M.S. 'REDOUBT) and H.M.I.S. 'RANA' (H.M.S. RAIDER). H.M.I.S. 'RAJPUT' will be the leader of the Flotilla in command of which will be Captain A. Chakravarty R.I.N. Officers and men of the RIN are either already in England or are on their way to the U.K. for training so as to be able to bring the destroye s to India.

These destroyers were built in 1942 and have each a displacement of over 1,700 tons. Their armament consists of four 4.7 inch guns, four 2 pounder pom-poms, eight 20-mm guns, 8.21 inch torpedo-tubes besides the most up-to-date radar equipment and anti-submarine devices. The terrific power of these vessels is derived from Parson's geared turbines capable of a shaft H. P. of 40,000 and a speed of over 35 knots.

As H.M.S. ROTHERHAM, the 'RAJPUT,' was engaged in 1944, along with other H.M.S. Ships in sending a blockade runner reported to be operating between Japan and Europe. In 1945 she took part in many shipping sweeps in the Indian Ocean and covered the assault on Rangoon. She was also part of a strong force which bombarded Sumatra and Malaya.

As H.M.S. REDOUBT, the 'RANJIT,' was employed from the end of 1945 to the end of 1946 in escorting stock convoys to the Mediterranean [illegible] closing months of 1946 she was employed on convoy duties in the Indian Ocean. In 1945 she covered an assault on Rangoon and till the end of the war patrolled the Malacca Straits.

AS H.M.S. RAIDER, the 'RANA' was first in action in the Sicilian campaign and later she carried out many bombardments in support of the Army in Italy. Till 1944 she remained in the Mediterranean and then she joined the East India fleet in operation against the Japanese.

PLAN FOR EXPANSION OF R.I.N.

Amongst the subjects discussed at the recent Senior Naval Officers' Conference at Naval Headquarters was one relating to the reorganisation of N.H.Q. in view of the impending expansion of the Royal Indian Navy.

According to the new scheme, the Chief of Staff will also be the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the R.I.N. This will enable the Admiral to be in closer personal contact with the various ships and establishments. The Chief of Staff will be responsible for Planning, Operations, Communications and Intelligence. In addition, he will also be in charge of the over-all co-ordination of Staff. This appointment is at present held by Commodore H. Drew, R.N.

The Chief of Personnel will have, under him, Recruitment, Service conditions, Training, Welfare and Discipline of the R.I.N. Personnel. Captain R.N. Ketaki, R.I.N., will shortly be appointed to this position.

The Chief of Material will look after the material requirements of the Service and will have under him a Director of Naval Engineering, the Staff Officer (Dockyard), the Director Armament Supply and the Director of Electrical Engineering.

In due course this appointment will be filled with a suitable officer, but for the time being the Chief of Administration will do the work.

The Chief of Administration will be responsible for Supply and Victualling, Stores, Pay and Transport. The present incumbent of the office is Captain B.S. Somal, R.I.N.

Lastly, the Chief of Naval Aviation will look after the development of a Naval Air Service and will be assisted in the task by a Director of Naval Aeronautical and Training. A Director of Naval Air Material will also be appointed as the Navy expands. The present Chief of Naval Aviation is Captain H.C. Hanald, R.N.

CLASS COMPOSITION IN INDIAN ARMY ABOLISHED

With a view to eliminating communal and class differences in the Indian Army so as to make it representative of all nationals in this country, the Government of India have decided to abolish class composition based on fixed percentages, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on February 1, 1949.

Recruitment to the Army will be open to all classes and no particular class of Indian nationals will be denied the opportunities of serving in the Army.



C.-IN.-C.'S TOUR OF SOUTHERN COMMAND

General K. M. Cariappa, C.-in-C. Indian Army, during his recent inspection tour of the Southern Command, visited the Units and paid a tribute to Indian soldiers for their magnificent work in Kashmir.

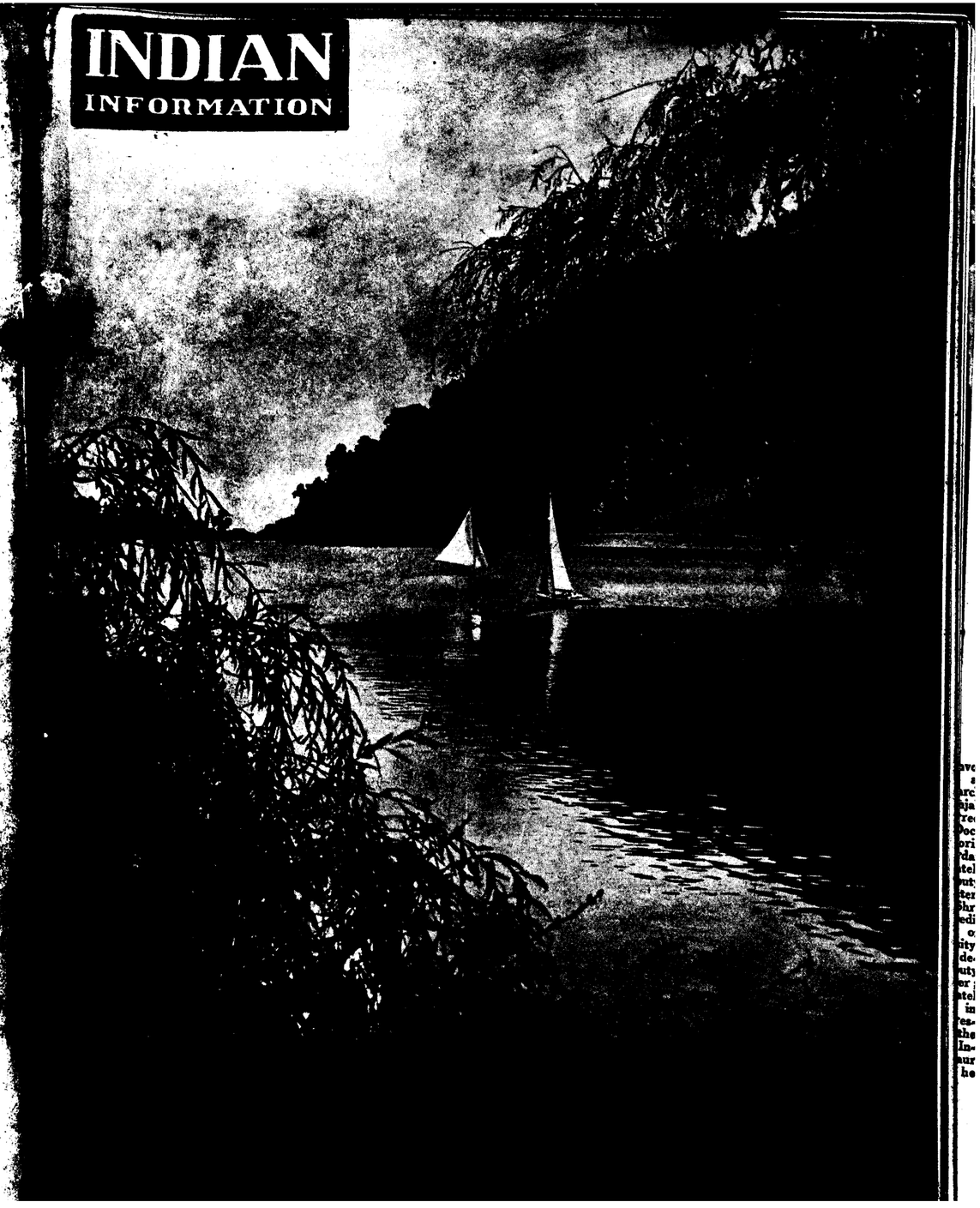
(Above) Gen. Cariappa inspecting the Guard of Honour provided by the Arab Battalion of the Hyderabad State Forces during his visit to the State. (Right) The C.-in.-C. decorating Sub. Sanwal Ram with the Military Cross for gallantry in Burma, during the passing-out parade at the O.T.S., Poona. (Below) Gen. Cariappa talking to officers at Khadakwasla, the site of the National Academy.

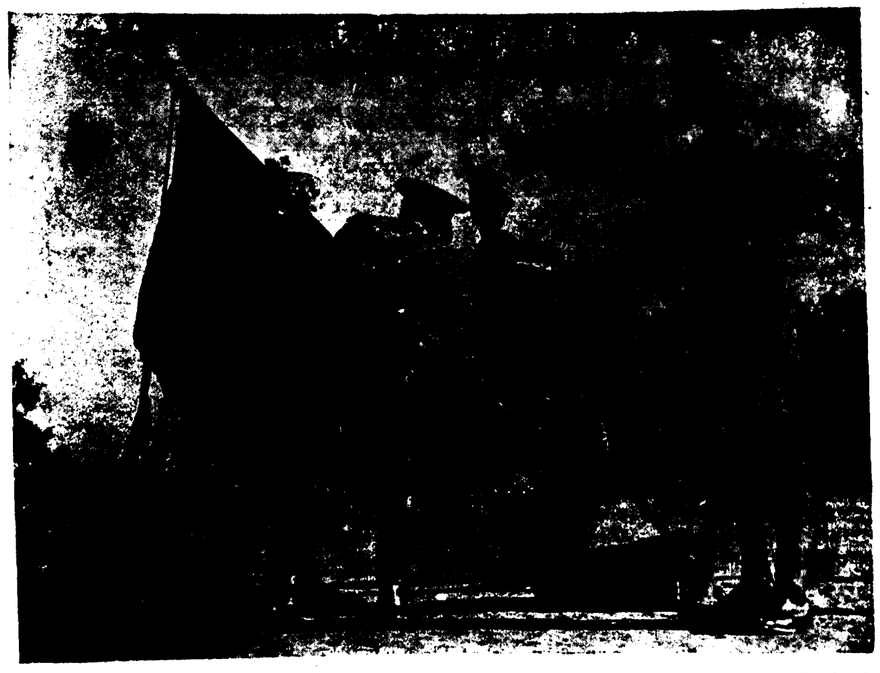




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INDIAN INFORMATION





Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, presenting colours at a police parade held in his honour at Ahmedabad on Feb. 14

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ELECTRICITY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA



Shri N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, addressing the Power Engineers' Conference in New Delhi on Feb. 21

Shri Gadgil's Address to Power Engineers' Conference

OPENING the Power Engineers' Conference at New Delhi on February 21, 1949, the Hon'ble Shri N.V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, Government of India, called upon administrators and engineers dealing with the development of electricity in the country to reduce the generalities of earlier years into specific schemes of development capable of efficient and economical execution "within the limits of our physical, financial and human resources." He asked them to make an "over-all realistic assessment" of the major power projects all over India and to guard against maladjustment between production of power and its planned utilisation.

The Hon'ble Minister revealed that, even on the basis of the rate of progress made during the war years, the aggregate cost of the power equipment that would be needed during the next ten years would be about Rs. 300 crores. "Clearly," he said, "an outlay of this magnitude called for co-ordinated planning at a very high level."

Shri Gadgil recalled that it was at the Power Engineers' Conference held at Calcutta in 1944 that India's power development programme was for the first time reviewed as a co-ordinated whole, and that the resolutions passed by that Conference had formed the basis of Central policy not only in the sphere of development but also in the sphere of organization. The present Conference, he said, proposed to review these resolutions, as a first step to the larger and more comprehensive review of power projects throughout this country. He asked the delegates to incorporate their conclusions in resolutions indicating precisely the direction in which they would like the country's development plans to advance in future.

Development Since 1944

Shri Gadgil continued : "Following the recommendations of the First Conference of Power Engineers, the Central Technical Power Board was established, and shortly afterwards another all-India organization was set up to deal with problems connected with Irrigation and Waterways. This organization was called the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission, lately renamed Central Water Power Irrigation and Navigation Commission. The functions and responsibilities of these two all-India organizations have changed from time to time, but they still retain their original character as essentially planning organizations, which are concerned primarily with engineer-planning and all that it implies and undertake construction only in special cases, where other construction agencies are not readily available, under such general or special instructions as the Government of India may [illegible] from time to time.

"While these organizational changes were taking place at the Centre and similar changes were I believe also being contemplated in some provinces, a rapid change was taking place over the spirit of our thoughts relating to resource development. For, it was about this time that our administrators and technicians for the first time realized the necessity for a fuller and more comprehensive water control technology than the one to which they had been hitherto used.

"The broad outlines of this technology were for the first time forcefully brought to their notice in course of the path-breaking discussions that were initiated by my Ministry with the Governments of Bengal and Bihar after the disastrous Damodar floods of 1943 and the Kosi floods of 1945.

"The essence of the new policy was to exploit the waterways resources of the country not on a single purpose but on a multi-purpose basis, and to integrate the utilization of their end-products like, say water and power, and consequential facilities like, say navigation, into a co-ordinated scheme of economic and social betterment for an entire region. When I say that this was a new policy, I should make it clear

ELECTRICITY RESOURCES OF INDIA

All-India Statistical Summary for 1947

AN increase of over 61,000 kilowatts of electric energy was recorded during 1947 in the generating capacity of public electricity supply undertakings in the Indian Dominion. The total installed plant capacity in the country during the year exceeded 13,60,000 kw. marking an increase of about 27.4 per cent over 1939 and about 4.74 per cent over 1946. The total electricity production during the same period exceedcd 4,000 million kilowatt-hours showing an increase of about 66.8 per cent over 1939 and about 4.7 per cent over 1946.

The Central Electricity Commission, Simla, has given useful data about various aspects of public electricity supply in the country in its latest publication entitled, "Public Electricity Supply—All India Statistical Summary, 1947" in which all figures relate to the territories which now comprise the Indian Dominion (including Hyderabad).

Industrial Consumption

According to this Summary, there was a marked increase in the sale of electricity during 1947 for irrigation and public lighting. Industrial consumption showed only a very slight increase during the year.

However, segregation of energy sales to various categories of consumers shows that of the total energy available during the year, industries alone consumed nearly twice the energy sold to all other consumers put together. Thus, out of the total of nearly 3,356 million kilowatt-hours of energy sold during the year, industries claimed as much as 63.6 per cent; lighting, heating and cooking 17·91 per cent; traction 8.25 per cent; and water-works, irrigation and public lighting 5.02, 3.73 and 1.49 per cent, respectively. Among industries, cotton mills consumed more energy than iron and steel, jute and cement industries put together.

Although Bombay and West Bengal between them generated more electricity than the rest of the Indian Dominion combined, the *per capita* generation of energy was the highest in Delhi. The comparative figures, calculated on the basis of the 1941 census, of *per capita* generation of energy were: Delhi 100.29, Bombay 65.64, Mysore 45.53, West Bengal 37.77, Travancore 15.04 and East Punjab 11.95. Other Provinces and States generated less than 10 kwh *per capita*. Assam and Orissa had the lowest per capita figures of 0.58 and 0.24 respectively.

Consumption in Villages

There are 49 towns and cities in India, after partition, with a population of over 1,00,000 each. All of these are served with electricity. On the other hand, out of a total of 5,59,746 villages with a population of 5,000 or less, only 1,293 or 0.3 per cent villages had electricity. The figures for other population ranges in the country are given in the table below.

As a result of partition of the country, out of a total of 545 electricity supply undertakings in undivided India, 80 are now in Pakistan. But, in terms of installed capacity and production of electrical energy, the proportions which have gone to Pakistan are five per cent and four per cent respectively.

Out of the 465 undertakings that remained in India at the end of 1947, 309 were in the Provinces and 156 in the States.

Slightly over 63 per cent of the total electricity production in the country was contributed by company-owned undertakings, about 36 per cent by Government-owned undertakings and only one per cent by municipal undertakings.

Out of the total energy sold to ultimate consumers during the year, 90.92 per cent was supplied in the form of A.C. current and only 9.08 per cent in the form of D.C. current.

Population Range	Total Number of towns or villages in India	Those with public electricity supply	Percentage of towns or villages with public electricity supply to total
50,000—100,000	87	86	98.85
20,000—50,000	277	231	83.39
10,000—20,000	607	225	37.07
5,000—10,000	2,367	211	8.91
Total	3,338	753	

Calcutta and Bombay with a total population of one per cent of the whole country between them consume half of the total electric energy produced in India, leaving the other half for the remaining 99 per cent of the population. Except in towns and a few villages, the amenities of electricity are unknown to the common man in India.

When hydro-electric projects now in various stages of planning or execution are completed, India will probably rank as the third most electrified country in the world, the other two being U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. The various aspects of the generation and consumption of electricity in India during 1947 are dealt with in this article.

It is estimated that over 16 per cent of the undertakings generating electricity were operated on steam, about 5.6 per cent on hydro-power and the balance on oil. Nearly 16,32,600 tons of coal and over 53,000 tons of oil were consumed during the year in the production of electricity.

NOTE:—One kilowatt-hour or unit of electric energy is sufficient to light 25 average-sized electric bulbs or to irrigate 50 acres of land per year by pumping water from a depth of about 20 feet. Not more than 1,000 such units are required to drive a passenger train at a speed of 50 miles per hour. Every unit of electricity generated by hydro represents a saving of five tons of coal per year.

PRIVATE TELEGRAMS TO JAPAN BANNED

Private telegrams and private telephone conversations relating to the following subjects will not be admitted to Japan, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on February 21, 1949.

These relate to (1) transfer of legal cheques (tenders), contract, orders of payment or other letters of credit or of finance (2) conversion, conveyance or concealment of Japanese fortunes outside (to foreign countries) through the medium of letters, of money orders, document or by other means to evade the existing rules issued by the Supreme Allied Command in Japan concerning exchange or conversion of fortunes to foreign countries (3) authorisation of transference, of translations or reproductions or representations or other deeds concerning various matters, dramas, music, film or other means of information or expression and (4) ownership of fine arts excepting description and interpretation on measures and procedure for treaties, such matters as are recognised by legal authorities.

The Government of India has decided not to treat Chinese Blue (a dye) as controlled item for export purposes, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 16, 1949.



Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar

PROVISION OF AMENITIES FOR CLASS III PASSENGERS

Railway Minister's Assurance

AN assurance to institute an intensive drive for the provision of amenities to third class passengers within a time-limit fixed was given by Hon'ble Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Transport and Railways, replying to the two-day general discussion on the Railway Budget in the Dominion Parliament on February 21, 1949.

Referring to the restoration of the rail link between West Pakistan and India, the Hon'ble Minister said: "On behalf of the Government I wish to say that our fullest sympathy is with the restoration of this link at the earliest possible moment. There is no difficulty from the Railways' point of view in reviving this connection. The main reason is one of political or law and order nature."

Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar said:

"I am very deeply grateful to the House for the compliments they have showered upon me, compliments which, I think, were not by any means fully deserved. While compliments have been showered upon me for the manner in which I presented the facts of railway administration and finance, they have been tempered by a friendly criticism of the failings of which I must hold myself guilty. That is a matter about which I desire to make no complaint whatsoever. There was an attempt on the part of one Hon'ble member to suggest that one section of the House paid me compliments while it reserved all the criticism for the Minister of State. I may at once tell you that I am fully alive to the fact that whether it is credit or blame, we have to share it together.

"Let me say with reference to the particular matter in connection with which this remark was made that the entire blame of the thing - if blame attaches to the introduction of the reclassification of accommodation—is not to be heaped upon the heads of these two persons who happen to be responsible for the administration of railways today. I am afraid I cannot altogether absolve the House from blame for it.

"And if I may, I would like to draw the attention of the House to another matter, and that is that we have elected and placed at the disposal of the Railway Ministry a Central Advisory Council whom we are supposed to consult on all important matters involving change of policy. This was a matter which was placed before them. I find that practically the entire set of Members of the Central Advisory Council were present at the meeting at which the decision was taken. For instance, I find among those who did attend that meeting, my friend, Mr. Sidhwa, Mr. Khandubhai Desai who still supports the change: then we have Mr. J. R. Kapoor....."

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: I opposed it then.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: It does not appear so on the record. Then there were Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhari whom I am sorry to miss here this afternoon. All these gentlemen were present at that meeting and the decision they took was in these terms:

"After some discussion during which the desirability of having only two classes in future was urged by some of the new members, it was generally agreed that Railways should plan for the provision of three classes when designing coaching stock for the post-war period. Air conditioned coaches should also be provided....!" and then:

"The bases of fares to be adopted for the three standard classes are upper 2¼ pies: Inter 2 pies by Mail or Express and 1¾ pies by other trains...."

And in the interim period before the proper equipment is produced, it is suggested that temporary expedients should be adopted for making the present stock usable for these three classes.

On that basis the Railway Board went on to make these changes. No doubt, as I have said in my budget speech, it has evoked a lot of criticism. It is open to criticism from certain angles. But whether we should go back upon this decision now, is a matter which you cannot decide on the basis of the experience we have up till now. We have to watch the thing for some time longer and if the system requires a change, it will be changed. But before it is changed, I hope I shall carry the House with me in ordering such changes as may be required.

That is only with regard to the reclassification of accommodation. But I did refer to the friendly criticism that was launched against what I have called in my budget speech, "railway performance" in special directions.

SHRI L. KRISHNASWAMI BHARATHI: May I make it clear that the objection of this House is not to the classification but to the lack of certain necessary amenities, for example, the lack of sleeping accommodation. It must not be understood that we are criticising the railway administration. We would support the recommendations of the Central Railway Advisory Council subject to this.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: With reference to the point of my hon'ble friend, I think I made it perfectly clear that even when that decision was taken it was anticipated that during the interim period, before we could provide all the amenities that were contemplated, a certain amount of inconvenience and discomfort was inevitable, and therefore, we had to readjust such accommodation as existed for the purpose of carrying on the work while we went on with steps for the purpose of providing the amenities the Hon'ble Member has in view. As a matter of fact, all railway administrations have been asked to provide sleeping accommodation—and increasing sleeping accommodation—as they get the rolling stock for such a purpose.

A Big Ocean

I was saying that here was friendly criticism of inadequate railway performance. That I have admitted already. As Mr. Anthony so eloquently pointed out, railways in this country are a big ocean and if you want to remedy all the defects that exist and produce a perfect system it cannot be done overnight. All that I want you to believe and appreciate is that those who are in charge of railways, not merely we two Ministers—that is a small matter—but those who actually run the show from the Railway Board down to the meanest railwayman, are anxious to give the best service that they can, and it is only by appreciating that in the proper way that we shall get more and more satisfactory work from them. That is why, while I quite appreciate the pointing out of all our failings, I should like a little more handsome recognition of the work that is being done by the permanent staff all over the country.

SETH GOVIND DAS: May I interrupt? As far as amenities are concerned, has even a beginning been made so far as third class passenges are concerned?

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: "My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Govind Das, has referred to amenities. Perhaps I might take that up at

ately. He said, ' It is not an experiment which has been taken up in haste ; it has been demanded for the last twelve years. In 1937, the Wedgwood Committee reported :

"We have been impressed with the waste of accommodation involved in maintaining four classes of travel on Indian trains. We cannot help feeling that the whole question of upper class accommodation should be reviewed ?

Since then, persistently, year after year, on the floor of this House, member after member has demanded the abolition of at least one of the upper classes. To have two similar classes for the richer middle class passengers amounted not only to a waste of accommodation, it involved a concentration of attention on the convenience and comforts of the upper class passengers.

"It has been asked, what has the third-class passenger gained by this new re-classification ? Sir, immediately neither in accommodation nor in fares has the third-class passenger been affected, so it may be said that, directly, nothing has altered so far as he is concerned. But, Sir, as a result of this reclassification one of the castes which has been sitting over his head has disappeared, and I think it would be altogether reactionary to bring back that caste and re-introduce the four-caste system in the Indian Railways.

The New Class I

"It has also been argued that the first class passenger has benefited. Sir, if a gallap-poll is taken of the former first class and second class passengers, I am sure that one hundred per cent of the first class passengers will ask for the restoration of the old first class, while I expect 25 to 30 per cent of the old second class passengers will ask for the restoration of the old second class. The first class passenger paid a little more than the present Class I passenger, but often by paying a single fare he got the whole compartment. That was the advantage of the whole first class. If you pay one fare or two fares, you can probably get a whole four-berth compartment to go about from one end of the country to another. It is to stop that wastage of accommodation that we have amalgamated both the old first and second classes and introduced a middle class which is called Class I."

"The standard of accommodation in the new Class I is much inferior to that of the old first class and a little superior to the old second class. Therefore, to say that we have abolished the old second class and not the first class is a mistake. What has happened is that a new class between the two has been introduced for the convenience of those who have been accustomed to go in either the old first or the old second class. In other countries, ordinarily there is only a two-class system and I do hope that before long India, too, will move towards that simple classification.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI : Has the passenger carrying capacity by the new classification increased ?

SHRI K. SANTHANAM : What has happened is that the old second class compartments have been partly annexed to the new Class I and partly have been handed over to the new Class II or the old Inter-class accommodation."

He added : "The old inter-class travellers have got the old inter-class accommodation. The old second class passengers who have got Class II now have more accommodation than before. It is owing to the addition to the new Class II that more people are going from Class III to Class II. That is the process that is going on. That is why even the new Class II, in spite of more accommodation, is overcrowded. But if we find that the new Class I is not as crowded as it should be then, we shall go on transferring more and more coaches from Class I to Class II till we find that the passengers are suitably accommodated. That is the way in which we have to proceed—not to bring back the old four-caste railway system.

SHRI L. KRISHNASWAMI BHARATHI : Provide sleeping accommodation ; everything will be all right in Class II.

Sleeping Accommodation

SHRI K. SANTHANAM : "Sir, I quite sympathise with people who want sleeping accommodation. By paying 50 per cent over the old second class fare they can get it today. We are, however, providing limited sleeping accommodation in the new Class II.

"Sir, an Hon'ble Member has done me the favour of reading a quotation. There, I am reported to have said that the third class passenger is carrying the upper class passengers. I stand by that statement. Today, even at 24 pies, the class 1st passenger is being carried by the third class passenger. Supposing you give sleeping accommodation at 9 pies, then you can imagine how much the third class passenger will have to carry the middle class passenger. Everybody professes sympathy for the third class passenger, but when it comes to middle class interest versus third class interest, there, the whole thing goes, our reason goes and we stand for the interest of the middle classes rather than ...." (Interruption).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order.

MR. FRANK ANTHONY : On a point of explanation. This is a misreading of what I said. I said, "Have your reclassification by all means when you have the rolling-stock. For the time being, every effort should be directed to third class reorganization."

SHRI K. SANTHANAM : "This reclassification, as I have said already, has added to the total accommodation by 5 to 10 per cent in the various Railways. From that point of view, it is of great interest to the third class passenger, but what I am saying is that you can never have any change, especially in the Railway, where you have to make the change a particular midnight, without some kind of inconvenience, and I am sure we shall try to mitigate every inconvenience and see that progressively the third class passenger gets our first attention, then will come the second class and we will progressively eliminate the Class I passenger from the railway system."

Referring to labour relations, Shri K. Santhanam gave the assurance that "we are very anxious that labour in Indian Railways should be treated as model labour. I am particularly anxious that welfare work in the Railways should proceed as fast as possible."

"Unfortunately", he added, "a section of the workers even resent our improving their conditions. They are afraid that by improving labour conditions in Railways, the revolutionary edge will be blunted. Therefore, on the one hand, when the Grainshops Enquiry Committee went about the country, they mobilised all the workers together and represented that the grainshops were mismanaged utterly, that there was no article supplied in the grainshops which was worthy of eating and that something must be done to alter the existing state of affairs. When finally we did accept their advice and gave them option and produced a change, they made it the chief point of attack against the Railway Administration.

"The House may also remember that when, after mature consideration, the Government of India felt that though they could hardly afford the amount they should make a gesture and give an extra Rs. 10 allowance to each railway worker, they thought that this was a question of dividing the workers; that it was intended to wean away the workers from strike. Unfortunately, for the last four or five years, disintegrating elements have infiltrated into railway labour to such an extent that we are unable to run the railways efficiently. We are not able to attend to the workers' welfare itself efficiently. The whole thing is in a state which we cannot put up with much longer. I hope that the railway workers will listen to the wise lead of leaders like Mr. Shastri and co-operate with the Railway administration, so that we can prove that in a nationalised industry the workers can be treated as model workers.

"In order to enable the House to watch the progress of labour welfare work, we are contemplating to bring all items under one demand head as in the case of Betterment Fund, so that year after year, the House will be able to see how we have progressed in housing in hospitals and other aspects of labour welfare."

Railway Catering

The Minister then spoke on catering on railways. On the S. I., M. S. M. and B. N. Railways there was departmental catering which, on the whole, had competed successfully with contract catering. Unfortunately owing to the application of the Pay Commission recommendations, all the catering staff have had to be paid the pay, allowances, etc., according to the Pay Commission's Report and the S. I. Ry. catering which was the most successful and the most economical had begun to be a losing concern. He said, "It is this fact that has made us pause a little and, as we have other more urgent work to do, we have decided, with the consent of the Central Advisory Council, to postpone this extension of departmental catering. I may assure the House that, at the earliest possible moment, the extension of departmental catering will be taken up. Till then we have to manage as best as we can and every effort will be made to see that those who do it on contract do their work properly."

Shri Santhanam then outlined the construction programme of the Railways, and gave comparative figures of fares and freights in U. K. and U. S. In India, he said, the average passenger fare is 4.18 pies per mile and in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America it is 13.356 pies, and 13.412 pies respectively. Third class fare before the war in India was only 3 pies per mile. The railway fare had increased only 50 per cent, while every other price had increased by 300 to 500 per cent.

"We can say that even this is high, but unless prices fall, we will not be able to provide these comforts and run the railways on the present basis", he added.

Goods Freight

"So far as goods freight is concerned, I have some instructive figures to supply to Hon'ble members. India pays 8.1 pies per ton mile, while the United Kingdom pays 19.52 pies and the United States pays only 6.882 pies per ton mile. In the United States, goods are being carried much cheaper than in India and the reason is that their cost is much less. They make their own locomotives. Coal is cheaper there and labour is more efficient. As a combined result of all these factors, the United States, in spite of its high standard of wages and cost of living, is able to move goods at a much cheaper cost. Therefore, in future, if you want to reduce our fares and freight, you have to increase our efficiency. It is to the extent that efficiency is increased that we can either reduce the fares and freights or carry them better."

SETTLEMENT OF RAILWAY CLAIMS

Outlining the steps taken for the speedy settlement of Railway claims, the Hon'ble Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways, said that 64,755 claims were outstanding for over six months on January 1, 1949, on all Indian Government Railways, the total amount involved being about Rs. 3,34,27,000.

The Minister who was answering a question put by Seth Govind Das in the Dominion Parliament on February 23, said that in addition to constant endeavours to improve the position on railways in regard to disposal of claims cases, exceptional measures had recently been sanctioned and introduced as from January 1, 1949, for the early liquidation of all arrears and the speedier settlement of current claims. These measures included the summary disposal of claims over three months old where *prima facie* evidence of railway's responsibility exists; arrangements for the almost immediate disposal of new claims not exceeding Rs. 200 and powers to Station Masters and other supervising staff at the more important stations to settle at the time of delivery certain claims not exceeding Rs. 50.

WORKING OF INDIAN RAILWAYS DURING 1947-48

How Partition Difficulties Were Met

HOW Indian Railways faced up to the task of meeting the country's transportation demands against the background of post-Partition difficulties is the story spotlighted in the annual Report, published recently, on the working of Indian Railways during 1947-48.

A memorable period in the history of Indian Railways, 1947-48, witnessed the division of the country into two Dominions and the partitioning of two railways, the North Western and the Bengal-Assam.

The profound changes arising out of Partition led to repercussions on railway working, which were unprecedented in their character and consequences. Vast movements of population from either Dominion imposed an enormous strain on the limited resources of Indian Railways, and this was accentuated by the opting of staff from each Dominion for service in the other. The country had not yet emerged from the effects of the war.

The upsurge of consumer demands after the protracted war-time curtailment of civilian consumption, called for the maintenance at least, if not an increase, of industrial production and adequate transport to meet it.

The success of the rationing system also depended on the ability of railways to move promptly and regularly large quantities of food to the areas of scarcity. That these important tasks had been accomplished by the railways without any serious dislocation of the country's economy, is the most striking feature of railway operation during 1947-48.

There were special difficulties in preparing the present report. The division of the North-Western and Bengal-Assam Railways has led to a hiatus in the statistics of railway working and as the pre-Partition accounts have not yet been closed, the results in consequence are provisional to that extent.

Details of Working

The financial results of the working during the entire year 1947-48 of Indian Government Railways as they stand after Partition disclose that after meeting all charges including depreciation and interest there was a net loss of Rs. 7¼ crores. The net loss in working for the post-Partition period, August 15, 1947 to March 31, 1948, was Rs. 2.74 crores only.

The gross traffic receipts of the undivided Indian Government Railways for the entire year 1947-48 and of the Eastern Punjab and Assam Railways for the period August 15, 1947, to March 31, 1948, amounted to Rs. 163.13 crores of which passenger traffic accounted for Rs. 66.12 crores and goods traffic for Rs. 81.45 crores. The balance represented other coaching and miscellaneous sundry earnings.

The ordinary working expenses amounted to Rs. 139.83 crores and the appropriation to the Depreciation Fund to Rs. 12.17 crores. Payments to worked lines as their share of net earnings stood at Rs. 1.33 crores and the miscellaneous transactions brought in a net receipt of Rs. 3.24 crores. Thus the net Revenue for the year came to Rs. 13.04 crores. The interest charges for the year were Rs. 20.54 crores and the net result of working for the whole year was thus a loss of Rs. 7.5 crores.

Taking all Indian Railways, including those in which the Government of India have no financial interest, the total earnings during the year 1947-48 amounted to Rs. 183.69 crores. Goods traffic receipts totalled Rs. 86.33 crores or 47 per cent. and passenger earnings Rs. 73.25 crores or about 40 per cent. The balance is accounted for by parcels, luggage and other miscellaneous sources of revenue.

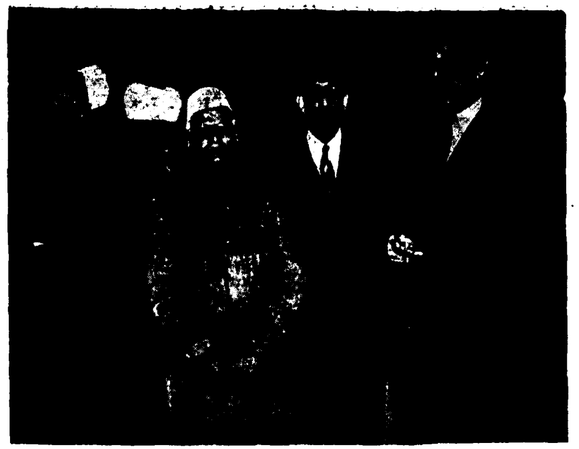
The total number of passengers carried during the year was 1,044 millions and every passenger was carried on an average 32.2 miles. The passenger mileage was 33,644 millions. On the goods side, 73.5 million tons were carried. As every ton was hauled on an average a distance of 278 miles the net ton mileage amounted to 20,398 millions.

The average amount carried per passenger per mile was 4.18 pies and the amount carried per ton per mile was 8.13 pies.

Passenger Services

For purposes of comparison with the previous financial year, it is necessary to exclude for 1947-48 the newly formed Eastern Punjab and Assam Railways and for 1946-47 the Bengal Assam and North Western Railways. It should be stated that even with this exclusion, the figures are not strictly comparable as certain portions of the Bengal Assam Railway have, since Partition, been amalgamated with the East Indian and Oudh Tirhut Railways.

Making, however, a comparison on this basis, the passenger earnings of all Indian Railways increased by 7 per cent, the number of passengers carried by 17 per cent and passenger miles by 2.4 per cent. Thus the passenger traffic during the year continued to increase still further. As compared with 1938-39, the record for 1947-48 represents an increase of 124.4 per cent. With less demands on transport for military purposes, it was possible to restore a number of passenger services during the year, an increase of about 4 per cent over the previous year. But the passenger train mileage was still 5½ per cent below the pre-war level. Another significant factor noticeable in the post-war passenger traffic is the shift towards upper class travel shown by the fact that the third class passenger miles in 1938-39 formed 95 per cent of the total and in 1947-48, 92 per cent of the total.



Shri N. V. Gadgil gave a reception at Government House on Feb. 23 in honour of the delegates to the Power Engineers' Conference. (L. to R.) Mr. S. A. Gadkary, Hydro-Electric Member, Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission; Shri N. V. Gadgil; Mr. N. N. Iengar, Chairman, Central Electricity Commission and Lt.-Col. E.G. Mackie, Chief Engineer (Electricity) C.P. and Berar

that it was new only in its application to this country.

"This policy involved two major changes in our traditional methods and forms of organization;—

(i) first, a radical change in the technique of project planning; and

(ii) second, a corresponding change in the character of the administrative organization necessary for the integrated and unified development of an entire region.

Multi-Purpose Planning

"In a conference of engineers and technicians I need not dilate at any great length on the consequences which followed from this increased realization of the importance of this integrated development of our natural resources of water and power. The possibilities of the new policy caught our fancy in a manner as no other post-war development apparently did. The cry went out everywhere for rapid and increased power development—particularly for hydro-power development. Our two Central organizations, to which I have already referred, were inundated with requests for investigation into all manner of power schemes, while the Provincial Governments and some State Governments embarked on similar plans of their own.

"This buoyant and expansive mood served us well in the immediate post-war years. It enabled us to lift ourselves out of the rut of conventional thinking, infused courage and self-confidence into our administrators and technicians and created an appropriate psychological *milieu* in which alone any large programme of reconstruction and development can be launched with any reasonable hope of success. This phase of our development psychology is now over, and we now find ourselves up against what hard-headed realists call "brass tracks." That is why I felt that we had reached a stage in our development plans when it was incumbent on us to pause and take stock of our position in the light of our human and material resources and our essential requirements.

Development in Next Decade

"This brings me to an important aspect of your problem to which I would like to draw your attention. I understand that the total installed power generating capacity in our public and private power plants is about 2.2 million kilowatts, which account for a total annual consumption of electricity of about 5,500 million kilowatts. Assuming that the annual rate of increase of power consumption during the next ten years is of the same order as was the rate of increase during the war years, our total consumption of electricity in 1958-59 may be estimated at about 10,000 million kilowatt-hours i.e., an increase of about 80 per cent in ten years. To meet this increase in power consumption we require roughly an additional generating capacity of about 1.9 million kilowatts. While this is the extent of our estimated requirement on the basis of past experience, the installation of hydro and thermal generating capacities, such as are now being planned by provincial Governments and other authorities, will provide us with an additional generating capacity of about 3 million kilowatts—an excess of one million kilowatts of generating capacity over what could be effectively utilised.

"If these figures are even approximately correct, here is an example of mal-adjustment, of lop-sided development against which both our technicians and administrators must guard themselves. There are only two ways in which this mal-adjustment can be corrected—we can either try and develop our load faster than it has developed in the past, indeed faster than it developed even during the years of the war; or we must eliminate from our development plans all uneconomic schemes, *i.e.*, schemes which cannot be justified even on the basis of an optimum increase in the rate of growth of load. I have no doubt in my own mind that it should be easy enough for us to correct this mal-adjustment in our planning, if only we can take an over-all view of our development plans, and proceed to process them realistically in the light of our foreseeable requirements. That is a task for which you should address yourselves right from the beginning of your deliberations.

Financial Considerations

"There are other considerations which make it important for us to take an over-all view of our power development plans in the future. I shall mention only two of the most important—one technical and the other financial. Just as in a regional power system transmission line inter-connections can effect economy in operation costs by concentrating generation in the most efficient units and reducing spare plant capacity to a minimum, so considerable economy in the aggregate national expenditure on power projects can be effected, if the major power systems in adjoining provinces co-operate with each other in the planning and execution of their expansion schemes with a view to evolving an integrated power system extending beyond provincial frontiers. In the Central Electricity Commission you have a ready made organization which can very well discharge these functions of reviewing and co-ordinating the power capacity expansion programmes of provinces and States.

"The financial argument for an over-all view of our power development plans is equally strong. You will recollect that I mentioned a little while ago that the additional increase of plant capacity that we would require in the course of the next ten years might be estimated at about 1.9 million kilowatts. This, of course, is considerably less than our projected plant capacity. But even if we take this lower figure as a basis for our financial calculations, the aggregate cost of the generating and distributing equipment that we would have to install would be of the order of about Rs. 300 crores.

"We may assume that the cost of industrial installations complete with electrical driving equipment will be on an average five times the cost of power supply installations, which means that the total cost of our additional power supply capacity and of the additional power utilization factories would be of the order of Rs. 1,620 crores or roughly of the order of Rs. 162 crores per annum. Clearly, an outlay of this magnitude for the generation, distribution and utilization of power calls for co-ordinated planning at a very high level.

"In this connection, I would refer to the second item on your agenda, *viz.*, the development of rural electrification schemes. As you all know, the supply of electricity is now mostly confined to

Kanpur among them account for as much as 48 per cent of the consumption of power supplied by Public undertakings. This is a state of affairs which we can hardly view with equanimity for any length of time, but we shall not improve this situation merely by extolling the virtues of village life or talking in an exultant mood of how much we owe to the villages and the way of life they represent. Here, too, we must get down to "brass tacks."

"I know the problem is one, which you, Power Engineers, cannot solve unaided, and I am, indeed, free to admit that the problem of rural electrification is largely a problem of the economic and social reconstruction of our villages. But you, Power Engineers, can make your contribution to the solution of this problem to the best of your ability by reducing costs to a minimum, devising electrical equipment suited to the needs of the villages, and adapting the simple power-consuming plant and equipment to the requirements of village life.

Fundamental Problem

"I now come to the problem of organization which has always appeared to me to be fundamental. It is impossible to plan, much less to act, comprehensively and efficiently without an organization that can take an over-all view of all power development plans first on a Provincial and then on an all-India basis. This was the consideration which prompted me to forward with the Electricity (Supply) Bill of 1948, which has been now passed into an Act. This Act has for the first time provided for the establishment of an authority in each Province, which can review the power resources of entire regions, can study the present and potential demands for power in these regions, and can arrange for an orderly expansion of power supply capacity to match with the steady growth of power demand.

The Provincial Electricity Board, as this provincial authority will be called, has also the power to study the services now rendered by existing power systems (whether private or Government or semi-Government) in relation to the power requirements of their own and adjoining areas, and to arrange for expansion of the existing power systems and construction of new power stations so as to make power available economically over large areas in the Provinces. It is only by such co-ordinated planning over wide areas, by marrying urban with rural load, that we can extend the blessings of electricity to our backward and undeveloped areas at a cost which would not be too onerous a burden on the general tax-payer.

"In these circumstances, it would seem to me to be in the best interest of the country that the Provinces should avail themselves at the earliest possible date of the powers under the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948 and constitute autonomous Provincial Electricity Boards charged with the responsibility for co-ordinated power development in their areas. My Ministry addressed all Provincial Governments and States within a month of the enactment of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1949, and offered to render all such technical help and assistance to them as the Provincial Governments might require in the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

"I do not know what progress has been made in this direction by the Provincial Governments, but I hope and trust that before long they will make a beginning by the constitution of Provincial Electricity Boards and laying the foundations of a system of co-ordinated power development within the limits of their authority.

"Gentlemen, I think I have said enough for a lay-man on the subject, that will presently engage your attention. It has not been possible for me to touch upon all the items on your agenda, or indeed upon all important aspects of the problems that confront you. This was, however, never my intention. I am primarily concerned at this second stage of our development plans with the necessity for an over-all realistic assessment of our major power projects all over India. During the last four or five years we have talked a great deal on this subject. This talk has had at least one signal result. We have all become "powerminded," including the guardians of our Exchequer. That is no mean achievement. For, we need no longer argue the case for the development of our power resources from their first principles. The note of power in the development of our agriculture and industry is now generally recognized, and the urgency of power development is widely appreciated.

"This has, however, entailed a special obligation on our administrators and technicians. They must now reduce the generalities of earlier years into specific schemes of development, and convert the targets with which we have been familiar into long-term plans capable of efficient and economical execution within the limits of our physical financial and human resources. So far as I can see, the correct approach to the problems is as follows.

"On the side of costs, we should break them down into yearly figures commensurate with our capacity to spend, and on the side of benefits we should undertake a detailed analysis of our capacity to consume the end-products of our schemes. At the present stage of our development plans it will not be enough to indicate merely the aggregate quantity of power that we can generate and distribute from a particular scheme, but it will be also essential for us to know how this power will be consumed in different lines of agriculture and industry. Further, it seems to me desirable to work out a year-to-year amortisation statement showing the progressive relation between the annual input of resources into our schemes and the returns earned on them before we can assess the merits of a scheme.

"These, indeed are rigorous tests, and many of you may fret at their severity. For myself, however, I find nothing seriously at fault in this approach. Provided costs are defined reasonably and benefits include due allowance for the imponderables, which it is not always easy to evaluate, I think the tests now proposed to be applied to our development plans will be a good check on the soundness of our schemes. I have no doubt that the majority of our power schemes will easily pass this test. Here is a challenge to your technical skill and our administrative ability—how to maximise the advantages to be derived from the employment of our scarce resources on the diverse needs of our development projects?

"The way in which you will answer this challenge will make or mar us in the future. Individually and collectively, you represent a body of knowledge and experience about power problems, which is perhaps unique in its range and diversity, whereas I am only a layman, who knows little of the mysteries of your profession. I have, however, full confidence that you will be worthy of your great responsibility.

"Gentlemen, I wish you the best of luck in your deliberations and a happy and fruitful conference."



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari with Shri R. R. Diwakar (right) Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Mr. P. B. Advani (left) Electrical Adviser, Bombay Government, at the reception

once. It is a fact that the amenities which third class passengers now enjoy are very far below the mark.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There may be a cut motion on this matter.

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: Yes, there may be cut motions. I do not want to go into those details in this very general speech. I have told the House that I am going to institute an intensive drive to find out what amenities should be provided, and after getting them, fix a time limit within which to carry out those amenities. Therefore, I will ask the House to wait a little and see whether my performance will be acceptable to it, or more acceptable, if I happen to be in my place next year.

So far as the financial portions of the Budget are concerned, I notice that there has been largely a lack of criticism and while I may take it that that means that the House is satisfied with the financial provisions, I must refer to one or two points which were raised in the course of the debate by one or two Members. One was by the very first speaker, my Hon'ble friend, Mr. B. Das.

He took exception to my having provided for any increase in the appropriation to the Depreciation Fund. I do not know why he said that I did not quite follow that reasons he gave for that opinion. I have given certain reasons why that addition was imperative at the present moment and I do not think he traversed those reasons in his speech.....

SHRI B. DAS: What did your committee give ?

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: My committee ?

The Indian Railway Enquiry Committee actually recommended something by way of addition and my provision for increasing the appropriation to the Depreciation Fund falls substantially short of their recommendation. That is what I have to tell my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Das.

SHRI B. DAS: That I do not accept.

Contribution to General Revenues

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: "There was one other point of a financial character which was raised. Certain Hon'ble members, and I was glad to find that they were a very small minority, objected altogether to any contribution from the railway surplus to general revenues. They said not a single rupee—I believe one member said not a single pie—should be made over from the railways to the general finances.

"It was put to me that having a Finance Minister now who was a Minister for Railways before I took over, it should be easy for me to have resisted claims from general finances for an increased contribution. We, in our respective places, have to play our parts and it is no doubt true that during last year there was some controversy between the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister, there was a scramble for the surplus that was expected in the budget of the current year and that was set at rest by a committee of the House. But this year when I had to frame my budget and it was found that the surplus for the current year was about 60 per cent above what had been anticipated and I was going to get another surplus next year, which was as good as the surplus for last year, if not slightly more, I put myself in touch with the Finance Minister. With all my enthusiasm for holding my end of the rope, with all Dr. Matthai's experience as Railway Minister now holding charge of finance, it was not possible for the two of us to agree that there should be no contribution from railways to general revenues. On the other hand, we looked at each other's point of view and came to the conclusion that the proper way of dividing the surplus was the way in which it has been done in this budget.

"There is one minor point to which I would like to make reference in regard to Mr. Das's speech. He challenged me to come forward before the House with a request that it should sanction the appropriation to the Depreciation Fund. I accept that challenge. Not only do I accept it now but I have already in anticipation, accepted it, because you will find among the demands a demand for appropriation to the Depreciation Fund. I should welcome Mr. Das to raise a debate on that and I should be quite glad to abide by the decision of the House."

East-West Punjab Rail Link

Referring to the point raised by Begum Aizaz Rasul, who pressed the need for an inter-dominion through railway connection between West Pakistan and India, the Minister said that the Hon'ble Member had pointed out the great advantages that would result from such a through link being re-forged or revived. I entirely appreciate the reasons behind this suggestion of hers. "I know that a prominent newspaper here is beating up a great deal of support for this view.

On behalf of Government I wish to say that our fullest sympathy is with the restoration of this link at the earliest possible moment. There is no difficulty from the railways' point of view in reviving this connection. The main reason is one of a political or law and order nature. If we can induce in the people, who are likely to take advantage of this through connection on either side, the feeling that their travelling will be perfectly safe and secure and that a man who goes from one dominion to the other for temporary purposes will get back to his own Dominion—the dominion of his adoption, it may be—then the conditions would have been created for the railways' stepping in and producing the trains which would implement this policy.

"That is what we are looking out—for and the moment we are satisfied, the moment the Pakistan Government are satisfied, that this kind of thing could be done in both dominions without any detriment to the law and order position, without any risk of upsetting things which have calmed down already, then we shall be in a position to do that. I only wish to assure the Hon'ble lady that that is the present attitude of the Government.

"There is one point about which I should like to say something and that is about our policy regarding labour. I was very happy to hear the speeches of Mr. Hariharnath Sastri and Mr. Khandubhai Desai. These speeches made it perfectly clear that so far as their organisations were concerned in their dealings with labour they have not and would not introduce anything like politics. They would be conducted on purely trade union lines.

"I have also to tell the House that the other organisation which perhaps has been connected with the railway administration for a larger number of years and which counts the largest number of members amongst railway men, that also happily has taken the same view. Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayain has made it prefectly clear to everybody that he does not favour trade unions being exploited for political purposes and the best evidence that you can have that he means what he says is the manner in which he had the courage to disaffiliate those railway unions which were dominated by a political party which is out to subvert order and create chaos in the country.

"That being so, I have now amongst railwaymen representatives of these two organisations united in their view that labour is not to be exploited for political purposes. I can only express the hope which I did in a guarded way in my Budget speech that it might be possible that people who agree on fundamentals to that large extent might come together and have a united organisation for railway labour with whom Government can deal with perfect confidence in trying to remove all the grievances of railwaymen all over the country.

An Appeal

"I put it forward as an appeal from a responsible man who finds that that is the only way of solving labour troubles in this country. While I find there is an inclination on the part of my two friends here, there is also an indication in the speech of the President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to the same effect and it should not be impossible for them to come together and help the Railway Ministry and the Railway Board in their dealings with labour.

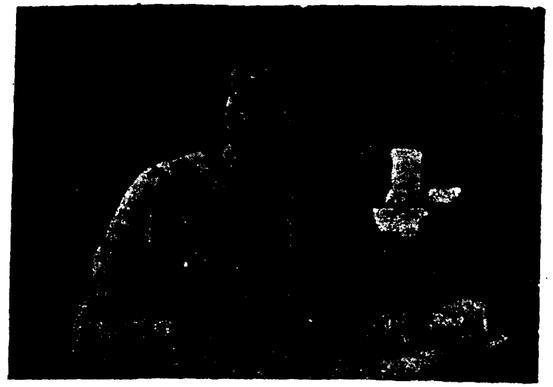
"I have noted a good many points of the various speeches, but I do not think it is necessary for me to go into them all at this late hour and I should like, even if trains on the railways do not arrive or depart in time, that the House at least should rise in time."

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Government of India are pleased to nominate Prof. Humayun Kabir as a member of the Central Advisory Board of Education for a period up to November 20, 1950, vice the Rt. Rev. G.D. Barne, resigned, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Education on February 18, 1949.

Shri Santhanam Defends New Classification

"We are very anxious that labour on Indian Railways should be treated as model labour. I am particularly anxious that welfare work in the Railways should proceed as fast as possible," said the Hon'ble Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways, intervening during the general discussion on the Railway Budget in the Dominion Parliament on February 21, 1949. Overcrowding on Railways, reclassification of accommodation, amenities for third-class passengers and catering on Railways were among the subjects dealt with by the Minister in his speech.



Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways

The Minister said: "I have been following the Railway Budget for the last sixteen years, first as a journalist and later as a member of this House and I have been following all the criticisms in this Assembly. I believe I am not exaggerating when I say that in no year has the criticism of the Budget been so mild as this year. I say this even after hearing my friend, Mr. Sidhwa, and later the eloquent speech of my friend, Mr. Anthony. If criticism has been mild, I am under no illusion nevertheless.

"I know that many members of this House are deeply dissatisfied with many aspects of railway administration as it is, but the members have generally realised that the causes of this dissatisfaction are to a large extent beyond our control. They are aware that it is due to the fact that the previous Government pursued a shortsighted policy and made the big railway system of India dependent on foreign industry in regard to locomotives, spare parts and for its machine tools. Then, there followed the war and following it came the dislocation caused by Partition and communal conflicts.

Overcrowding

"I think the mildness of the criticism is also due to the fact that we have taken all possible steps to overcome the existing difficulties. Criticism naturally was concentrated on the position of the third class passenger. I agree with every criticism that has been made regarding the unsatisfactory position. It is true that there is overcrowding. I shall just quote a few facts to show how it is inescapable. The position on March 31, 1939 was that there were 32.4 million passengers travelling every month on Indian Railways: on March 31, 1948, 88 million passengers were travelling every month. that is, 144 per cent more passengers were travelling on March 31, 1948 every month than on March 31, 1939. To carry these passengers there were on March 31, 1948, 10,630 carriages as against 11,639 carriages on March 31, 1939.

"If we have nearly 2½ times the number of passengers and less number of carriages, overcrowding is an inevitable mathematical result and nothing that anyone can say or do can change this fact unless, of course, we take the far more drastic alternative of controlling railway travel and rationing it. Sir, we have seen the evils of control in other aspects and I am sure the House will rather prefer the evil of overcrowding than that we should restrict the freedom of the ordinary peasant of India to use the Railways. Overcrowding itself can be relieved only when we have more coaches, when we have more locomotives and when, in certain instances, we have also increased the capacity of the track. We have taken steps to do every one of these things. As you all know, we have ordered a large number of locomotives from abroad."

In this connection, he sounded a note of warning, namely, the danger in squandering away the country's foreign exchange resources for the purchase of locomotives, coaches and other material from abroad. "We must concentrate our resources for buying machinery with which we can build our locomotives and our coaches. Therefore, while we should try to relieve the immediate overcrowding, I should like the House also to remember that in this process we should not squander away our foreign exchange resources too much and thereby handicap the future generations. We have taken all possible measures to relieve overcrowding in the nearest possible future. We have not remained quiet on that account."

BABU RAMNARAYAN SINGH (Bihar, General): "What are those measures ?"

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: "We have ordered locomotives. We are building coaches and we have also ordered coaches. We are doubling the track wherever there is congestion. All these measures put together will relieve overcrowding in the near future. Meanwhile, we have taken steps to see that at least long-distance passengers have a little more comfort than the general mass of third-class passengers. Many Hon'ble members have referred to the reservation which has been adopted at all the terminal stations for long-distance passengers and the complaint has been made that though this works well at the terminal stations people crowd in at intermediate stations. It is true, and I promise the House that we shall take adequate measures to see that these passengers get uninterrupted passage to their destinations."

Referring to the allotmennt of Rs. 1½ crores for passenger amenities, Shri Santhanam admitted that this was not a big amount and said he was as anxious as any Member to increase these amenities. "But we have got other difficulties which prevent us from going much further than we have done. There is the difficulty of getting material. For instance, we want to put dovers over platforms which is one of the great difficulties of third-class passengers—they have to wait in sun and rain, in open heat and cold. Covered platforms is one of the urgent necessities. But we cannot get galvanized sheets, steel and other materials. Similarly, we would like to electrify all the stations wherever electricity is available. Certainly, we don't want our third-class passengers to be groping in the dark. But it is difficult to get wire and other electrical materials. As soon as we can get them we shall try to step up the passenger amenities and see that as many amenities as possible are provided for them.

New Classes of Travel

"I would like that within the next three years we should be able to exhaust all the amount that is available in the Betterment Fund. It is to enable the House to watch the progress of provision of amenities that we have separated the Betterment Fund from the rest of the Budget so that every year you may be able to keep a close watch as to the progress made in this matter."

On the question of the new classification of accommodation which came into operation on January 1, 1949, the Minister said it was too early to form a correct judgment regarding its results. He disagreed with the view expressed by Mr. Anthony that it was a mistake and that it should be rectified immedi-

The freight tons carried dropped by 4.7 per cent as compared with the previous year and the net ton miles by more than 8 per cent. As compared with 1938-39, however, the ton mileage recorded an increase of 11 per cent. There was an appreciable decline in the volume of military traffic handled, while other traffic continued to be subject to priority regulations. An analysis of the movement of goods during the year shows that coal accounted for 45.9 per cent and foodgrains, pulses and oil-seeds together 11.7 per cent of the total goods traffic.

The report refers to the effects of the war-time strain on the rolling-stock, the maintenance and repairs of which were greatly hampered during the year for want of spare parts. The percentage of engines under or awaiting repairs in mechanical and transportation workshops increased from 18.5 per cent on the broad gauge and 17.4 per cent on the metre gauge in 1946-47 to 20.2 per cent and 19.9 per cent, respectively, in 1947-48.

The percentage of wagons under or awaiting repairs also increased from 6.14 to 7.50 on the broad gauge and rom 4.66 to 5 87 on the metre gauge. Punctuality of passenger trains showed a further deterioration on the broad gauge during the year mainly owing to the poor condition of locomotives and post-Partition disturbances. On the metre gauge, however, there was a general improvement.

Rating Structure

The year under review saw the introduction of further measures towards simplification of the rating structure on Indian Railways. A revised classification of goods and new schedules were introduced with effect from January, 1948. With the exception of four classes, all others were made telescopic class rates on a continuous mileage over all the Indian Government Railways. The number of schedules was reduced to six standard schedules, and uneconomical transport avoided by requiring all traffic to be booked by the shortest routes. Certain alterations in rates were made, the most important being the enhancement of surcharge on coal to 30 per cent. On the commercial side another change of importance was the standardization of passenger fares.

At the end of March, 1948, the total capital at charge on all railways including lines under construction amounted to Rs. 741.40 crores of which Rs. 667.43 crores was capital at charge on Indian Government Railways inclusive of the premia paid on purchase of certain companies' lines. The balance of Rs. 73 97 crores represented the capital raised by Indian States, Companies, District Boards etc. By far the greater portion of the capital on Indian Government-owned lines, namely Rs. 6,05,31,41,000 is Government capital, only Rs. 2,11,44,000 being owned by Indian States, etc.

During 1947-48, the Indian Government Railways including the Eastern Punjab and Assam railways as from August 15, 1947, purchased stores valued at Rs. 81 79 crores. The value of stores imported direct amounted to Rs. 2.67 crores, and imported stores purchased in India accounted for Rs. 4.93 crores. Stores of Indian manufacture or indigenous origin have thus accounted for the bulk of the expenditure, amounting to Rs. 74 crores or 90.7 per cent of the total against 84.0 per cent in the previous year.

Two new constructions were sanctioned during the year, namely, Barwadih-Sarnadih section on the East Indian Railway and the Assam Rail Link Project. The first of these is intended to open up new coalfields and provide additional rail facilities for movement of coal to the west, avoiding the already congested E.I.R. main line. The second seeks to provide a direct rail route to Assam passing entirely through Indian territory. Surveys of various other projects were also sanctioned aggregating to about 1,000 miles.

Locomotive Building Works

The construction of Locomotive Building Works was proposed to be constructed at Mihijam, 20 miles from Asansol, at an estimated cost of Rs. 14 crores. When completed the workshop will employ about 10,000 men on a single shift. Work on the project is in full swing. The target date of completion is 1955.

During the year, Government decided to buy three more narrow gauge lines from the respective companies, namely, the Matheran (Hill) Light Railway (12.61 miles in length) with effect from April 1, 1948, Pachora Jamner Railway (34.62 miles in length) with effect from April 1, 1949, and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Extensions (98.44 miles in length) with effect from October 20, 1948.

The total number of employees (permanent and temporary) on all Indian Railways and in the office of the Railway Board and other offices subordinate thereto, excluding staff employed on construction, at the end of the year 1947-48 was 823,712 as compared with 771,993 at the end of 1946-47. The cost of staff of Class I railways alone rose from Rs. 52.02 crores to Rs. 63.36 crores—an increase of Rs. 11.34 crores. This increase was attributable to the amalgamation of portions of the old B.A. railway with the East Indian and Oudh Tirhut Railways, and the implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations. These comparative figures exclude the number and cost of staff on the B.A. and N.W. Railways for 1946-47, and the E.P. and Assam Railways for 1947-48.

The relations with staff during the year will be read with interest in Chapter VII of the Report. The principal events during the year were the receipt of the report of the Central Pay Commission in April 1947, the partial implementation of its recommendations by the end of the year, and the receipt of Justice Rajadhyaksha's Award. The relations of the Government with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation continued to be cordial and there were no major strikes on the railways, although a few lightning strikes of short duration occurred. The number of man-days lost on account of strikes and disturbances approximated to 2.29 per cent of the total man-days worked during the year.

At the close of the year there were in all 647 grainshops. The number of ration card holders was 862,000 and the loss incurred in affording relief in kind to the staff was approximately Rs. 22.79 crores. This is equivalent to an average relief of about Rs. 22.4 per ration card holder per month, as against Rs. 16.6 during the previous year. Staff numbering 3,495 rendered surplus on Indian railways were absorbed in alternative employment, while 512 men were discharged.

The reorganisation of the publicity and public relations activities received special attention during the year. In January 1948, the Public Relations Branch under a Joint Director was created in the Railway Board's Office and towards the end of the financial year, there were Public Relations Officers at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Delhi, Gorakhpur and Pandu.

The Complaints Organization dealt with no less than 14,500 complaints on the Railway Administrations; of these, 2,250 complaints were received and dealt with in the office of the Railway Board itself.

Manufacture of Locomotives in India

Indian railways have between August 15, 1947, and December 31, 1948, received 62 locomotives from abroad—13 from Canada and 49 from the United States of America. Giving this information in the Dominion Parliament on February 23, 1949, in reply to a question put by Seth Govind Das, the Hon'ble Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Transport and Railways, said that 337 more locomotives are expected to be received from Canada after December 31, 1948, and their value will be approximately Rs. 15.25 crores. As regards the United States of America, 270 locomotives are expected to be received and their total value will be approximately Rs. 12.55 crores.

The Minister added that the Locomotive Building Workshop which was originally proposed to be constructed at Kanchrapara would now be located at Chittranjan, near Asansol. The workshop is designed for the manufacture of 120 Steam locomotives and 50 spare boilers per year. The workshop is still in the stage of construction and is expected to start work in January 1950 in the manufacture of locomotive parts. The East Indian Railway's Singhbhum Workshop at Tatanagar has also been sold to Messrs Tatas for development as a Loco Building Shop.

Of the surpluses of gram declared by East Punjab and the Union of East Punjab States and Patiala, the Central Food Ministry have allocated 80,000 tons to Bombay, 35,000 tons to Saurashtra, 20,000 tons to Madras, 9,000 tons to Baroda and 7,000 tons to Cutch.

Special trains were run to Bombay, Saurashtra and Mysore to enable these areas to receive their gram allotments in time. Quick Transport was also arranged for the movement of gram into other deficit areas. It is stated that of a total declared surplus of 2,30,000 tons of gram, about 40 per cent has already reached the deficit areas.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari laying the foundation stone of the Rajputana University at Jaipur on February 20. Standing behind is H. H. the Maharaja of Jaipur

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VISIT TO JAIPUR AND AJMER

HIS EXCELLENCY Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, returned to New Delhi on February 21 after a three-day visit to Jaipur and Ajmer. Besides civic receptions in both the cities where he was welcomed not only by the elected representatives but by the citizens themselves who turned out in thousands, His Excellency laid the foundation stones of a refugee township and the Rajputana university in Jaipur.

The city of Jaipur wore a festive appearance during the Governor-General's visit. Numerous gates had been erected to welcome His Excellency and there were buntings, the national and the Jaipur flags decorating the wide, clean streets of the city which were lined by people when the Governor-General drove through them. At night, the public buildings, the palaces and the historic fort were illuminated with electric bulbs in honour of the visit of the Head of the State.

Reply to Civic Address

The importance of Jaipur in view of its being the premier city in Rajasthan of which its Ruler is to be the Rajpramukh was emphasised by His Excellency in his public speeches.

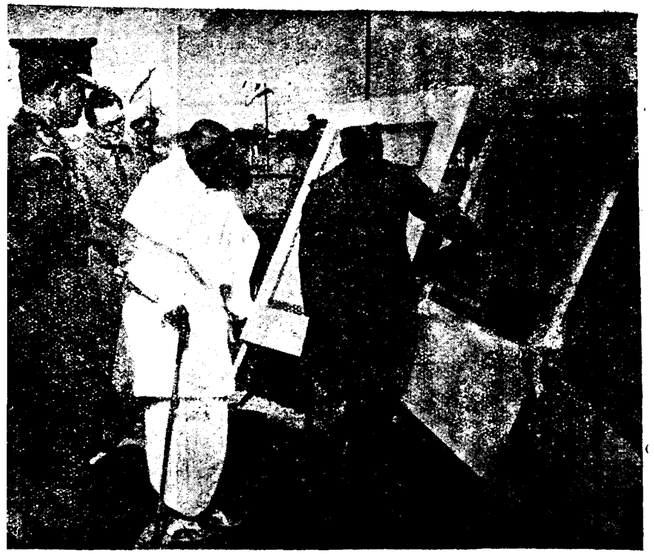
Replying to the civic address, the Governor-General said: "In Rajasthan you are going to erect a new order of Government and you have every chance of becoming more important than Bengal, Bombay or Madras. In the old days when foreigners came, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta were important because they were the stepping stones for them to get across from their ships into India. But in modern free India, cities like Jaipur in the interior, with an old history of freedom, will again get back their old inheritance. There is a great future before Rajasthan; there is a great future before your Ruler, there is a great future before everyone of you, my bothers and sisters."

In thanking the Municipal Commissioners and the citizens of Jaipur for the reception they had given him, the Governor-General said:

"This gathering demonstrates how you love order and how you love art and beauty. Unless we love order, we cannot attain the full value of freedom. In a gathering like this we see indeed that the roots of our culture are deep and strong. Unless our culture were strong and deeply rooted, we could not preserve order and we could not show our appreciation of art and beauty. I wish to impress upon you that unless we are orderly, we cannot progress.

"This City is an ancient and glorious centre of our culture. Your Municipal Commissioners have referred in their address to its history and its enlightenment and its place in Indian Culture. But merely being proud of our past is not enough. We shall be ungrateful to our forefathers if we do not immediately set about improving our character and our daily contact. If we are dishonest, we not only deceive our neighbours we deceive and insult our ancestors also. Our forefathers did not build the forts and the cities that we now enjoy for dishonest people. It is only if we behave well so that the great God is satisfied that we are honest and true and faithful to Him, that our freedom will give us any advantage or glory. If we deceive one another, this freedom will be worthless and all the world will point its finger of scorn at us.

"Let me tell you as the head of the State that the whole world looks forward in India to show to the rest of the world, how to live. If we had not had a great leader in recent times like Mahatmaji we might have escaped this attention. But after Mahatmaji lived his life and attained his glory, the whole world looks to us to discharge our obligations towards the rest of the world. Our leaders and our Government cannot become glorious



H. E. the Governor-General of India also laid the foundation stone of a refugee township at Jaipur on Feb. 19. Here His Excellency is studying the lay-out of the new township

unless every one of us humble citizens, behave rightly and properly towards one another. Our glory in the international world rests on the foundations of our daily lives in this country. We should therefore be true and good in our daily conduct. Any fraud in a bazar, any neglect of duty in the house, hurts the whole state."

Rajputana University

On the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the University of Rajputana, the Governor-General again referred to the future of Rajasthan.

He said: "It is a very great privilege that you have given me. I feel genuinely proud of having laid my fingers on the foundation of this new institution. We have seen many changes during the past few years, not the least of them being the coming together of a number of States for the common purpose of raising the standard of life of the people that belong to our country. Hitherto Governments centred round palaces, but now all administration centres round the life of the common man.

"Our old culture has stood by us well. All new cultures coming in India found a highly synthetic capacity in the old culture that belongs to her by right of inheritance. This is a truth which could be seen with the naked eye if we go round, as I have done, your great city. Your forts, your works of art and your buildings, all of them are clear demonstrations of the high potentiality of our own culture to adopt and assimilate whatever comes from outside. It is believed by some that it will be a pretty difficult task to make the culture of Rajasthan adopt modern progressive ideas. I do not think so. All that I have seen in India, especially here, proves our capacity for absorption and assimilation of alien cultures.

"If we look with an understanding eye into the culture that has produced the art of Jaipur, do we not clearly perceive that within a short time those who were the coustodians of culture in Rajasthan, whether in painting, literature, or music, adopted pretty easily what came with the Moghuls. Within a very short time there was a complete assimilation, such close and faithful assimilation that it is now difficult to say which was old and which new, which was earlier and which later. The assimilation is so perfect and yet they had not much time. The time that they had was divided between struggles and alliances. Yet in the midst of all this, a considerable synthesis has taken place. If we have found greater slowness, more hesitation and greater difficulty in assimilation of the modern ideas that came to India after the Moghuls, it is due to causes other than want of capacity to absorb. Something has prevented that close absorption and assimilation to which I have referred above. And personally speaking, I do not regret the slowness. Being conservative, I rather think the danger to guard against is too rapid assimilation.

"I have no doubt that Rajasthan will be a progressive and prosperous state. May the new University help to build that prosperity. Nothing can be developed in the intellectual or spiritual field except by good leadership from above and a university can promise that organised leadership. A university should be autonomous and free from political influences. Autonomy means really freedom from those influences which active politics are apt to generate in modern times. If that is ensured, the university is safe. Autonomy does not mean that the university should live in isolated obscurantism not minding what is happening in the world but carrying on in its own way.

Need for a Strong Centre

"In this connection, there is one aspect of the matter to which most minds in Rajasthan would automatically refer in their innermost thoughts. In place of the many separate and autonomous States we are now going to have one integrated State. It is necessary to have a strong Central Government in India to which the constituent units could look if we do not want confusion and deterioration. Dependence on a strong Central Government means, and necessarily involves, ntegration of various States. There are many advantages in such integration. You are now enabled to get larger finances for the University than you could possibly get from a single State. You can divide the faculties in such a way that you can all enjoy the advantages, each of every one else's effort.

"I have laid by your kindness what is called the foundation stone, although like many other things this is also a misnomer. I have touched it and you call that laying the foundation, but really the people of this state, the Government of this State and His Highness have laid the foundation for this university and it is on their behalf that I have performed this pleasant function.

"The Government of Jaipur has given the land, and has also given a *Guru Dakshina*, so to say, of Rs. 20 lakhs along with the land which I hope will be enough to put up the necessary buildings.

"May your efforts in this university bear fruit and may all the future boys and girls of Rajasthan find here an *Ashrama*, a place and a home where they can get all the learning and the spirituality associated with the great name of India all these centuries, and cultivate self-restraint and that which is called *dharma* in our beautiful language. Dharma is the stabilising factor for the whole world, and if this new university, which will in the history that will be written be associated with free India, truly a Rajputana University, is built on that foundation, according to its motto, nothing will prevent India from becoming great. I invoke the blessings of God on this new foundation."

During his stay in Jaipur, the Governor-General also laid the foundation stone of a refugee township, where 1,800 houses are proposed to be built. Since partition, Jaipur has received about 100,000 refugees, mainly from Sind. The State had secured a loan of Rs. 1 crore at 1½ per cent from the Centre for building houses for them. They proposed to build these houses on a co-operative basis. They had also two schemes for refugee colonies, one for an industrial centre and the other for the development of cottage industries.

His Excellency after laying the foundation stone said: "It gives me great pleasure to be present here and to perform this useful function. I do not know whether I should congratulate the Government of Jaipur or whether I should express my gratitude to them. This work is an obligation which the entire people of India owe to those who have been thrown into great and tragic distress as a result of the changes that we have had to go through along with the acquisition of freedom. No great gain can ever be attained by man without a corresponding amount of difficulty along with it.

Obligation Towards Refugees

"We have to provide for innumerable families of what are called refugees. Families, which have not only been displaced but practically ruined, seek and expect help from the State. I am very grateful, therefore, that the Government of Jaipur have undertaken this difficult and sacred task in some measure. Unless all Governments throughout India and all the communities throughout India co-operate, this great and sacred obligation cannot be fulfilled satisfactorily and I am very glad that Jaipur has set such a good example.

"Judging from what I see and from what I have heard I think this scheme will succeed. I wish all success to those who have put their patriotic endeavour in this task.

"I give you my best wishes, not only on my own behalf but on behalf of the Government which I represent."

Visit to Ajmer

In Ajmer, the Governor-General was welcomed to the Durgah of Khwaja Sahib by the Khadims of the shrine who, according to age-old practice, presented him the traditional turban, sword and the rosary. In their address the Khadims while expressing their gratification over His Excellency's visit said that it should be "a happy augury for the future of not only the Khadims, but the entire Muslim community in this part of the country."

The Governor-General's reply which was heard and applauded by a large number of Muslims who had gathered in the shrine, assured them that in the Secular State of India every citizen, irrespective of his religion or creed, had the same rights and privileges.

His Excellency said: "It has given me the greatest satisfaction that I have been able to come here. I hope you understand the sincerity of what I say when I tell you that I am glad that I have been with you in this sacred spot. A very great and good man's body lies buried here.

"There are many ways which people are following in order to reach what they cannot see with their own eyes, namely God. God is so great and so omnipresent that all ways lead to him. All the ways leading to God are sacred and we should respect them equally. There are many places in the South where Hindus participate in Muslim festivals and Muslims attend Hindu festivals. Scholars may imagine that it is ignorance that makes Muslims join in Hindu festivals and Hindus join in Islamic festivals; but it is not ignorance, it is truly God's wisdom that makes them so join.

"The highest wisdom that we can learn from our scriptures, whether it is Islamic scripture or Hindu scripture or any other scripture, is that all ways lead to God and we must respect one another as brothers and sisters. Let each one of us who has some wisdom in him maintain this line of conduct, whatever others might do. I give you my own personal assurance that to me every mosque, every church, every temple is equally sacred. If in Banaras we see on the banks of the Ganga not only temples, but also mosques, we must treat them all as equally sacred whatever may have been their history. Let us forget what has happened in the past, let us behave as brothers and sisters towards one another hereafter.

Sacred Character of Ajmer

"In free India all of us are free. If India becomes great, all of us become great and derive the advantage of India's greatness. Do not have any doubts in your mind about this. This Government and this country is yours as much as it is mine, and I say this not carelessly but in the presence of your great Saint. I thank you very much for the affection you have shown me and for the sacred presents you have given me."

Earlier in his reply to the Civic address the Governor-General referred to the sacred character of Ajmer and said:

"You have referred to the sacred character of this town. Not only Ajmer but every inch of land in India is sacred. There is no place in India where something great or sacred has not happened. Do you not know that Rama and Sita walked on their feet from Ayodhya to Ceylon? We need not go to places of pilgrimage to think of Rama. If we worship the memory of our great ancestors, wherever we are, whatever we are doing, we should behave rightly and properly. We have many sacred and beautiful places. We should be grateful to the Mogul Emperors for the beautiful gardens, the beautiful tanks and the beautiful pavilions they have left to us.

"I am very glad that you are taking good care of the historic places. Ajmer's sacred temples and dargahs deserve your utmost love and devotion. They are all sources of inspiration and without inspiration we cannot cope with the difficult problems we have to face these days. The skill and cleverness of administrators cannot achieve much unless all of us, brothers and sisters, get inspiration from God. We should remember that we are all children of one and the same father, and if we love and help one another India will become great. All roads lead to God, remember that, and that was the lesson which Mahatmaji taught until the hour of his death."

Speech at Mayo College

Presiding at the annual prize distribution of the Mayo College, Ajmer, His Excellency the Governor-General said:

"I must thank you for giving me this privilege of associating myself with the



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari addressing a Muslim gathering, which welcomed him to the Dargah Khwaja Sahib, the famous Muslim shrine in Ajmer

Let us all work each according to his capacity and everything will go well.

Like our old Rishis, Bapuji also has left behind him a Mantra which we should remember always. Ishwar and Allah are both God's names and this should be kept in mind with the same devotion as the Gayatri of our old Rishis. When our ancients gave a thousand names to God and asked people to utter those thousand names, they meant people to understand that God can be described in a thousand ways, and that we should not quarrel with one another over it. If anyone dishonours a man who worships God in a particular way, he dishonours and insults his own God. That is why Bapu asked the people to sing *Ishwar Allah Tere Nam*.

We have started on a new career. We have our own Government led by very good men and we must trust them. We must also do our own work properly and then all will be well with us. On your behalf may I say to the spirit of the mother whose death anniversary we are celebrating today that we will be true and loyal to her.

Monetary Assistance to Riot-Sufferers in South Africa

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on February 15, 1949, said:

Several offers from individuals and organisations were received by the Government of India for taking out medical missions and for rendering other kinds of aid to sufferers on account of the recent riots in Durban. These have been replied to individually. As regards offers for clothing supplies from India, the Natal Indian Congress has informed the Secretary to the Indian High Commissioner in South Africa, that in view of the cloth shortage in India and delay likely to occur in transmission, no clothing need be sent from India and that any further assistance from India, may, therefore, take monetary form. Donations may be remitted to the Secretary to His Excellency the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa, Cape Town.

A Press Note issued by the Indian Historical Records Commission February 23, 1949 said:

The Government of India have appointed Dr. F.T. Chiang, Director of National Central Library, Nanking; Dr. Li Chi, Section Head of Archaeology, Institute of History and Philology, Academi Sinica, Nanking; Mr. T.L. Yuan, Director of National Peiping Library, Piaping; Mr. Yao Chung-Wu, President of National Honan University, Kaifeng, Honan; Professor Tang Yung-Tong, Professor of National Peking University, Peiping and Professor Shinag Da, Nanking, as Corresponding members of the Indian Historical Records Commission for the period ending March 31, 1952.

They have also appointed Mr. Saeed Nafisi, Professor, University of Teheran and member of Anjuman-e- Iran Shenassi (Iranalogy Society), Teheran, as Corresponding Member of the Commission for the same period.

DUTCH ACTION IN INDONESIA

Foreign Missions Conference Urges Suspension of U. S. Aid

THE following Resolution passed by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, representative body of 102 Protestant denominations, in its Annual Meeting at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, from January 4 to 7, 1949, has been received by the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

All peoples have become geographical, economic and spiritual neighbours, and their interests are inseparable. The eyes of Asia are particularly directed to the policy of the United States. It is, therefore, urgent that American citizens and Christian agencies strive to understand the major problems and pressures faced by nations emerging from long periods of imperialistic colonialism and foreign domination. Such understanding is necessary if democratic and Christian principles are to be applied in world relations.

The present situation in Indonesia involves more than success or failure of the Indonesian Republic. A European nation of democratic traditions and outstanding devotion to the Christian faith has, by sudden attack upon the Indonesian Republic and imprisonment of of its leaders, violated the letter and the spirit both of its profession in these matters and of directives of the United Nations. This unjustifiable resort to arms is a denial of human brotherhood and of the basic Christian principles that man everywhere has the right of self-determination.

Unwarranted Invasion

These acts have already met with the disapproval, publicly expressed, of many Christian leaders in the Netherlands. Leaders of Government in free nations of Asia have been alarmed and resentful because of this unwarranted invasion which has only served to create disunity among nations and tends to foster an Asian block in world affairs.

Furthermore, with the Netherlands Government benefiting from European Recovery Programme aid on the one hand, while pursuing a policy of aggression in Indonesia on the other, the basic purposes of the European Recovery Programme are in effect defeated.

Therefore, be it Resolved;

1. That the Foreign Mission Conference of North America, representing 102 Protestant boards and agencies, command the Government of the United States for its stated policy during the period of the present emergency in Indonesia. We respectfully urge that the United States continue unwaveringly in this attitude even though it may have to stand alone among the Great Powers in refusing to buttress colonialism in Indonesia.

2. That we specifically urge the United States representative in the Security Council be instructed by the United States Government;

(*a*) to continue to demand withdrawal of the Netherlands Army to its lines as of December 19, 1948, and the release of the leaders of the Republic, without reservation or restriction, to take up again the governing of their territory;

(*b*) to press for renewed negotiations through the Good Offices Committee until such time as a conciliation or arbitration commission may be established, with insistence upon due respect for basic legal and human rights of all persons who have been involved in the struggle, whatever may have been the convictions to which they gave support, and

3. That we call upon the United States Government to hold in abeyance any further European Recovery Programme aid to the Netherlands Government until the latter fully complies with all demands made by the Security Council.

RS. 22.13 CRORES SPENT ON REFUGEES

The actual expenditure by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation so far reported in connection with the refugee problem amounted to Rs. 22.13 crores for the period September 6, 1947 (when the Ministry was set up) to December 31, 1948.

This was disclosed in the Dominion Parliament on February 16, by the Hon'ble Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation, in reply to an unstarred question.

Nearly Rs. 13.65 crores have been spent on refugee camps out of this amount, accounting for over 61 per cent of the total actual expenditure. About 21 per cent of the total expenditure has been spent on the construction of houses, loans and training centres for refugees.

The expenditure to staff during approximately 16 months to which these figures relate amounted to 2.12 per cent. of the total expenditure.

DISPLACED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

The total number of Hindu and Sikh Government servants in Pakistan who opted out for India is 1,38,171 and nearly all of them have been absorbed in Central and Provincial services, said Shri Mohanlal Saksena, Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, replying to a question in the Dominion Parliament on February 24.

In reply to another question the Minister said that Rs. 3,05,11,000 have been spent in advancing loans to refugees in the various parts of the country.

MANUFACTURE OF PHOTOFLASH LAMPS

Research Work at Delhi University

THE February issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research* deals with some important Indian researches. Three of them, deserving notice are:

A wide range of photoflash lamps suitable as sources of illumination for indoor instantaneous photography have been put on the market from time to time since 1930. Certain types of foil-filled lamps have been developed, for the first time in India, at the Department of Physics, University of Delhi, with indigenous materials. The exhaustive investigations carried out on these lamps, and reported in the February 1949 issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research show that these lamps compare quite favourably with the imported ones.

The essential constituents of the lamp are: (*a*) hollow bulb of known capacity (*b*) hair-thin filament connected to electrical leads (*c*) a primer compound coating the filament (*d*) aluminium foil-fillings and (*e*) Oxygen at suitable pressure.

The bulbs were those ordinarily used for lighting purposes. The pressure of oxygen in the bulb was kept below the atmospheric pressure to prevent accidents. The glass is required to be of a uniform texture to minimize chances of cracking.

For the filament for coating the primer compound, nichrome was found to be the most suitable one. Since only a few millimeters of the wire is employed, the gauge number should be such that even one or two volts from a cell could be sufficient to raise the temperature of the wire to a degree sufficient to cause the ignition of the primer compound. SWG No. 40 (resistance 94 ohms/meter) was employed. Half a centimeter of this wire was enough for the purpose.

Primer Compound

The primer compound is a mixture of sulphur, charcoal and nitre in the proportion of 2:1:1. This was coated on the filament with a paste of shellac in methylated spirit. The mixture burns with a fountain effect producing sparks and aids in the complete combustion of the foil contents of the bulb.

The aluminium foil varied in thickness from 0.000056 to 0.00012 Cm. and was locally produced by hammering in goldbeaters skin and were found to be quite satisfactory.

For complete combustion, the bulbs are filled with dry oxygen at a pressure of about 30 cm. of mercury when 65 milligrams of aluminium charge was employed.

The shortage of tung oil during the war led to a search for substitutes obtainable by processing available semi-drying and non-drying oils. Of the methods usually employed, the one described in an article appearing in the Journal, is the esterification of unsaturated fatty acids by alcohols more polyhydric than glycerol. In practice pentaerythritol and high polymerized alcohols have proved useful. Erythritol, and other sugar alcohols, sorbitol and mannitol, can also be employed.

The experiments described were conducted with cotton-seed oil, fish liver oil, fish oil, peanut oil and tall oil using 3 patented polyhydric alcohol products, "Pentek," "Dipentek" and "Polypentex" (containing different proportions of pentaerythritol and its polymers). The mixture of oil and the esterifying agent is cooked in an open metal kettle of monel metal. Polypentek esters prepared at a top temperature of 450°F. for about 60-70 minutes yield good results. The fish liver oils were found to be the fastest and the *tall* oil the slowest to esterify with "Dipentek." The others, cotton seed and peanut oils are intermediate. The drying rate of fish oil fatty acids esters is high and that of the groundnut oils the lowest. The cotton seed fatty acids esters dry better than fish fatty acids esters but the oil film is tacky even after 12 days.

The use of tung oil fatty acids in coesterification has been found to enhance the drying rate, the rate of bodying and the refractive index of the other fatty acid esters. The addition of oiticica oil fatty acid esters also improves these factors similarly. The synthetic oils body faster than alkali refined linseed oil but have lower refractive indices and the drying rates of linseed oil are superior to those of the corresponding bodied synthetic oils.

A number of common Indian fruits have been examined for their carotenoid pigment contents and the results reported in another article in the Journal. The carotenoid pigments are converted in the human body to Vitamin A and hence the data presented in the article are useful in indicating the nutritive value of the fruits in terms of Vitamin A. Water-melons, peaches and mangoes are rich sources of these pigments. Mango in particular (Alphonso and Saroli varieties) are shown to be extremely rich in these carotenoid pigments. Papaya and apricot are considered moderately rich sources and pineapple, mosambique orange, guava and musk melon are shown to be poor sources of carotenoid pigments.

Properties of Steels

Another illustrated article appearing in this issue of the Journal correlates the grain-size structure (fine or coarse) and the useful properties such as machineability, surface finish, toughness, hardness, heating range, ageing etc., of steels. A full understanding of the characteristics of fine and course grained steels lead to a correct choice of the type of steel for a particular purpose. Thus, coarse grained steel is recommended for easy machineability, deep hardening, etc., and fine grained steels are recommended where greater toughness with a given strength and hardness, wide heating range, freedom from cracking, warpage, etc., are of primary consideration.

STEEL AND SYNTHETIC OIL SCHEMES

PROPOSALS in regard to preliminary expenditure on schemes for the establishment of a new steel works in India and the manufacture of synthetic oil from coal were approved by the Standing Finance Committee when it met in New Delhi recently. The Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, presided.

As new undertakings for the manufacture of iron and steel are now the exclusive responsibility of the State, the Government decided some time ago to proceed with exploratory work in respect of the alternative schemes for the establishment of either one plant of one million ton capacity or two plants each of half-million ton capacity. Three firms of international repute were accordingly appointed to report independently on the first stage of the proposal, which relates to the making of a preliminary survey and report on the two schemes, and to advise on selection of sites, facilities for transport, water supply, power etc. They have completed their work and the project reports are expected very shortly. The total expenditure involved is estimated at Rs. 10 lakhs non-recurring.

The proposal to manufacture synthetic oil in India, it was explained to the Standing Finance Committee, is actuated by world shortage of petrol in general and India's dependence on imports of this commodity in particular. The Government of India last year invited an American firm of experts to prepare project study of a scheme for producing synthetic oil from Indian coal in units with capacities per annum of 1,000,000 tons, 500,000 tons, 250,000 tons and 100,000 tons each.

Services of German Experts

The firm has in its employ a number of German experts familiar with the technique of oil syntheis and will utilise their services in the preparation of the project study. The report is now in its final stages. Reports are also being obtained from two other quarters. For technical advice on these reports the Government has obtained the services of a German expert, Dr. W. F. A. Grimme. The total cost of these preliminary investigations will be Rs. 3,08,000 non-recurring.

The scheme, if finally accepted will not only provide a source for oil which is much needed, but should also secure a useful outlet for inferior grades of oils of which reserves in this country are plentiful.



H. E. the Governor-General presided over the annual prize distribution of Mayo College, Ajmer. Here, a student of the college is receiving a prize from His Excellency

activities here. I almost feel I have gained a few years by this experience. Nothing is more difficult than the problem of education in our country. I should say even politics, administration and international diplomacy may perhaps be easier than the problems of education we have to deal with in the present circumstances in our country. Everyone knows what schools and colleges are for, but very few can say precisely what should be done in order to attain the ends which they are intended to serve. And in our country we have further complications arising out of languages and religions.

Medium of Instruction

"I have gone round the school and I am quite certain in my mind that I have not seen any other school with such extensive accommodation, such fine patrons, such fine masters and other staff. If I could by some magic give such schools to all the boys and girls in our country it will be a source of great joy to me, but you know very well that we cannot do it. Every home will have to become an efficient school, and how can we make every home a good school for the children except by succeeding more and more in making every mother an excellent principal?

"As everyone assembled here knows, what we want is not that boys or girls under the age of 15 should be crammed with information but that they should be made to know how to think correctly and how to feel correctly—not only judgment, observation and things like that, but also sentiment and emotions. Every boy and girl should be brought up in that manner. Whether school masters can do this, whether mothers can do this or whether fathers can do this better than anybody else—is very difficult to decide. Probably all will have to co-operate.

"In our country the master's work is complicated by the fact that the child may be a Muslim or a Hindu or a Jain or a Sikh or a Christian, and so on. The child may be speaking Telugu, or Tamil or Hindi or Bengali or Hindustani. The medium of instruction in a school serving a large number of children is a headache to our headmasters and principals and educationists. On the subject of changing over from foreign things to indigenous things there is a slight thinking over again. Obsessions and fashions prevent correct thinking. In important institutions like this with large endowments and fine teachers, where boys from one end of the country to the other are brought together and are trained, we have to fall back on some form of common medium. It may be possible to use English as the medium of instruction but it is still an open question whether it is good to do so.

"We have inherited the finest material in the world, no doubt, both in culture and in brain matter, but we have not yet evolved a system which could make the best use of this material. By and by we may be able to do it. Meanwhile we should not destroy the existing experiment. That is the wisdom which I wish to place before you. May your experiment succeed from better to better."

(*Concluded in Column 3*)

Indian Commissioner in Mauritius Entertained

For the first time in the recent history of Mauritius leading members of all sections, Hindus, Muslims, Brahmins and Maulvis belonging to the Indo-Mauritian community had gathered at one place, when Mr. Mangial Desai, a local Gujrati Merchant-philanthropist arranged a dinner in honour of the Indian Commissioner, Mr. Dharam Yash Dev and Mrs. Dev. The gathering of about 500 included merchants, civil servants, planters, labour leaders and politicians belonging to different groups and parties. The happy and friendly atmosphere of the function was in marked contrast from the tense atmosphere prevailing in the Island's Indo-Mauritian community some months ago. Such a manifestation of communal cordiality was seen for the first time in Mauritius since the Colony's General Elections last July-August and also since the partition of India.

This was also the first important occasion when members of different sections of the Hindu community believing in caste differences sat with and ate at the same table with members of other communities.

Welcoming the Commissioner the host paid a tribute to the work done by the Indian Commissioner, Mr. Dharam Yash Dev, in promoting unity and friendship among the various sections of the Indo-Mauritian community and also for bringing about better understanding and cordiality among all communities and classes, and growing appreciation and understanding of India and the Indian culture by the people of Mauritius who are so cut off and insular.

Other speakers included the prominent Muslim Divine, Maulana Rashid Nawab (widely travelled and held in high esteem by 6,000 local Muslims) and Swami Nisreyasananda of the Ramakrishna Mission who recently arrived here from India. The Commissioner in his after-dinner speech gave the audience an idea of India's growing prestige and her importance in international affairs. He also gave a detailed resume of the significance of the recent Indonesian Conference. He appealed to his Indian compatriots to be united and strong and live on terms of utmost friendship and cordiality with members of other races and community in Mauritius.

After fulfilling the round of engagements, His Excellency found some relaxation when he was given a reception by the Maharaja in Jaipur club and he watched with interest an exhibition polo match between his team, which was captained by the Ruler of Cooch Behar and that of His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur. The Governor-General's team won and thus secured his congratulations and the cups.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari speaking on the fifth death anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi at Gram Seva Centre, Lado Sarai, near Delhi on Feb. 22. Shri Devadas Gandhi (on His Excellency's right) translated the Governor-General's speech from English to Hindustani

RAJAJI'S TRIBUTE TO KASTURBA

SPEAKING at the 5th Death Anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi at Gram Seva Centre, Lado Sarai near Delhi on February 22, 1949, His Excellency Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, stressed the need for social work in the villages by non-official agencies and urged the people not to depend on the Government for everything.

His Excellency said: Today is the sacred anniversary day of our Kasturba. Our duty today is to remember what she wanted us all to do. If a person dies with an unsatisfied desire, his spirit is believed to hover over us in order to enable and inspire us to fulfil that desire. Gandhiji died, all his wishes not satisfied; Kasturba passed away with most of her wishes not satisfied. It is our duty to complete and fulfil their wishes.

All the work that Bapu saw fulfilled was very good, but we cannot manage only with Government. There is still ample scope for social work in the villages by non-officials. Just as we cannot depend entirely on canal irrigated lands but must also look after dry fields, so also some part of the nation's work must be left to be done by non-official agencies. That is why funds have been started and movements have been set going so that those things which cannot receive direct Government attention may also be looked after. All the work done by non-official patriotic workers is valued very highly by the Government and must be kept going. I thank the villagers and the Congress Committee for their welcome addresses, and I shall ask my Government to attend to the points mentioned in them.

There is no conflict between villages and towns. Villages want a market and that is why towns have come to exist in the world. Let us not get impatient and quarrel with one another.

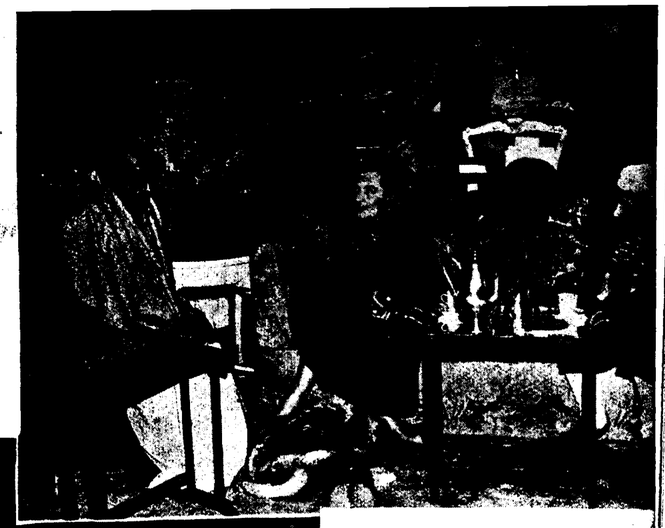


A Memorial Service on the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was held at the Timothy Eaton Church, Toronto (Canada), on Jan. 30. Picture shows the choir leaving the Church after the Service

LADY MOUNTBATTEN'S VISIT TO INDIA

Lady Mountbatten, accompanied by [illegible]aughter, Lady Pamela Mountbatten, is on a brief visit to India to study the [illegible]he United Council for Relief and Welfare, of which she is Patron-in-Chief. [illegible] after her arrival in New Delhi, she started on her round of visits [illegible]ational and training centres for refu[illegible]ildren







(Above) Lady Mountbatten on her arrival at Palam airport on Feb. 15 was received by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. (Right) Lady Mountbatten talking to refugee women in the Lahore Shed Camp. (Below) Lady Mountbatten helps a refugee child to put on its shoes



(Above) Lady Mountbatten with H. Shri C. Rajagopalachari and Pan Nehru at Government House, New Del (Left) Lady Mountbatten, Lady Nye, w of the U.K. High Commissioner in Ind and Mrs. John Matthai talking to girls the residential school for refugee childr in Ram Bagh, Delhi. (Below) La Mountbatten at Irwin Hospital, New De



(Below) Pandit Nehru and Lady Mountbatten at the Karnal refugee camp





of a Pharmacopoeial List of Indian medicine. It should give all the information, regarding the character, method of preparation, dosage and modes of administration with various vehicles.

As there is great difficulty in securing supply of genuine drugs for the manufacture of standard preparations, it is necessary that (*a*) collection and distribution of crude drugs be carried out under a Government license, and (*b*) those who sell crude drugs in the market be licensed and controlled.

A small committee consisting of the representatives of the Industry, Vaidyas, Hakims and a few modern pharmacists should be appointed to examine the requirements of the country in respect of indigenous drugs and finished preparations and suggest how best the control may be exercised.

Certain minimum standards should be laid down regarding the minimum staff, equipment and accommodation necessary for the efficient working of commercial manufacturing firms.

In respect of procuring excisable and poisonous drugs such as opium, ganja, alcohol, arsenic, etc., the facilities available to manufacturing firms of Western medicine should be made available to firms preparing Indian medicines.

Course for Pharmacists

Well-trained pharmacists in Indian medicine are essential for making available reliable preparations to the public and the Committee envisaged above should recommend ways and means to start a suitable course for training pharmacists.

The profession of pharmacy relating to Indian medicine should be controlled by proper registration on the lines of similar legislation enacted for the profession of pharmacy of Western medicine.

The many proposals made by the Committee would naturally involve additional expenditure to the Central and Provincial Governments and the States. The Committee are unable to make detailed recommendations in this regard, but urge that, in the existing health condition of rural India, medical relief should receive a high priority in provincial budgets.

A liberal Government grant should be given to selected existing educational institutions, for adequate accommodation, equipment and staff. A sum of Rs. 2 to 2½ lakhs as capital expenditure and Rs. 1 to 1½ lakhs as recurring expenditure should be given to each institution selected for the purpose by a committee to be appointed for the purpose. The total cost will be Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs and the recurring expenditure Rs. 10 to 15 lakhs annually divided among provinces and States.

The subvention of Rs. 30 per month for each trainee for the rural medical scheme will cost a sum of Rs. 1,20,000 to each provincial Government for training 600 practitioners every year.

An officer should be appointed under the Health Ministry to hold charge of

(*Concluded in Col. 2*)

B. C. G.—EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

A Press Note issued by the Directorate-General of Health Services, Government of India, on February 21, 1949, said:

In connection with the use of B.C.G. as a preventive vaccination against tuberculosis, the Directorate-General of Health Services, Government of India, are in full agreement with the views expressed in the following statement issued by 12 well-known doctors headed by Dr. B.C. Roy, Premier of West Bengal. The other signatories are: Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, Premier of Baroda; Dr. K.S. Ray, President of the Indian Medical Council; Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India; and the eight members of the Standing Technical Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India, namely, Dr. R.B. Billimoria, Dr. A.C. Ukil, Dr. R.B. Lal, Dr. B.B. Yodh, Dr. K. Vasudeva Rao, Dr. K.L. Wig, Dr. S.K. Sen, and Dr. P.V. Benjamin:

"B.C.G. vaccination was started in India in August, 1948, and has been in use at Madanapalle in South India and at Delhi in North India since then. Plans are being made by the Government of India to extend the use of this vaccine to all Provinces and some of the States in the near future.

"In the Press Communique published by the Government of India in June, 1948, a review was made of the tuberculosis position in India, and the place that B.C.G. vaccination can have in the campaign against the disease was discussed. Since then there have been a number of articles in the Press, some advocating the use of the vaccine and others raising doubts in the minds of the people regarding the efficacy of B.C.G. vaccination and its harmlessness. Doubts have also been expressed as to whether the Government and the people will be led into a false sense of security against the disease because of the vaccination and thereby neglect attention to the other aspects of the control of tuberculosis, such as improvement of environmental hygiene, housing, nutrition and sanitation as well as a direct attack on the spread of the disease through the isolation and treatment of infective cases by the provision of an adequate number of clinics, hospitals, sanatoria and after-care colonies.

"Such doubts were expressed when smallpox vaccination was first introduced, but in the end truth prevailed. In view of the likely public criticism we felt it desirable to place before them our considered views on B.C.G. vaccination.

"B.C.G. vaccine (Bacilus Calmette guerin) was developed by Calmette in Pasteur Institute, Paris, after 13 years of careful experimentation and work. It was used on human beings in 1921. Proper technique and dosage have been carefully worked out by Calmette and workers from other countries since that time. By the end of 1948 more than one million people were vaccinated in Denmark, Norway and Sweden alone. Vaccination has also been practised in other countries like the U.S.A., Canada, South America, Russia and, more recently, in most of the other European countries and it is estimated that over 10 million people have been vaccinated up to date all over the world.

"As a result of careful study of the literature on the subject we are convinced (1) that B.C.G. vaccination is efficacious and that, if it is carried out on a mass scale, it can be expected to reduce tuberculosis mortality in India very considerably (2) that it is entirely harmless and (3) that segregation of the vaccinated is not essential.

We are also convinced that B. C. G vaccination is only one of the many measures to be employed for the control of tuberculosis and that other steps such as improvement of the standard of living, including better housing, improved sanitation and adequate nutrition are equally necessary. The establishment of institutions for the early diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, and particularly for the isolation of infected tuberculosis cases is also of great importance.

Lack of Trained Personnel

"Paucity of funds and lack of trained personnel stand in the way of a rapid advance in the carrying out of these measures and the place of B.C.G. vaccination in the tuberculosis campaign for promoting the resistance of the people against the infection becomes all the more important. We believe that if wholehearted support is given for the popularisation of this vaccine, a very real advance in the control of tuberculosis would be achieved at a comparatively cheap cost. We would at the same time stress the importance of simultaneous adoption of other measures.

"It may be noted that even in western countries with a high standard of living and an advanced state of improved environmental hygiene and better nutrition, it has been found necessary to adopt B.C.G. vaccination as one of the anti-tuberculosis measure to be promoted actively by the Governments concerned. The need for using the vaccine in India as an important measure to supplement other steps taken to fight the disease is all the more important."

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the section of Indian medicine and to be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Committee and co-ordinating work in the provinces and States.

The Committee toured all the provinces and States, and met a large number of practitioners and institutional representatives of the various indigenous and modern systems of medicine in India, and also visited several Indian medical institutions and hospitals.

IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad inaugurating the Education Ministers' Conference in New Delhi on Feb. 19

Maulana Azad's Speech at Education Ministers' Meeting

THE importance of implementing the educational development programme as early as possible was stressed by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, in his inaugural speech at the meeting of provincial Education Ministers which was held in New Delhi on February 19, 1949.

Among those who were present in the meeting included the Hon'ble Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, the Hon'ble Shri Gopinath Bardolai, Premier of Assam, Shri T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar, Minister of Education, Madras, Pandit Lingaraj Misra, Minister of Education, Orissa, Shri H. N. Chowdhury, Minister of Education, West Bengal, and Acharya Badrinath Varma, Minister of Education, Bihar. Other provinces were represented by their respective Directors of Public Instruction or Education Secretaries.

Maulana Azad in his speech emphasised the necessity of making an early start with the educational development programme, particularly the scheme for social education and the training of teachers required for spread of basic education. He stated that freedom had roused great expectations among the people, but unfortunately the unprecedented problems which came in the wake of partition of the country and later on the financial difficulties which we faced in recent months had held up progress in all spheres of national activity, including education.

The Government, said the Education Minister, was anxious to devise ways and means by which, inspite of the financial stringency, a start should be made with the implementation of our educational schemes. While it was important that the financial position of the country should be restored to normal as soon as possible, the urgent need for the spread of education could not be minimised.

Continuing Maulana Azad said that as they were all aware, the original plan for educational development, as set out in the Sargent Report, was to introduce compulsory basic education in a period of 40 years. This, however, was too long a period and after the All India Education Conference held last year Government had appointed the Kher Committee to devise ways and means to introduce universal compulsory basic education in a shorter period. That committee had recommended that compulsion for the age group, six to eleven, should be introduced by two five-year plans and that the provinces and the Centre should share the expenditure in the ratio of 70—30. On these bases, the contribution of the Centre would have been about rupees five crores and forty lakhs out of a total estimated additional expenditure of rupees eighteen crores in the first year.

The Education Minister while referring to the Economy Committee appointed by the Cabinet in view of the serious economic situation some time back said that the Economy Committee had after scrutinising all means of reducing expenditure suggested that the education programme should be slowed down. Therefore the full scheme could not be put into operation immediately, but he had decided that a beginning must be made this year. He further added that if all the provinces were not in a position to start the programme immediately, at least those provinces, which were able to do so would be given all possible assistance by the Centre.

Social Education

Regarding the scheme of Socia Education Maulana Azad said that the Committee on Social Education appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Education had recommended that the education of adults should not only be confined to imparting literacy but should also give them training in the elements of citizenship. This is a task which could not wait and he hoped that all provinces would agree to make a start with the Social Education schemes during the next financial year. He called upon the meeting to decide the way in which the funds that may be available at the Centre for this purpose were to be distributed.

The Education Minister also stressed the importance of making a beginning in training basic education teachers. In view of the large number of teachers required to implement the basic education scheme, he expressed the willingness of the Central Ministry of Education to assist provinces financially.

At the resumed sitting on February 20, 1949, under the Chairmanship of Shri B.G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, the meeting discussed ways and means of implementing the Educational development programme, particularly the Social Education and Basic Education Schemes.

INTEGRATION OF INDIAN AND WESTERN SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

"THERE is urgent necessity for inaugurating research in Indian medicine so that it may, in an abundant measure, contribute to the corpus of medical science and art. By research, Indian medicine, which has been static for many centuries, will once again make its contribution to the welfare of the people of this country and of the world," says the Report of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine published recently The Committee was appointed by the Government of India in December, 1946, under the chairmanship of Col. R. N. Chopra.

The following is a brief summary of the Committee's more important conclusions :

Medical relief afforded by Western medicine in India at present is extremely inadequate, says the Report. Indian medicine, in spite of its static condition, is still largely practised in India. There is demand for it on the part of large and varied sections of the population. It helps to fill the big gaps in the present State-sponsored and State-maintained systems of Western medicine.

The Committee are of the opinion that while Indian medicine can take much of practical value from Western medicine, especially in the fields of surgery, obstetrics, structural physiology, pathology and diagnostic methods and appliances, the latter can also learn much from the philosophic background of Indian system, its comprehensiveness, the importance it attaches to the soil factor and dietary, its generalisation of principles and the knowledge of truth gained by the use of supra-sensory perception.

The Committee do not believe that there can be separate systems of Western or Indian medicine. Science is universal and medical science is no exception. The so-called "systems" merely represent different aspects and approaches to medical science as practised in different ages and in different parts of the world. The aim of all is the maintenance of health, and prevention and cure of disease. Anything of value emerging from these should be integrated and utilised for the benefit of humanity without reservation.

Integration Practicable

Such a unified system will give our people the benefits of all the advances that western medicine has made and will provide them with a system more in keeping with their habits, tastes and requirements and which from its comparatively cheaper medicines will be more suitable to their economic circumstances.

The Committee are of the opinion that integration of Indian and Western systems of medicine leading to synthesis is not only possible but practicable and recommended that immediate steps should be taken in this direction.

The first step will be integration of the courses of study by arranging curricula in such a way that whatever is weak in one system is supplemented and

Chopra Committee's Recommendations

strengthened by the strong points of the other system or systems. The second step will be teaching of each subject by the same teacher, instead of by separate teachers as now, giving the students a unified view of the Indian and Western medicine. The final step will be in the field of research where experts of Indian and Western medicine will work side by side, checking and verifying the various hypotheses and theories, either rejecting or harmonising them. If the theories are such as could neither be rejected nor reconciled, they are to be used as parallel hypotheses.

Just as Western medicine is being taught in the colleges of Indian medicine, Chairs of Indian medicine should be established in the colleges teaching Western medicine.

To facilitate the integration of teaching and studies the following steps should be taken simultaneously : (*i*) improvement in the basic education of the entrants, (*ii*) compilation of unified text-books giving integrated versions of Indian and Western medicines, and (*iii*) training of special teachers for integrated studies.

Supply of Teachers

The first source of supply of teachers for integrated studies will be from the present schools and colleges of Indian medicine. Promising graduates of both systems with proper training will form the second source of supply to the future colleges provided good prospects are offered to them. The students should have working knowledge of Sanskrit or Arabic for Indian medicine and sound knowledge of English and basic modern sciences—chemistry, physics and biology—before starting professional studies.

One objection raised against integration is that it will give rise to mental confusion in the student but if the teachers and the taught are of the right type this should not occur. The other objection is that the integrated studies cannot be completed in the time specified for the course.

If the syllabus is properly worked out and a lot of unnecessary details eliminated, as is now being proposed in America and has also been recommended by the Health Survey and Development Committee, there should be no difficulty in completing the integrated course with the specified period.

The conception of education to be given to a medical practitioner must be considerably altered and enlarged so that he not only has knowledge of technical subjects, but also a general background of sociological subjects. In other words, he should have the fullest opportunities for the development of scientific and humanistic talents to enable him to be a friend, philosopher and guide to his patients.

The curriculum of studies should be so arranged as to give the student adequate knowledge of Indian medicine with essentials of modern Western medicine, particularly in those branches where Indian medicine is deficient, to make him fit for modern conditions of practice.

The course of training should extend to five years. A short-term course of three years should be conducted for an interim period, till an adequate medical personnel is trained to work in the rural areas. A curriculum of studies, which should be uniform all over the country, has been worked out and syllabus given in the Report.

The Government should set up a Board of experts for editing and publishing classical texts and compiling the right kind of text-books harmonising ancient and modern knowledge, first in Hindi in the case of Ayurveda, and Urdu in the case of Unani, and later to translate them into provincial and regional languages.

Training Facilities

Teaching institutions should be adequately subsidised by the State and maintained at a certain standard. There should be at least one well-equipped and adequately staffed institution in each Province and State in which the teachers should be adequately paid so that they do not have to resort to private practice. Those institutions which do not come up to the standard should not be allowed to carry on with the work of instruction. Such institutions should, if possible, be grouped together into one good institution or used for relief purpores. All teaching institutions should also be centres for carrying out research in which both students and teachers should participate.

The permanent increase in the number of trained medical personnel will take a long time and, even if they are available at a distant date, these persons will settle by preference in towns and cities only, in spite of monetary inducements to settle in villages. The pressing problem of immediate rural medical relief will thus remain unsolved. The Committee, therefore, suggest that use should be made of the existing practitioners of Indian medicine by giving them necessary training in public health and other essential subjects.

Medical Relief

According to figures collected by the Committee there are more than 2,00,000 indigenous practitioners in India and out of these it should be possible to get 25,000 to come forward for this training course during the next five years. In addition to this, there are about 4,000 of institutionally qualified practitioners. This number should be sufficient to man the primary village dispensaries so urgently needed.

The following suggestions have been made : (*i*) a six months' course in the elements of public health, minor surgery, obstetrics, etc., be given to them, (*ii*) registered practitioners, who wish to take the course, be given a subvention at Rs. 30 per month, (*iii*) graduates of schools and colleges of Indian medicine, who wish to take advantage of the scheme, be allowed to sit for the examination without taking the course, and (*iv*) those who pass the examination should be taken in the scheme of rural medical relief.

There should be common all-India standards of professional and technical education for health personnel and a stable continuous long-range health policy. To implement the scheme suitable text-books should be written by an expert committee and made available to rural medical personnel in all provincial and regional languages.

A medical practitioner, trained according to the Committee's scheme, is to be put in charge of a rural dispensary to serve a population of 3,000 to 3,500 which will be the primary unit of medical relief. The secondary unit will be in charge of an institutionally qualified person with headquarters in a big village giving relief to a population of 10,000. This unit shall also supervise the work of primary units. The Panchayat Unit is to be a mobile unit with emergency equipment and nursing staff and serve a population of 50,000.

There should be adequate provision for in-patients in the taluk, district and presidency towns. These hospitals should provide relief in all the branches of medicine, be well-equipped and manned by both practitioners of Indian and Western medicine, the latter doing surgical and obstetrical work and the former treating mainly with Indian medicine. This bilateral arrangement will be only for a short time—until the synthesis has been effected.

State Control

The Committee consider that the time has come for the Government to deal with the control of medical education and practice in a comprehensive manner and that the Government should set up a special committee to go into the matter so that an all-India system of control is evolved and, if possible, one single Register for all recognised systems by a comprehensive Act of the Central Government.

If the problems of health and medical relief are to be tackled on a national footing, the State should take in its purview all the recognised systems in the country and legislate comprehensively for all, instead of by piece-meal provincial legislation.

In legislating for the control of recognised systems of medicine the following fundamentals should be kept in view : (*i*) adequate provision for the supervision of medical education of all the recognised systems, and of their teaching and treating institutions, (*ii*) registration of practitioners of the recognised systems, (*iii*) disciplinary control over practice, and (*iv*) setting up a consultative and advisory body on matters relating to public health and medical relief.

To implement these proposals the Committee recommend the formation of a statutory body which may be called the National Medical Board. This Board should consist of two autonomous sections—the Indian Medical Council and the Council of Indian Medicine—one dealing with Western medicine and the other with Indian medicine. The Provincial and regional branches should be affiliated to the Board which will also be an appellate authority over disciplinary actions on practitioners and institutions taken by provincial branches.

Registration should be made compulsory for all practitioners in order to eliminate quacks and prevent the credulous public from being exploited. The Register of practitioners of Indian medicine should be separate from that of the practitioners of Western medicine for the present. Later, when the standard of education in the colleges of Indian medicine improves and the non-institutionally qualified fade out, the question may be reviewed and the desirability of having one Register considered.

In the case of those who have no recognised academic qualifications, including well known Vaidyas and Hakims, no distinction should be made in the Register between the institutionally qualified and non-institutionally qualified. There should, however, be separate electorates for each of them for representation in the Councils.

Need For Research

The Committee is convinced that there is a wealth of medical knowledge and experience in Indian medicine which needs proper investigation. It should be the purpose of painstaking research to salvage and collect this knowledge and experience and make it available to the country. The approach to research should be more in accord with the systems themselves, *i. e.*, not only through observation and experimentation in the laboratory, but also through meditational and intuitional means as practised by ancient savants.

Research, the Report says, should have a two-fold aim : (*i*) to clear Indian medicine of centuries of accretions of doubtful value and make its science and art intelligible to the modern mind, and (*ii*) to work for a synthesis of the Indian and Western medicines so as to evolve a unified system of medical relief and education, suitable for conditions of life in India.

Research should be conducted under the following categories : (*i*) Research in the fundamental doctrines of Ayurveda and Unani Tibb, (*ii*) Research in the ancient literature on medicine, (*iii*) Clinical Research, (*iv*) Drug Research—Pharmacological, Pharmaceutical and Botanical, (*v*) Research on nutrition and dietetics, and (*vi*) Research on psychological aspects of medicine.

A Central Council of Research in Indian Medicine should be set up immediately whose functions will be analogous to those of the Central Medical Research Organisation. The Council should consist of (*i*) eminent practitioners of Indian medicine, (*ii*) representatives of scientific bodies, dealing with Indian medicine, and (*iii*) representatives of educational institutions where research in Indian medicine is being carried on.

The functions of this Council should be (*i*) the formulation of policy of research in Indian medicine, (*ii*) the co-ordination of policy with that of other medical bodies and other research activities, (*iii*) the organisation and general control and supervision over the Central Research Institute in Indian medicine which is to be established, (*iv*) stimulation of research in Indian medicine in the Universities and educational institutions, (*v*) laying down of rules for the appointment of Directors, and superior staff, (*vi*) appointment of the staff (*vii*) appointment of Advisory Committees for research in special subjects, and (*viii*) allocation of funds and grants-in-aid for research work in the Central Research Institute and in other cetres.

The progress of work in the various departments of this institute should be published in a journal.

In the Central Research Institute provision should be made for post-graduate courses and training of research workers; research fellowship of the value of Rs. 150 per month should be established tenable for three years in the first instance to be extended to five years in special cases.

There is great difficulty in correctly identifying many of the medicinal plants used in Indian medicine. This work should be taken up in all the provincial and regional centres and co-ordinated under the direction of the proposed Central Research Institute. The identification of medicinal plants will be helped to a great extent if a herbarium of properly identified and preserved specimens of all known medicinal plants is established. Such collections already exist in the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun; the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta; and the Drug Research Laboratory, Kashmir.

For the extension of medical relief on rational lines, it is necessary not only to study medicinal plants, but also to cultivate them for obtaining authentic and regular supplies. To do this successfully, a careful survey of these plants is necessary in order to determine suitable localities for their cultivation.

Book on Materia Medica

As the existing literature on the subject is scattered and not easily comprehensible to students and practitioners, a proper text-book on materia medica should be compiled giving all the necessary particulars of different drugs by collecting and sifting all available information.

It is not possible to prepare an Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia on the lines of Western Pharmacopoeias in the absence of the necessary data required for this purpose in connection with drugs.

The Central Research Institute should appoint an expert committee to collect data, and consolidate it in the form of two lists—one of single important drugs and the other of important compound preparations. This will form the basis

NEW EDUCATIONAL SET-UP OF FREE INDIA

Maulana Azad's Convocation Address at Aligarh University

"THE Educational set-up for a secular and democratic State must be secular," said Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, in his convocation address at the Aligarh University on February 20, 1949. Maulana Azad added: "It should provide for all citizens of the State the same type of education without any distinction. It should have its own intellectual flavour and its own national character. It should have as its aim the ideal of human progress and prosperity. The Indian Union has set before itself such a scheme of common education for all without distinction or discrimination in favour of any community or group."

Here is the text of the Minister's address:

In accepting the invitation extended so cordially by your Vice-Chancellor to come and address the annual Convocation of the Aligarh University, it was but natural that my thoughts should turn to the occasion when I first came in contact with it. That was 36 years ago and took place in circumstances which represented me to many as an opponent of this Institution.

The facts of the case were, however, entirely different. It was a time when Indian Muslims not only stood aloof from all political movements of the day but were inclined to oppose the country's struggle for emancipation. The single largest factor responsible for such political inertia of the Indian Muslims was the lead which the *late* Sir Syed Ahmed, founder of this Institution had given in the last quarter of the 19th century. The Aligarh party which continued his policy tried to keep the Muslims out of the Indian National Congress and was generally successful except in the case of a few distinguished individuals.

A Tribute to Sir Syed

It was in this background that I brought out the *Al Hilal* in 1912. From the beginning of my political life I was convinced that Indian Muslims must participate in the movement for emancipation and work towards that and through the National Congress. It was inevitable that I should criticise the political lead which the late Sir Syed Ahmed had given and which represented the policy of the Aligarh party. I, therefore, came into a clash with this party on the political issue. This was, however, regarded by its members as opposition not only to the founder's political policy but to the institution itself. In fact, some of them went so far as to look upon me not only as an opponent but an enemy of Sir Syed Ahmed and Aligarh.

Nothing was, however, farther from the truth. It is true that I regarded the political lead of Sir Syed Ahmed as a grave blunder but at the same time I had the highest admiration for the educational and other reforms which he carried out. I regarded, and still regard, him as one of the greatest Indians of the 19th Century. His achievement in the field of education and social reform could not, however, blind me to the wrong lead he gave to Indian Muslims in the fields of politics.

Thirty-six years have passed since then but as I survey the course of events during this period, I find no reason to revise my judgment on this issue. I then held and still hold that Sir Syed was a great reformer in the educational and social fields, but the wrong lead he gave in politics has been responsible for many of the evils from which we have suffered. It is, however, not my purpose to discuss the political role to-day but to pay my tribute to the memory of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the educational reformer who laid the foundation of modern education among Indian Muslims.

The Cry of Religion

To-day, western education has become a part of our national life and we naturally think of it when we use the term education. It is therefore, difficult to realise the opposition and struggle which a hundred years ago faced the reformers who wanted to introduce this new education to India. They had not only to blaze a new trail but had to contend with obstacles and difficulties at every step. They had to face all those forces which any reform movement has to face. The prejudices and superstitions of ages clouded the minds of the people. Accepted beliefs and age-old sentiments were both against such change. The cry of religion supplied the opponents of progress with one of their most potent weapons. The path of religion is not in fact opposed to that of reason and knowledge but unfortunately this has often been represented to be so. The usual cry was that Western education is opposed to the teachings of religion and those who hold religion dear must therefore stick to the old education.

Human thought has had to face this conflict at different times in different countries. Europe went through this struggle in the 17th and 18th centuries while the Eastern countries faced this conflict in the 19th century. The Hindus of India faced this struggle earlier and quickly ended it. Among the Muslims, it took a longer time but in the end the inevitable happened. The forces of change triumphed and the new order had to replace the old. So far as Muslims of India are concerned, one can assert without fear of contradiction that the man who played the most important role in this struggle is the presiding spirit of this University. The battle was fought here in Aligarh and Aligarh is a visible embodiment of the victory of the forces of progress.

Some of our writers have compared Sir Syed Ahmed Khan with Raja Ram Mohan Roy. To a large extent the comparison is valid. What Raja Ram Mohan did for Bengal was done by Sir Syed Ahmed 40 years later for Northern India and especially for the Muslims of the country. The only difference between the two is that the main reforms of Raja Ram Mohan Roy were in the field of religion while those of Sir Syed were in the field of education. They have, however, left the stamp of their personality in all spheres of intellectual activity. Religion, education, social life, language, literature and journalism bear witness to their spirit of reform and creative energy.

We have also to remember that even though Sir Syed Ahmed was opposed to the political movement of the Congress there was not the least tinge of communal politics in his attitude. His activities even in the political field comprised both Hindus and Muslims. He was throughout his life a believer in Hindu-Muslim unity. He opposed whatever was in any way likely to cause dissension or difference between them. In his speeches, he again and again used the beautiful metaphor that Hindus and Muslims are the two eyes of Mother India. If any one of the eyes were hurt, it would disfigure Mother India's face.

We can form some idea of his outlook on Indian nationalism from the significance he gave to the term 'Hindu.' In addressing an association of Hindus in Lahore he said "I am sorry that you have restricted in this manner the application of the term 'Hindu.' You have applied it to a particular religious group. But to my mind this application is wrong. I count as Hindu all those who are the inhabitants of this country whatever be their religion or race. This is the reason why I take pride in the fact that I am a Hindu." If the Hindus and Muslims of India had understood the spirit of this teaching and followed it, the whole course of recent events would have taken a different turn.

Creation of Aligarh College

Sir Syed Ahmed laid the foundations of this educational institution with a specific object. He had been impressed by the spirit of English education and realised that its excellence lay not in mere imparting of instruction but in training of a special kind. The peculiarity of this training was that it developed the character of young men and women and gave them a distinct stamp. He also felt that along with European education, the Muslims must have religious instruction and training. He knew that without such provision, the new education would not be popular among the Muslims. He realised that his objects could not be achieved without a special institution for the purpose. He, therefore, dedicated the remaining years of his life to the creation of the Aligarh College. We must remember that this was the first Institution in India which sought to create the atmosphere of a British Public School.

The scheme he had in mind initially was the establishment of a residential university on the lines of Cambridge. He had, however, to content himself with the establishment of only a College. Considering the prevalent conditions, this was no mean achievement. The movement for the University was started after his death as a memorial to him and was accomplished after hard labour of some 20 years.

Sir Syed had established in Aligarh not only a College but an intellectual and cultural centre in tune with the progressive spirit of the times. The centre of this circle was Sir Syed himself and he attracted round him some of the best intellects of the day. Perhaps no journal in India has ever had such influence upon the mind of the generation as his *Tehzib-ul-akhlaq*. Sir Syed founded this journal after return from his English tour. He and his colleagues were its main contributors. In fact, this journal laid the foundation of modern Urdu literature and so developed the language that to-day it is capable of expressing the highest and most abstruse thought.

Transitional Age

Perhaps there was not a single literary figure among the Muslims of the day who was not influenced by his circle. The best Muslim authors of the modern age were nourished here. Here developed the new schools of research, interpretation and reconstruction of Muslim thought. Though modern Urdu poetry was born in Lahore, it was here that it found the atmosphere most conducive to its growth. Poems of a new style were composed and read at the sessions of the Mohammadan Education Conference. This was also the first form of Urdu oratory. All the important speakers of the day were created or nurtured on this platform.

The 19th century was for India, as for other regions in the East, a transitional age. The old forms of life and thought were being demolished and new ones set up in their place. The old earth of India was being moulded into a new form. So far as the Indian Moslems are concerned, one can say that it was in Aligarh that these movements of reform were consummated. It was one of the regions which took the lead in the creation of a new India. The 19th Century marked a period of renaissance for the Indian spirit and Aligarh was one of the centres of such renaissance.

It is true that with the death of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Aligarh lost many of its distinctive features. Though the College was raised to a University, it could not revive the traditions of its early glory. Nevertheless, you must remember that this glorious heritage is yours, and it is for you to revive the past splendour of Aligarh. The inscriptions which have been carved on the walls of your Strachy Hall may fade with the passage of time, but the inscriptions which Aligarh has written on the modern period of Indian history can never fade. Future historians will discover in Aligarh one of the main sources which has contributed to the evolution of modern India.

An educational institution which has such a glorious past must necessarily hold the promise of an equally glorious future. I am not aware what is the state of your minds today, nor in what colours the future appears to you. Does it bring to you the message of closing doors or of opening gates that introduce you to new vistas of experience? I do not know what visions are before you, but I will tell you what visions I see. You perhaps feel that doors that were open have been closed. I see that doors that were locked have now opened. In the words of the Persian poet—

Tafawut aet mian-i-shanidan-i-man-o-to

Tu bastan-i-dar, o, man fatahe-bab me shanwam.

What you and I hear are different. You hear the sound of closing doors but I of doors that open.

I want that I should speak to you frankly and without mental reservations and I am sure that this is what you expect of me. If I thought that you are still living in that atmosphere of communal politics which was prevalent before August 15, 1947, I would without hesitation say that your future does not hold that promise which, as an Indian Muslim, I would like you to have. I am glad that there has been a profound change since then and the signs of a new era are becoming clearer every day. You have realised in good time what must be the intellectual atmosphere of this institution in the changed circumstances of today. You have responded to the call of new times and created conditions which are in conformity with the changed outlook. I have no hesitation in saying that by conforming to the spirit of the times, you have rendered a great service not only to this institution but to all Muslims of the Indian Union. For this, I extend to you my sincere congratulations.

National Education

I would like to describe to you briefly the Central Government's plan and programme of national education and the place which an institution like Aligarh will have in that new scheme. I think you will agree that the educational setup for a secular and democratic State must be secular. It should provide for all citizens of the State the same type of Education without any distinction. It should have its own intellectual flavour and its own national character. It should have as its aim the ideal of human progress and prosperity. The Indian Union has set before itself such a scheme of common education for all without distinction or discrimination in favour of any community or group.

At the same time, it recognizes that there is scope for educational institutions which emphasise certain special types of learning. Their doors should, however, be open to all who are interested in such studies. This is the sphere of national education in which your institution can find its proper place in conformity with the spirit of the times. In this way, you will, in spite of your special characteristics, be a part of the general scheme of education and serve a special function in it. For this you must, however, display the widest catholicity of spirit. It is said that Plato had the following text inscribed on his Academy: 'Those who do not know Geometry have no place here." Your Institution must not have even such a restricting clause. Your motto should be that you will welcome both those who "know Geometry" as well as those who do not.

I am aware that the governing princi in your Institution has been from t very beginning wide and liberal. Wh your College was founded the very fi batch of students included Hindus well as Muslims. Your staff has al been recruited from all communiti The names of certain Hindu professo have become part of your institution history. I am sure that these traditio will be broadened and further enriche in the course of time.

Study and research in Islamic learnin and Islamic History have been part your tradition. I must say that, afte the death of Sir Syed, it no longer di played the vigour it had during his day Even after the University was estat lished, old hopes were not fulfilled Your duty today is to revive thos old traditions and to create in you University an atmosphere of researc and enquiry into all the spheres o knowledge.

I have already reminded you tha Aligarh was the place where modern Urdu literature developed. This is a achievement of which your University can be rightly proud. It is your duty to cherish this heritage and further enrich it. I must, however, remind you that your literary efforts, must have a wider field than in the past. You should take an equal interest in Hindi literature. Muslims have been noted for their interest in different languages and literatures. Hindi literature has the same claim on Muslims as on Hindus of India. Both the communities have contributed equally to the development of Urdu and Hindi literature.

The new literature in Brij Bhasha which commenced in the Mughal period was the result of the patronage of rulers like Akbar and Jehangir and the contributions of writers of genius like Mohammad Jayesi, Khan Khanan and Abdul Jalil Bilgrami. We find that up to the end of the 18th century the number of Muslim poets who wrote in Brij Bhasha is considerable. The time has come when you must revive that old tradition. I desire that this institution should produce a large number of writers who are equally at home with Hindi and Urdu literature.

Question of Script

The question of script is one of the controversial problems of today. You know what the opinion of Gandhiji was in this respect. His sincere desire was that every Indian should know both the Urdu and the Devnagri script. That is why he founded the Hindustani Prachar Sabha and made it an essential condition for its workers that they must know both the scripts. This has also been my opinion for years. I feel that this is the only solution which is possible in the present circumstances. I hope that the lovers of Urdu literature will not wait to find out the reactions of the advocates of Hindi literature, but will themselves do what they regard as conducive to the best interests of the country.

In every other sphere of life, one may wait to see what others do, but in the field of learning we can wait for others only at the risk of detracting from our credit. If the others are content to know only

one script, we need not be sorry that we have learnt two. My sincere desire is that every Muslim in India should learn both the scripts, and thus set an example before the country. This was the message of Mahatma Gandhi, and I am confident that Muslims will act up to it with enthusiasm.

I am glad to find that there is already a recognition of the importance of such work on all sides, and that books have been written in Urdu which make it easy to learn Devnagri script and become familiar with Hindi literature. Some organisations have been set up in different parts of the country for this purpose. They have already started their activities. I am sure that you have realised the importance of this work and your institution will be recognised as one of its most active centres.

Advice to Students

I will now conclude with a few words of advice to the young graduates who have taken their degrees to-day and are entering into the responsibilities of life. You have no doubt yourself felt the tremendous changes which have taken place since the days you entered the portals of this University. When you first joined this Institution, you were members of a subject nation. To-day you are leaving this University as free citizens of an independent India. I am not sure if all of you appreciate fully the extent of this tremendous change. As members of a subject nation, you suffered many disabilities. As citizens of a free State you enter into new responsibilities.

The widening of oppoutunity which freedom has brought has also necessarily brought with it the need for greater loyalty and devotion to your State. To-day there are no limits to what you can achieve but this very fact imposes upon you the duties which freedom brings.

You are the citizens of a free India—a State which is determined to develop its political and social life on secular and democratic lines. The essence of a secular and democratic State is freedom of opportunity for the individual without regard to race, religion, caste or community. As members of such a State you have, therefore, the right—provided you have the necessary qualities of character and attainment—to expect all doors open to you, whether in the fields of politics, trade, industry, service or the professions. There is no gainsaying the fact that in the past many of the alumni of this Institution looked to nothing but employment under Government. Freedom must bring it a widening of the mind and an enlargement of your ambitions. You must, therefore, look forward in a free India to the utilisation of your talents in the manner best suited to the needs of the Nation.

I have no doubt in my mind that if you can imbibe this spirit of progressive nationalism which is the motto of our secular democratic State, there will be no position in any field of life that will be beyond your reach. I would, therefore, urge upon you to develop and strengthen your character and acquire knowledge that will fit you to play your rightful part for the future progress and prosperity of the country.

WEATHER REPORTS BY TELEPRINTER

SCHEMES for expanding the headquarters' organisation of the Civil Aviation Department, continued use of teleprinter channels for the Indian Meteorological Department, and opening of an experimental school for the training of postal staff were approved by the Standing Finance Committee when it met in New Delhi recently, with the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, in the chair.

The Indian Meteorological Department maintains one Main Forecast Office, five Principal and eight smaller Forecast centres. To meet the requirements of aviation and other intercats, these forecast offices have to prepare three to five sets of synoptic weather charts daily, covering extensive areas. For the preparation of these charts, each Principal forecast office requires at least 600 weather reports and each smaller forecast office requires at least 360 such reports daily.

Civil Aviation Directorate

If all these reports were transmitted by landline only, it would be necessary to arrange for the transmission of about 6,900 telegrams per day at a cost of Rs. 48 lakhs per annum. Diversion of most of these weather messages through teleprinter channels towards the end of the war has kept the number of landline weather telegrams down to 1500, costing about Rs. 12 lakhs.

Development of air transport in India has been on a much larger scale than was expected in 1946, when the Directorate of Civil Avitation was reorganised. It has been evident for some time that the Directorate needs strengthening. the position was examined in the light of the recent cut in expenditure on development schemes imposed by the Priorities Committee of the Cabinet and the proposed additional expenditure—Rs. 98,000 during the first year and Rs. 1,53,000 in subsequent years—is regarded as the barest minimum required at present.

Except in certain highly technical grades, there is at present no arrangement for the training of new entrants to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The standard of the service rendered by a public utility concern largely depends on the thoroughness with which its staff is trained. The necessity for imparting adequate training is all the greater now because people recommended by the Transfer Bureau who were Municipal or Canal clerks in Pakistan have been engaged in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. It is, therefore proposed to give the new recruits a training of three months. Those already in service will undergo, where necessary, a refresher course.

The scheme envisages the opening of three schools in the eastern, northern and southern parts of the country. At present, however, it is proposed to start one school only as an experiment. This school will be residential, hostels run on no-profit-no-loss basis being provided for the trainees. It will be under the charge of an officer of the Indian Postal Service. Emphasis will be laid on the importance of courtesy and politeness.

The proposal involves an expenditure of Rs. 40,000 non-recurring and about Rs. 2,34,000 recurring.

INCREASE IN SOLAR ACTIVITY

The annual report of the Kodaikanal Observatory for the year 1947 reveals a further increase in all forms of solar activity over that observed during the previous year. Compared with 1946, there was an increase of 44 per cent in the total number of new sunspot grounds; the mean daily number showed an increase of 42 per cent. As in the previous year there was not a single day on which the sun's disk was free from spots. The zone of maximum activity of spots showed a further equatorial drift from 20° to 17°.

The outstanding feature of the sunspot activity during the year was the appearance of a giant spot group in April which surpassed in area the great sunspot group of February 1946. The April spot group attained a record area of 4,900 millionths of the sun's visible hemisphere, the largest area on record, but showed very little activity compared with its predecessor in February 1946.

The prominence areas and numbers also showed an increase of about 15 per cent and 30 per cent respectively over the previous year. The hydrogen dark markings, however, showed little change in area.

During the year, systematic hourly observations of the general sky conditions and of the definition of the sun's image were commenced in order to study the suitability of Kodaikanal for coronograph work. The programme of research work begun during the previous year was continued.

TRADE WITH JAPAN

The Government of India has decided to allow limited exchange facilities to Indian business men for establishment of offices in Japan, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 17.

It added: Merchants and firms desirous of opening offices or appointing agents in Japan may, therefore, apply to the nearest office of the Reserve Bank of India, either direct or through their bankers, for release of the necessary exchange. They should give details of their business.

CHALLENGE OF HUNGER WILL BE MET SUCCESSFULLY

F. A. O. Director-General's Broadcast

"NONE can fail to be impressed by the present plans for expanded production in India. The comprehensive planning for food in India keeps in view the existing deficit on existing scales of consumption rising deficit due to population increase at the rate of four million a year; and the need for better nutrition. The plans include reclamation of cultivable waste lands, work on which is in progress in Ganga Khadar and other areas; irrigation by tube wells and other irrigation projects: and the constructions of multi-purpose projects like the Damodar Valley, the Tungabhadra, and the Hirakud. If the present plans for increased food production materialise, I have no doubt this country would be well on its way to self-sufficiency." observed Mr. Norris E. Dodd, Director-General of F.A.O. of United Nations, in a broadcast from All India Radio, New Delhi, on February 23.

Mr. Dodd, who toured India and the Far Eastern countries to gain first hand experience of the prevailing food situation said:

I am very happy to be able to speak to you this evening. Ever since I was named to the helm of affairs of the World Food and Agriculture Organization it has been my desire to personally visit the main regions of the world to gather first hand the problems that impede increased production and improved distribution of products of farms, forests, and fisheries.

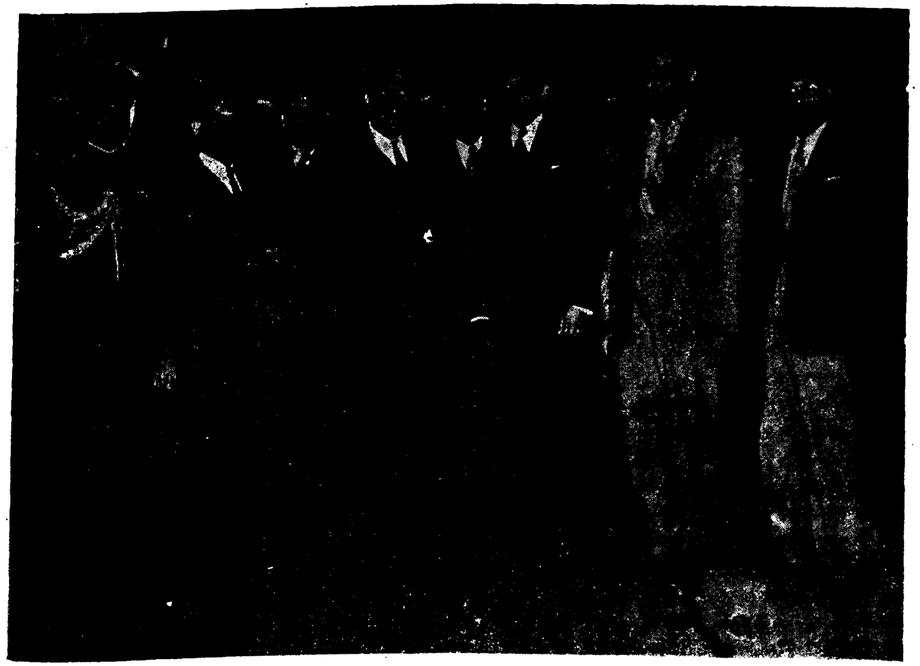
On this trip I have now been to nine countries and I have had an opportunity of discussing many problems with officials of member Governments and representatives of the public. My visit to each country has necessarily been brief and rather rushed, but I have seen many aspects of agriculture and have also been afforded facilities to study various plans for increased production either in operation or under preparation.

I am happy to be able to tell you that a great deal of work is being done in each country for increasing production, but I must at the same time warn you that what is being done is not enough—much more has still to be achieved.

It is not my intention to minimise the seriousness of the food problem. Millions of people are hungry. Two-thirds of the world's people are under-fed though two-thirds of the world's populations are farmers. During the last 100 years more people have died of hunger and famines in the Far East than from any other causes. Productivity of land is declining due to soil exhaustion and erosion. The introduction of modern farming methods is beset with serious economic problems. These are well known.

It is also true that the growth of populations in the world has so far outstripped food production. During the last decade alone, the world's population has grown by 200 millions in spite of the destruction and carnage of the greatest war in history. 55,000 new mouths have to be fed each morning, though there are yet no signs of 55,000 more bowls of rice or 55,000 more loaves of bread for consumption.

Yet, it is not necessary for us to be



Mr. Norris E. Dodd (fourth from left) Director-General of the U. N. Food and Agricultural Organization, and party photographed on arrival at Willingdon Aerodrome, New Delhi, on Feb. 16. Mr. Dodd is on a world tour investigating food problems of member countries of F. A. O.



Mr. Dodd placing a wreath at Gandhiji's Samadhi, Raighat, on Feb. 24

overwhelmed by this gloomy picture. There is enough land in the world to produce food in abundance for all. There is enough technical skill and know-how, which makes me confident that the farmers of the world can meet the challenge of hunger successfully.

A series of good harvests in recent years has kept the wolf away from many doors. Food production in 1948 achieved the best results since the war began. Leadership in the world must see that this improvement is maintained. That, in turn, means careful planning and determined execution of all plans for increased production.

You in this country are fortunate in having leaders of great eminence who are constantly thinking of the food problem. Your Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, as part of his pre-occupations with affairs of state, has given most careful and urgent attention to this question. Speaking before the Second Conference of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East at Ootacamand last summer, he held that the short term problem of the Far East was more food and the long term solution increased agricultural and industrial production. Even when he was addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations in Paris last fall, he gave the topmost priority for proper distribution of food.

MR. DODD'S HOMAGE TO GANDHIJI

Laying a wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Raighat, on February 24, Mr. Norris E. Dodd, Director-General of the F. A. O. of the United Nations said:

"I deem it a great privilege and an honour to be able to lay this wreath at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian Nation and the greatest apostle of peace and non-violence that the world has known for several centuries. Though—alas—he is not with us today, his life and selfless struggle for others will be a shining example not only for the present generation but for generatoins to come.

"As a farmer and as one connected with various Farmers' Organizations for several decades, I am particularly happy to offer this small token of my esteem and respect. Gandhiji's crusade for the conservation of land and better conditions of living for farmers has great significance for all of us, especially in view of the present food shortage and the fact that two-thirds of the world's population are farmers. So long as History is written, I have no doubt, his name will ever be emblazoned in letters of gold, and men in all parts of the world will remember him with veneration."



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari photographed with Mr. Horace Alexander (on His Excellency's right) of the Friends of India Society; Mr. Norris E. Dodd (extreme right, facing camera) and others at Government House, New Delhi, on Feb. 17

The Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, has again and again warned that in increased production alone lies the salvation of the country. In my discussions with your Food and Agriculture Minister, the Hon'ble Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, and other officials of the Government, I have gathered a great deal of information on the effort now being made by the Central and provincial Governments in India to make the country self-sufficient in food. The determination with which the drive for increased production is being launched inspires me with great expectations.

None can fail to be impressed by the present plans for expanded production in India. The comprehensive planning for food in India keeps in view the existing deficit on existing scales of consumption, rising deficit due to population increase at the rate of four million a year; and the need for better nutrition. The plans include reclamation of cultivable waste lands, work on which is in progress in Ganga Khader and other areas; irrigation by tube-wells and other irrigation projects, and the construction of multi-purpose projects like of Damodar Valley, the Tungabhadra, and the Hirakud. If the present plans for increased food production materialize, I have no dobut this country would be well on its way to self-sufficiency. But all this will take time and it is, therefore, necessary and prudent that we should pay attention to some aspects that are capable of yielding immediate results.

It must not be forgotten that food is not grown in Ministries nor in Directorates of Agriculture. Food can only be grown on farms. I would, therefore, like to say a word to the farmers of India.

Appeal to Farmers

In my visit to your countryside, I have watched with pride and humility the toil of the farmers to add to the country's granary. It is they to whom ultimately we all have to look to. Nothing could be more inspiring than the saga of their constant and continuous struggle in the thousands of villages and hamlets of the country to add to the world's food surplus. There is nobility in their toil and their faith in the land they till and sow has never failed them.

We all know their great services; yet I wish to address a personal appeal to them. If, at this time, every farmer endeavoured to produce the maximum that he could from the piece of land that is his responsibility, excellent results could be achieved. Even a 10 per cent increase in production would mean reducing considerably imports of foodstuffs into India. This is a worthy aim and I wish to commend this to each and every farmer in the country.

But in the mobilisation against hunger, the help and co-operation of all is necessary. Mere production alone will not bring the desired results. It is necessary that what is produced is properly distributed and none of the grain that is produced is allowed to be wasted. If 10,000 tons of rice were lost to the world due either to a typhoon or a fire, the world would be appalled. Yet, the loss of almost 12 million tons of rice each year due to pests, insects and rodents passes almost unnoticed. If to this we add losses due to milling and unsatisfactory methods of preparation in homes the losses would amount to much more than 12 million tons each year.

If every one of us made a determined effort to prevent the waste of available rice, it would yield immediate and most encouraging results. Representatives of member countries at the Baguio F. A. O. Rice Conference last March recommended a world-wide rice conservation campaign. This has been endorsed by the Council of FAO and we hope to launch the campaign soon. I would like to make an appeal to you now that you should do your utmost to help in this campaign for conservation.

Concerted Action Essential

It is only in recent years that Governments and peoples have been taking an increasing interest in such problems of production and conservation of food. Symbolic of this increasing interest was the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as hunger is universal and its conquest calls for a global strategy. Abdundant food for all can only be achieved by the determined and concerted action of all nations of the world. In F. A. O. the 58 nations of the world have an effective instrument with which they can work for the noblest of all human causes—for food for all. Food is becoming more than ever one of the great pre-occupations of our time and the challenge to nations to take effective action becomes sharper each year. With your help I am confident that this challenge will be successfully met not only in India, but in every other country.

REPLACING STEEL BY TIMBER

The Government of India have appointed Dr. Kamesam as their expert consultant to report, by the end of June 1949, on the possibilities of the use of treated timber in this country with special reference to the replacement of steel by such timber, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on February 24, 1949.

It added: During the preparation of the report Dr. Kamesam would be designated as "Consultant for the preparation of the Report on the use of treated timber in India." Dr. Kamesam has specialised knowledge in timber treatment.

Government have also agreed to assist him to establish a Timber Treatment and Engineering Factory in North India. It is considered that if properly treated, many of the less known species of timber can be profitably used in place of Iron and Steel.

Fruit and Vegetable Statistics

THE steps that are being taken to rationalise the fruit and vegetable statistics in India are given in the December 1948 issue of the *Agricultural Situation In India* published recently. Fruits and vegetables occupy an important place in the dietetic requirements of the people and their contribution towards supplementing the food supplies, during shortages, is particularly valuable.

Any proper planning of the production of fruits and vegetables can only be based on accurate statistics regarding the present area and yield of crops. Statistics in this field are even more difficult to obtain as, unlike food crops, the fruit trees once planted stand on the fields for a number of years and give yields at varying rates. Besides, they are often scattered throughout the countryside necessitating an elaborate machinery for a proper census. In the case of vegetables the problem is equally difficult as there is not always any definite or precise sowing or harvesting season. The acreage statistics have therefore to be based on monthly harvest inspection.

All-India Forecasts

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture addressed sometime ago some of the Provincial Governments for available statistics on the production of fruits and vegetables as also on the sowing and harvesting seasons, with a view to examine the feasibility of issuing all-India forecasts for these crops. On the basis of information available from provinces a tentative classification of fruits and vegetables for statistical purposes has been made and it is hoped that regular forecasts can be issued for the major fruits and vegetables in areas where they are grown either as plantation or field crops.

The Journal also indicates the steps so far taken for collecting statistics regarding prices, wholesale and retail, trade movement statistics, both inland and foreign, and statistics on fruit products.

As regards statistics on fruit products, quarterly returns are obtained from the manufacturers, in the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with the Fruit Products Control Order, which was enforced from July 1946. From these returns, detailed statistics in respect of quantity and value of fruit products particularly beverages, jellies, jams and marmalades, candied fruits and crystals, canned and bottled fruits, canned and bottled vegetables, ketchup, chutney, sauses, vinegar, preserved and dried fruits are available.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Justice Hashmatrai Khubchand Chainani, I.C.S., at present an acting judge, to be a permanent judge of the Bombay High Court in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Justice K. C. Sen, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on February 23, 1949.



Electrician-trainees at work at the Central Institute of Training for Instructors at Koni (Bilaspur, C. P.)

TRAINING FOR TECHNICAL INSTRUCTORS

Central Institute Opened by Labour Minister

A MILESTONE was reached in the Technical Training Scheme when on February 19, 1949, the Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister for Labour, Government of India, declared open the Central Institute of Training for Instructors at Koni (Bilaspur) Central Provinces. The first of its kind to be established in this country, the Institute will ensure a steady flow of trained Instructors for various technical and vocational institutions in different parts of the country.

The main object of the scheme is to raise a pool of efficient instructors of the requisite standard to meet the requirements of the Central, Provincial and States Governments and even private institutions engaged in imparting technical and vocational training. The present scheme which follows closely the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Technical Training set up by the Labour Department of the Government of India in 1944, has kept in view the economic and industrial development plans of the country and the trends of the employment market. The provision for the training of Instructors for cottage and small-scale industries assumes importance in a predominantly agricultural country, like India, and can hardly be over-emphasized.

Ideal Site

Ideally situated on an extensive 750-acre camp in an atmosphere of rural peace and serenity, the Institute is located in the colony founded by the American army units in India during the war years as the base hospital for allied armies fighting on the Assam front. The buildings are fully equipped with electric and water supply, a dispensary, spacious premises for administrative offices, hostel accommodation, residential accommodation for the instructional staff and various other facilities required for a modern training centre.

The training consists of an ordinary and a refresher course. The ordinary course which extends to a period of 6 months includes practical training in the trade with a view to enable the trainee instructor to learn up-to-date workshop practice and the correct maintenance and use of modern equipment, elementary theory pertaining to the trade, drawing and scientific methods of teaching. The refresher course which covers about 8 weeks is designed to ensure that Instructors are always conversant with the latest methods of production and teaching.

The Syllabus

The syllabus embraces both theoretical and practical lessons. Visual education is also given with the assistance of 10 mm. sound projector which shows films illustrating the latest workshop practices and production techniques in foreign countries. A modern epidiascope is also used for showing films to the instructor trainees on their trades. The lecture-cum-tutorial system is employed.

Training is free. In addition, the trainees continue to draw during the period of training their pay and allowances as teachers at their Training Centres and also travelling allowances to and from Koni to their places of work. There is a qualified doctor attached to the Institute and numerous recreational facilities like libraries, study circles, radio, indoor and ourdoor games are provided. The trainee is also paid his boarding and lodging charges at the Institute.

The training of instructors is an "urgent and indispensable feature" of the scheme for training craftsmen. The Central Institute at Koni is expected to develop into a centrifugal force from which a mass of instructors will radiate spreading their knowledge to the future craftsmen of India who will ultimately increase the national dividend by stepping up production and making up the shortage of consumer goods.

With immediate effect the issue of British Postal Orders to any single person in one day is limited to £2, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on February 18, 1949.



Trainees working in the Internal Combustion Engine Repair Shop

MANUFACTURE OF HYDRAULIC BRAKE FLUID

Tariff Board's Recommendations

HYDRAULIC brake fluid is of vital importance for the efficient working of brakes in automobiles. In India, manufacture of brake fluid was begun during the war, the entire requirement before 1939 being met from imports. The Indian Tariff Board, on examination of the indigenous industry, has held that it does not require any special protection, the revenue duty itself being 30 per cent *ad valorem*.

Chief components of the indigenous fluid are castor oil and a suitable solvent such as alcohol. Castor oil is available in plenty in India. In the absence of higher alcohols, denatured spirit is used as a solvent for thinning the castor oil. The Tariff Board in its report suggests that manufacturers should endeavour to make use of the available raw material —denatured spirit—until India is able to manufacture butyl alcohol.

India's total demand for hydraulic brake fluid in the next three years is estimated at 70,000 gallons per year, while figures made available to the Tariff Board by two factories indicate a rated capacity of 100,000 gallons. In 1947-48, the total indigenous production amounted to even less than half the rated capacity. The Tariff Board feels that production can be stepped up to meet the country's entire demand for this product, as the process of manufacture is simple, raw materials are easily available and the time taken for manufacture is only two or three days.

There seems to be some difference of opinion in regard to the suitability of denatured spirit as an ingredient of brake fluid. However, the question of formulating a suitable standard for indigenous brake fluid is being considered by the Indian Standards Institution. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is also understood to have devised means of overcoming defects in the indigenous product.

The Tariff Board recommends that when standard specifications for brake fluid have been laid down and Government is satisfied that the indigenous product conforms to such specifications, Government purchases should be from Indian manufacturers. As many Provincial Governments are nationalising motor transport services, this form of assistance to the industry is expected to provide the necessary impetus for its development.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 25 stated :

The Government of India's resolution on the Indian Tariff Board's report relating to the Hydraulic Brake Fluid Industry's case for assistance or protection was published on February 25, in a "Gazette of India Extraordinary." The Board has held that the indigenous brake fluid industry does not require any special protection, the revenue duty itself being 30 per cent *ad valorem*. The Government has accepted this view.

INDO-JAPANESE TRADE CONTRACTS

In the Dominion Parliament on February 24, the Hon'ble Mr. K. C. Neogy, Minister for Commerce, placed the following statement on the table of the House giving details of goods to be imported (in Dollars) by India from Japan :

Raw silk, 500,000 ; Silk manufactures 250,000 ; Cotton yarn 3,000,000 ; Cotton fabrics, 2,000,000; Rayon Yarn, 1,000,000; Rayon Fabrics, 250,000 ; Wool manufactures, 500,000 ; Industrial leather goods, 500,000 ; Ferro alloys, 200,000 ; Industrial machinery and parts 11,229,586 ; Bicycles and parts 110,000 ; Electrical appliances and manufacturings, 253,150 ; Sewing machines, 270,000 ; Instruments, surgical and scientific apparatus and appliances, 150,000 ; Drugs and medicines, 300,000 ; Dyes and pigments, 125,000 ; Paper and paper products, 250,000 ; Rubber manufactures, 300,000 ; Hardwood and manufacturings (including plywood), 100,000 ; Pottery and Porcelain, 100,000 ; Glassware and glass products, 200,000 ; and all other items included in Open General Licence No. XIII, 5,000,000. Total 26,587,736

Asked whether large contracts in respect of Indo-Japanese trade had already been entered into, Mr. Neogy replied in the affirmative.

It may be mentioned in this connection that in November 1948, the Sterling Area Trade Agreement was concluded in Tokyo between Occupied Japan and five Commonwealth, countries including India. It envisaged imports by India to the order of 26½ million and exports of the order of 17 million.

The Government of India and Siam have agreed in their mutual intesests to enter into negotiations for concluding a Treaty of Commerce, Navigation and Friendship, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 24.

The Anglo-Sismese Treaty of 1937, to which India was a party by accession, will continue to regulate relations between the two countries until the new treaty is signed.

Import Trade Control

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 21 said :

The Government of India have decided that import of Tea chests and parts, including tea chests containing aluminium but excluding aluminium tea chests lingings from abroad now licensed by the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Calcutta, and the Import Controllers at the ports should no longer be licensed by them, but by the Chief Controller of Imports at New Delhi. All applications for import of these goods from the current half-yearly period should, therefore, be made to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi.

It has also been decided to delete item No. 72 of Part V of the I.T.C. Schedule, *viz.* Machinery, to avoid overlapping as the items, namely, machines and parts thereof, etc., covered by this Serial Number are already covered by Serial No. 65(6) of that Part, which is now placed on Open General Licence No. XI for import from soft currency countries.

The Government have also decided to place the following articles on Open General Licence No. XI for import from soft currency countries :

Electric bulbs for automobiles, Machinery requiring less than 1/4 H.P., Knitting machines and parts, Saffron in tins, articles made of stone or marble, motors and generators above 30 H.P. batteries for other than motor vehicles and also excluding dry cells for torches.

Notifications giving effect to the above were published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of February 22, 1949.

EMPORIUM FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

In accordance with the recommendations of the All-India Cottage Industries Board, the Central Government have decided to establish in New Delhi a Central Sales Emporium for cottage and small-scale industries. The Emporium will be opened in the first week of April 1949. The opening will be marked by an Exhibition of products and small-scale and cottage industries.

The Provincial and State Governments have been requested to select quality products and small-scale and cottage industries for display in the Exhibition and sale through the Emporium, but exhibits and goods for sale will also be received direct from manufacturers and organisations of artisans and craftsmen. Intending suppliers are advised to contact the Provincial Director of Industries or the Deputy Development Officer, Cottage Industries, Directorate-General of Industries and Supplies, New Delhi.

The Government of India has included *zari* goods in the list of commodities covered by Open General Licence No. 3. Accordingly no licence will be necessary for their export to hard currency areas, irrespective of the bullion content of these goods, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 5.

NEED FOR REVISION OF INDIAN BOILER REGULATIONS

Central Board Meets in New Delhi

THE need for careful examination of the Indian Boiler Regulations in the light of modern technique and practice in the industrially advanced countries of the west, was stressed by Mr. D. L. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, speaking at the 10th Meeting of the Central Boilers Board which opened its three-day session in New Delhi on February 14, 1949.

Mr. Mazumdar explained that the necessity for revising Indian Boiler regulations was felt after a very serious accident which took place in 1942 in the Boiler House of the Alexander and E. D. Sassoon Mills, Bombay. Draft regulations have since been drawn up and circulated for public opinion. Comments received from American manufacturers, said Mr. Mazumdar showed that American manufacturers as a body were opposed to the draft regulations and strongly urged the adoption of a revised code which would make it easier for American boilers to be accepted in India.

Mr. Mazumdar continued: "The Central Boilers Board have a serious responsibility. Of all the advanced countries she (India) alone has, I believe, regulations on boilers which have statutory force behind them. This entails an obligation on the part of the Government of India to see that no undue bias is given to specifications and standards which may be prevalent in any particular country?"

Need for Special Study

Mr. Mazumdar personally felt that it would make for quicker progress if after reaching a final conclusion on this subject the Board recommended to the Government of India that a special officer should be deputed on a two or three months consultation trip to the United Kingdom and the United States. This would, probably, yield better results than the appointment of a sub-committee to revise the draft regulations.

"Your deliberations," Mr. Mazumdar concluded, "must constitute the foundation on which alone a sound superstructure of efficient boiler practice can be built. The extent to which we shall be able to underwrite the technical hazards implicit in our various development projects will depend greatly on the administration of the rules and regulations which you may formulate." Mr. Mazumdar disclosed that the experience of the post-war years and the practice in advanced industrialised countries had already prompted a member of the Board to initiate an enquiry into the entire field of legislation concerning boilers in India. He expressed the hope that the enquiry will produce good results in due course.

The decision to accpt tentatively, under certain conditions, boilers built to any recognized code or standards and to watch their performance for a period of one year before finally amending the present draft Boilers Regulations, was taken at the meeting of the Central Boilers Board. The Board could not get through its heavy agenda and their final recommendations with regard to Regulations relating to Boilers, Economisers and Feed Pipes are expected to be submitted to Government after the next meeting which is proposed to be held in about two months' time.

A delegation of the Institution of Engineers (India) met the Board and stated their objections to the registration and inspection of Economisers as required under the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Act, 1947. After full discussion, the Board felt that the enforcement of the Act and the new Regulations under it was necessary to prevent accidents in Economisers arising out of their deteriorated condition. The Board was impressed by the fact mentioned by the delegation that the shortage of inspecting staff in certain Provinces and the necessity of giving the owners adequate notice might well justify in some individual cases the postponement of actual inspection for a period not exceeding two years.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES IRRESPECTIVE OF QUOTAS

In October last year the Government of India conveyed to Governments of Provinces and States their decision on the recommendations of the Conference of Premiers of Provinces and representatives of States held in Delhi in July, 1948, regarding the numbers of refugees whom certain Provinces and States were expected to rehabilitate, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on January 29.

It added: No quotas were specifically allocated to certain other Provinces and States although refugees are now living there. It was not the intention of the Government of India that such Provinces and States should not undertake the rehabilitation of refugees.

The Government of India also did not contemplate the removal of these refugees to Provinces and States to which quotas have been allocated. The Government of India have, accordingly, requested all Governments of Provinces and States which have refugees living in their areas to prepare plans for their early rehabilitation, whether quotas have been previously allocated to them or not.

Mineral Resources of India

THE future prospects of petroleum and other connected matters have been discussed in an article contributed by Dr. D.N. Wadia, formerly Director of Indian Bureau of Minerals, to a recent number of the "Indian Minerals," a quarterly journal published by the Mineral Information Bureau.

A general picture of the extent of mineral development in the Indian Union is given in another article by the Director, Geological Survey of India. According to the author, the total number of mining concessions in force in India at the end of December, 1946 was 2,090 of which 213 were prospecting licences, 1,165 were mining leases and 712 quarry leases. Mining concessions given in Indian States and on zamindari lands are not included in these figures. Madras and C.P. and Berar lead with 736 and 731 concessions respectively.

Mineral Production

An appreciable increase in production took place in 1946 in minerals like asbestos, barytes, bauxite, china clay, coal, copper-ore, corundum, graphite, gypsum, ilmenite, lead-ore, limestone and salt. On the other hand, the production of beryl, chromite, gold, iron-ore, manganese-ore, magnesite, mica, monazite, petroleum, rutile and salt-petre registered a fall. Apart from iron-ore, coal and salt, most other minerals were largely exported.

One of the main articles in this issue of Indian Minerals is devoted to production of kyanite, of which there are ample supplies in Kharsawan State. Most of these are exported to the United Kingdom for ceramic and refractory purposes. During the last war a representative of an American firm was sent out to India to make a rapid survey of the production of kyanite which was of great importance to war effort. Pointing out that kyanite also occurs in the Himalayas and in portions of Hyderabad, Madras, Punjab and Bihar, the author of this article concludes: "The manufacture of refractories in India is certain to increase and there is also no reason why they should not be used for high quality porcelain, should there be demand for the same in India."

"Use of Minerals in the Paint Industry" is the subject of another article. Other features of this Number are Typical News, Mineral Digest, Scientific News and Notes and Trade and Commercial Intelligence.

It has been decided to open a District Employment Office at Mercara (Coorg), on an experimental basis, with effect from March 1949. This step has been taken as the nearest Employment Exchange is 120 miles from Coorg which makes it difficult to render any effective employment assistance to the people of this area.

STEPS TO IMPROVE INDIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE

Commerce Minister's Statement

IN answer to a question in the Dominion Parliament on February 16, 1949, the Hon'ble Shri K. C. Neogy, Minister for Commerce, listed countries with which the Government of India had entered into commercial agreements and countries with which the Government of India have in view trade negotiations."

He said that commercial agreements had already been concluded, with the Anglo-American Zone of Germany, Yugoslavia, Pakistan and Japan.

Countries in the second category were: Italy, France, Belgium, Switzerland, U. S. S. R., Poland, Finland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Soviet Zone of Germany, Hungary, Sweden, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Tibet, Siam, Ceylon and Burma.

Referring to negotiations with certain eastern countries, the Minister said:

Afghanistan: Matters relating to trade in general were discussed with the Afghan Government by an Indian Trade Delegation which visited that country in October last. The main commodities which will figure in the negotiations are Afghan fruits and raw cotton on the one hand and Indian cotton textiles, tea, sugar and Indian tobacco on the other. Further negotiations are at present in progress with the Afghanistan Delegation visiting this country.

Iran: The Indian Trade Delegation which visited Afghanistan had also had general trade talks with the Iranian Government whose particular attention was invited to the various difficulties experienced by all foreigners including Indians in Iran who as a result of the Import Control Act enacted by the Iranian Government were prevented from taking part in the import trade. The Delegation were assured in general terms that the Iranian Import Control Act would be amended suitably so as to remove this disability. India may receive from Iran supplies of agricultural products like dry fruits, medicinal herbs, hides and skins, wool, minerals like iron and copper, lead, manganese and red oxide and manufactured goods like carpets, shawls and silks. India's exports to Iran will be mainly cotton piecegoods, jute and jute goods.

Iraq: An Iraq Trade Mission visited Delhi recently to hold discussions with the Government of India about expansion and development of her date trade and also about the possibilities of improvement in the transport facilities for movement of dates from Bombay. They also discussed the question of supply from India of commodities such as jute goods and cotton textiles. The Government of India have agreed to make certain allocations for Iraq of these commodities. In return, the Iraq Delegation assured that Iraq's surplus of barley would be made available to India.

Egypt: An Egyptian Trade Delegation is expected to arrive in India in March, 1949, to conclude an agreement between India and Egypt for the exchange of commodities and also a commercial treaty. The principal commodities that are likely to be exchanged are Egyptian cotton and rice on the one hand and Indian jute goods and cotton textiles, oil seeds, tea and tobacco on the other.

Tibet: The Tibetan Trade Mission which visited Delhi last year for discussing certain trade matters have come back for pursuing those discussions with the Government of India. The discussions related mainly to three issues, namely, (*i*) release of 2 million dollars for the purchase of gold, (*ii*) retention of foreign exchange earned by exports of Tibetan wool to other countries, and (*iii*) grant of free customs facilities on imports into Tibet through India.

In view of the acute shortage of dollars, the Government of India regretted their inability to accede to (*i*). As regards (*ii*) the Mission promised to examine the case more carefully and so far as (*iii*) is concerned the Government of India have promised to consider the case sympathetically provided adequate *quid pro quo* is forthcoming from Tibet.

SIAM: There is a proposal for entering into a bilateral trade agreement with Siam. The basis of the agreement will be somewhat on the following lines:

Supply by India: Jute goods, cotton textiles, beehive coke, pig iron, linseed oil, diesel and steam road rollers, motor lorries and certain other manufactured goods.

Siam's Supplies: Rice, tin, Railway sleepers and teak wood.

CEYLON: In 1948, a one-man delegation was sent to negotiate supplies of copra from that country, but owing to the truculent attitude adopted by that Government this mission was not successful. Intimation has just been received from the Indian Trade Commissoner, Colombo, to the effect that Ceylon is prepared to negotiate, on a reciprocal basis, the supply of copra against supply by India of such commodities as subsidiary foodstuffs, coal, jute, and steel. This is under consideration at present.

BURMA: At present no negotiaitons are actively under consideration for the conclusion of a trade agreement with Burma in view of the unsettled conditions in that country. Recently an officer was deputed to Burma to negotiate the supply of rice, from that country, but the attitude adopted by that Government was not favourable. They demanded a price of £50 per ton, which was out of unison altogether with the current world prices of that commodity. The position is being closely watched and as soon as situation changes for the better, the question of negotiating a trade agreement with that country will be actively taken up.

In reply tio another, part of the question, the Minster said that in the past few months the Government had been carrying on negotiations with the following European countries; Italy, France, Belgium, Switzerland, U. S. S. R., Poland, Finland Austria, Czechoslovakia, Soviet Zone of Germany, Hungary and Sweden. It was, however, premature to indicate the terms and commodities which would figure in the trade agreement if any that might be entered into with these countries.

He added currency considerations, the economic position of our country as well as that of the various European countries concerned, the need for speeding up India's programme of post-war reconstruction and post-independence industrialisation, our acute food shortage prices and delivery dates and several other factors have to be taken inte account before committing ourselves in regard to any items of export or import, especially the latter.

"All these factors make it difficult to make a categorical and unequivocal statement but generally speaking it may be stated that while negotiating trade agreements with foreign countries, our endeavour is to import mostly such articles as are essential to our economy *e.g.*, foodgrains, steel, machinery and instruments, fertilisers, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and export as many of our commodities as we can *e.g.*, tobacco, shellac, coir yarn and coir goods, spices, tea, jute goods, castor oil, pepper and spices, niger and kurdi seeds, short staple cotton and cotton textiles."

WORKING OF STERLING BALANCES AGREEMENT

During the Sterling Balances discussions held in London in July 1948, it was agreed that an exchange of views should take place from time to time with the object of watching the working of the Agreement in all its aspects, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on February 16, 1949.

It added: The first meetings of a Joint Consultative Committee accordingly took place in New Delhi from February 7 to February 16, 1949, between officials of the Governments of India and the United Kingdom.

The discussions covered a wide range of financial and supply matters, including a technical examination of balance of payments questions, exchange control working and a survey of the supply position in both countries in respect of a number of scarce commodities, *food*, raw materials and capital goods. These discussions enabled the two Governments to have a clearer appreciation and better understanding of each other's problems and were calculated to ensure the smooth working of the Agreement.



Gen. Cariappa inspecting recruits at the recruiting and ex-servicemen's meeting at Bulandshahr on Feb. 22

Gen. K. M. Cariappa's Visit to Bulandshahr

Gen. K.M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, had a busy programme when he visited Bulandshahr recently.

On arrival at the Bhur Inspection House, he drove with Captain Bhagwan Singh, District Magistrate, through crowded streets lined up by P.R.D. recruits and then inspected a guard of honour presented by the Provincial Armed Constabulary. He was introduced to local officials and retired military officiers, including Subedar Badan Singh and Subedar Ram Swarup Singh, who had served with the C.-in-C. in 1920 and 1933 respectively.

Gen. Cariappa visited the District Exhibition and evinced keen interest in the soldiers' canteen and the agricultural section, and made some purchases of indigenous articles. Later, he inspected a recruitment rally.

At a mixed gathering held at a tastefully decorated 'pandal,' welcome addresses were presented to him by the Exhibition Committee, the District Board, the Municipal Board, the Soldiers' Board, the Ex-Servicemen's Society and the District Congress Committee. After the Secretary of the Soldiers' Board had read out the annual report, prizes were distributed to widows and disabled ex-servicemen. Gold medals were awarded to workers who had helped in recruitment and three shields were presented respectively to the best 'tehsil,' village and individual worker for offering the highest number of recruits. He paid an informal visit to ex-soldiers also.

A sum of Rs. 19,000 was distributed by way of awards to about 110 disabled ex-Servicemen during the 4 months ending January 1949. These awards are granted to enable those disabled ex-Servicemen who have undergone a course of vocational training to set up their independent business as skilled tradesmen and artisans. The number of beneficiaries under the scheme comes to 551 with the aggregate amount of Rs. 99,000 distributed among them. The awards range from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 according to the requirements of various trades and are mostly in the form of essential tools and equipment.

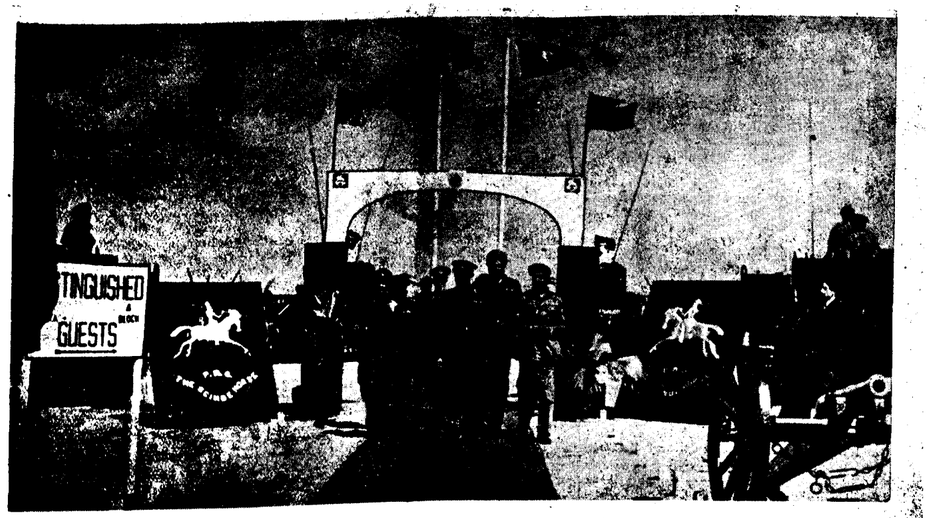
The funds for these awards were donated by the Central Joint War Committee of the Indian Red Cross and St. John's War Organisation which placed Rs. 2,50,000 at the disposal of the Government of India for the purpose. In selecting trainees for the awards, preference is given to persons whose disability renders it necessary for them to take employment under 'sheltered' conditions.

The C.-in.-C. inspected a guard of honour provided by the Taruni Parishad (Girls' Rifle Club) at Bulandshahr



Gen. Cariappa examining agricultural produce displayed at the Bulandshahr Exhibition





GEN. CARIAPPA'S VISIT TO MEERUT

Gen. K.M. Cariappa, C-in-C. Indian Army, recently visited Army Units at Meerut, where he inspected the troops on parade and Boys companies of the Second Punjab Regimental Centre and decorated officers. (Above) Gen. Cariappa coming out of the parade ground after watching a parade of the Scinde Horse Cavalry. (Below, Left) The C-in-C. decorating Sub.-Maj. K. L. Sharma with the O.B.I. (Below, right) Gen. Cariappa decorating Sub. Tara Singh with the M.B.E. which was won by the Subedar during World War II in Italy



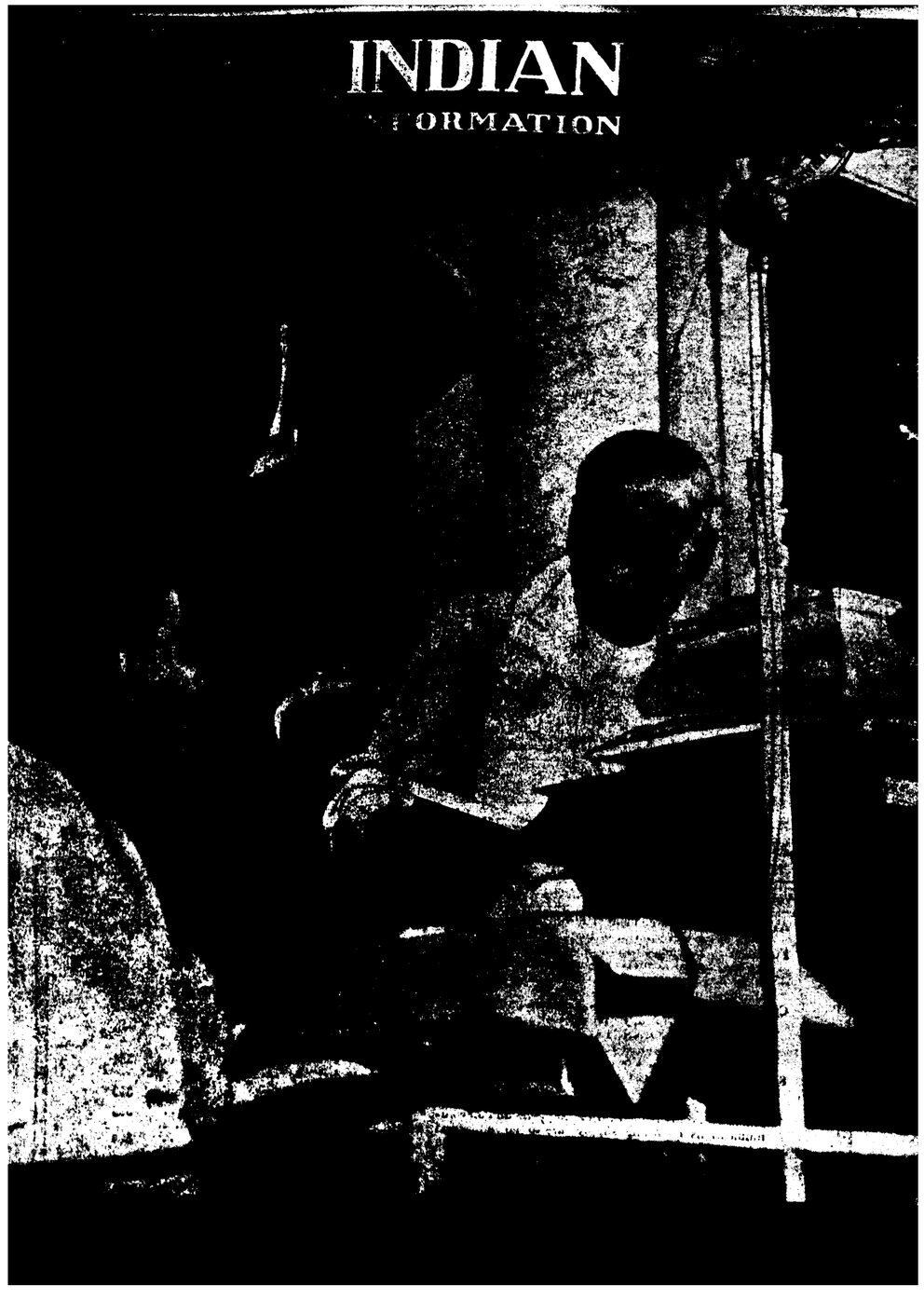






PRIME MINISTER AT AHMEDABAD : Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru watching children's mass drill at Ahmedabad on Feb. 14, during his recent visit to the city. (Below) Prominent Muslims of Godhra called on Pandit Nehru when he visited the place on Feb 13 (L. to R.) Maulvi Dargahi, Dr. Tahir Ali, Pandit Nehru, Mr. Salebhai and Mr. Abdullah Ismail Batliwala

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shortages while the partition last year and the economic dislocation caused over considerable parts of the country by the movement of population between the two Dominions made the position worse.

A steady rise in prices occurred throughout 1947 the general index number of whole sale prices rising from 290.5 at the beginning of the year to 314.2 at the end of December. In the first seven months of 1948 there was a further steep rise in prices, the index number of wholesale prices rising by as much as 76 points to 390.1. Since then the prices have slightly dropped and as a result of the various measures taken by Government prices have remained more or less steady.

The answer to the problem of inflation and high prices is to increase the supply of commodities to meet the existing demand and until this position is reached to control the distribution of the available supply of the essential commodities. In the matter of food the supply position still continues to be difficult and last year owing to the poor crops in certain parts of the country we have had to import 2.8 million tons from overseas at a cost of Rs. 130 crores against an estimated import of 2 million tons at a cost of Rs. 110 crores. The position is expected to be still more difficult this year owing to the floods in Bihar and the United Provinces, the damage caused by the recent cyclone in Bombay and the outbreak of famine in parts of Gujerat, Saurashtra, Rajasthan and Cutch and imports may amount to 4 million tons.

Food Control

As the House is aware, it has already been decided to re-introduce food control and it is hoped that this will secure an equitable supply of food grains throughout the country at fair prices. In respect of other commodities the position in regard to internal production has, I am glad to say, been encouraging in recent months although it has not been possible in many cases to reach the peak production of the war years or the target that has been set.

Last year the production of coal at 29.73 million tons and of steel at 854,000 tons just fell short of the production in the previous year while the production of salt rose from 49.6 million maunds to 59.3 million maunds, of cotton yarn from 1,315 million lbs. to 1,442 million lbs., of cloth from 3,816 million yards to 4,338 million yards, of art silk fabrics from 85 million yards to 114 million yards, of plywood from 28.6 million sq. feet to 38.63 million sq. feet and of soap from 80,000 tons to 190,000 tons.

The flow of raw materials to industry has also improved with the improvement in the transport position while with the relaxation of import controls there has been a larger flow of imported goods. Production has been greatly assisted by the occurrence of fewer strikes and labour disputes. If the present favourable trends in production continue, I have no doubt that it will be possible not merely to arrest the rise of prices but to bring them down gradually.

The state of the capital market in the year under review has been a matter of concern to Government. While there is obviously a large amount of money in the country competing for the limited supply of goods, the investment market has been stagnant and there has been little flow of money into Government loans or into industrial concerns. This stagnation is due in large measure to the prevailing uncertainty in regard to matters affecting industrial development and prospects.

My own view is that with the huge potential demand in this country for both consumer and capital goods, there is bound to be for many years a wide field for private enterprise and that in this matter no one who invests money is taking a greater risk than in any other country in the world.

Fight Against Inflation

As I mentioned a while ago, the fight against inflation has been one of Government's main pre-occupations this year. As Hon'ble Members are aware, Government consulted various interests and sections of public opinion regarding the measures necessary to deal with this situation. In a matter of this kind, it is obviously not possible to expect complete unanimity of opinion as to either the causes of inflation or the remedies to be adopted. But it was clear that immediate action should be taken to prevent, as far as possible, the further creation of purchasing power in the hands of the community and to take all steps possible to stimulate production and instil a spirit of confidence in industry.

With this end in view in the field of taxation additional duties on certain articles of luxury such as liquor, tobacco, motor cars, silk and art silk fabrics were imposed and an excise duty on super fine cloth was levied. Power was taken to make provisional assessments of income-tax on the basis of returns submitted by the assessees. A system of interest bearing deposits for income-tax introduced in 1943 was also revived and it was decided to postpone for a further period of three years the refund of deposits of Excess Profits Tax except for approved purposes. A temporary limit was also placed on the amount that may be distributed as dividend by public companies, by an Ordinance, the enactment of which into law is now under consideration by the House.

Stepping Up Production

Among measures taken to stimulate industrial production, I would mention the reduction in the import duty on machinery and certain industrial raw materials and the abolition of the import duty on cotton yarn. New industrial undertakings commencing production in the next three years have been given exemption from income-tax for the first five years up to a limit of six per cent. per annum on their capital. The rules regulating depreciation allowances have also been liberalised.

In the field of Governmental expenditure a rapid review was conducted of all capital and development schemes including the Provincial schemes. As a result the total provision for capital and development schemes and loans has been substantially reduced. It was also made clear to the Provinces that in the present financial situation they should not count on Central assistance for implementing their schemes of social or agrarian reform.

The House will realise that it was not without regret that we decided to hold up even temporarily the various schemes of development the execution of which is necessary for the well-being of the country. But the need for economy was imperative and we had to postpone all avoidable expenditure. But this has not led to the slowing down of any productive scheme or any scheme essential for the national interest. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sense of gratitude to the Provincial Governments for their ready co-operation in this matter.

The main features in the external financial position of the country in the year under review have been the sharp decline in the sterling balances held by the Reserve Bank of India, the growing difficulty in the financing of imports from the hard currency areas and the emergence of Pakistan as a foreign country for currency purposes with the separation of its currency from that of India. The sterling balances which reached the peak figure of Rs. 1,733 crores at the end of 1945-46 declined by Rs. 121 crores to Rs. 1,612 crores during 1946-47. This reduction was due mainly to the large imports of food but there were also substantial imports of other goods in satisfaction of the pent up demand of the war years and a certain amount of repatriation of British capital.

During 1947-48 the reduction was somewhat smaller due to the restrictive import policy which was introduced towards the close of 1947 and the balances fell by only Rs. 67 crores to Rs. 1,545 crores. In the first ten months of the current year there has been a further drop of Rs. 556 crores in these balances. This heavy outgo is due to several causes. The first is the payment to the United Kingdom Government in accordance with the agreement reached with them last July, of Rs. 284 crores for the purchase of annuities for financing the payment of sterling pensions and the acquisition of the Defence installations and stores left behind in India by the United Kingdom at the end of the war.

The second is the payment to the State Bank of Pakistan of Pakistan's share of these balances following the separation of its currency from that of India. This payment is still continuing as the sterling and other assets of the Issue Department are handed over in instalments as Indian notes are withdrawn from circulation in Pakistan and handed over to the Reserve Bank. Sterling to the extent of Rs. 1,77 crores has so far been transferred to the Pakistan State Bank. The third factor responsible for the decline is India's adverse balance of payments on current and capital account.

Government's import policy is largely determined by the trend of the balance of payments. The aim of this policy is so to regulate trade that while it is kept at the highest possible level consistent with the needs and requirements of the country, India should not have an overall deficit in her balance of payments on current account during any particular period of time of more than the amount by which it has been agreed with the United Kingdom Government India's sterling balances should be drawn upon.

Under the present agreement signed last July it has been agreed that India's free sterling account which had a balance at the end of June, 1948 of £80 million will be credited with an equivalent sum during the period July, 1949, to June, 1951. In pursuance of this policy and also with the immediate object of reducing the inflationary pressure in the country, import controls were relaxed during the course of the year, and I am glad to say that they have resulted in substantially increasing the available supply of goods in the country.

While our overall balance of payment position is on the whole satisfactory, our balance of payments with the dollar and hard currency countries is causing us great concern.

In the pre-war years India had usually a surplus with the United States of America and during the war years owing to the drastic curtailment of imports to conserve dollars for the war effort, India continued to have increasing surpluses. After the war, the trend of trade rapidly reversed itself and, in common with the rest of the world, this country started having substantial deficits on hard currency account. The reason for this was that we had increasingly to turn to the hard currency countries for our requirements as the countries whose economies had been disrupted by the war could not meet them. This was particularly true of food which is today the largest single consumer of foreign exchange. Burma could not supply all the rice we needed because of the ravages of the war and its aftermath; Australia could not give us all the wheat we wanted because the United Kingdom had priority in supply.

Dollar Deficit

India's dollar deficit in the past used to be financed by the central reserves of the sterling area. But beginning from January, 1948 the United Kingdom refused to carry his responsibility any further and insisted on limiting the convertibility of our sterling very rigidly. The limits imposed—£ 10 million ($ 40 million) for the half year January—June, 1948 and £ 15 million ($ 60 million) for the year July 1948 June, 1949—bear no relation whatever to our needs.

Concurrently with the imposition of these limits on convertibility, there came the separation of the exchange resources of Pakistan from India which also took place in January, 1948. This has also handicapped us severely as many commodities which before partition earned hard currency, such as raw jute, raw cotton and hides and skins, were largely exported from territories now in Pakistan.

In spite of the maximum possible limitation of imports from the hard currency areas and the maximum possible encouragment of exports thereto, India had a deficit in her balance of payments with the hard currency countries in the six months April to September, 1948 of $45 million. The deficit for the next three months, for which preliminary figures are available, is expected to be $49 million.

Of these deficits, the purchase of foodgrains was responsible for $ 35 million and $ 40 million respectively. These deficits which exceed by far the convertibility allowed to us by the United Kingdom have been met by loans from the International Monetary Fund from which since March, 1948 we have borrowed no less than $ 92 million.

I confess that this chronic dollar deficit is causing Government no little anxiety. Hon'ble Members are aware that we intend to negotiate dollar loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. But these loans will be available only for financing the purchase of equipment for our developmental projects and not for current expenditure.

THE BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Revenue

(In lakhs of Rs.)

	Revised. 1948-49	Budget. 1949-50
Customs	117,25	107,25
		+3,98*
Central Excise Duties	50,25	57,75
		+11,52*
Corporation Tax	57,25	41,81
Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax	100,75	113,19
		—6,10*
Opium	1,08	1,18
Interest	1,42	1,19
Civil Administration	7,05	6,78
Currency and Mint	13,05	9,70
Civil Works	1,02	1,02
Pre-partition Receipts	13,40	..
Other Sources of Revenue	6,52	5,37
Posts and Telegraphs Net Contribution	3,73	1,63
		+2,84*
Railways Net Contribution	7,34	4,72
Deduct—Share of Income-Tax revenue payable to Provinces	—41,79	—43,85
		+3,00*
TOTAL REVENUE	338,32	322,98

Expenditure.

Direct demands on revenue	9,88	10,06
Irrigation	8	12
Debt Services	39,91	39,29
Civil Administration	38,35	40,50
Currency and Mint	2,76	2,23
Civil Works	8,15	7,32
Pensions	2,68	2,68
Miscellaneous—		
Expenditure on refugees	19,45	9,85
Subsidy on foodgrains	31,96	32,97
Other expenditure	5,30	5,12
Grants to Provinces, etc.	2,96	2,96
Extraordinary items	2,21	2,06
Defence Services (net)	155,43	157,37
Pre-partition Payments	20,75	10,00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	339,87	322,53
DEFICIT	—1,55	SURPLUS +45

*Budget Proposals.

EXPORT OF HANDLOOM CLOTH

A PRESS Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 9 said:

For some time past the Government of India has been receiving representations from the handloom industry to the effect that the industry's products should be allowed to be exported freely, because they are mostly of types not extensively consumed in India itself but more in demand in neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Burma and Malaya.

In this connection it must be noted that the Government's policy in regard to the export of cloth is based on two considerations—preservation of overseas markets for Indian cloth, and assurance of a sufficiency of supply for domestic consumption. Exports to all destinations are accordingly allowed on the basis of quotas fixed from year to year. These quotas are available for both mill-made and handloom cloth.

In spite of this outlet for the export of handloom cloth and in spite of efforts to encourage the handloom industry to increase its production of types of cloth suitable for internal consumption, a large accumulation of handloom cloth of types which are more suitable for consumption in other countries exists. On the other hand, many of the neighbouring countries have not yet lifted their full quotas of cloth.

The Government of India is, therefore, satisfied that a temporary liberalization of the export of handloom cloth would in no way lead to internal scarcity while it will give much-needed relief to handloom weavers. It has, therefore, been decided that the export of handloom cloth shall be allowed freely for a limited period of time, which in no case will go beyond June 30, 1949. In this period, the export of 50 million yards of handloom cloth will be allowed to Pakistan, forming part of Pakistan's annual quota of cloth agreed to by India. Export of handloom cloth to Pakistan will be allowed through normal trade channels—not on Government account, as in the case of mill-made cloth. As for other destinations, export licences will be issued for smaller quantities.

Applications for Licences

Applications for export licences to Pakistan should be addressed to the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Calcutta or Bombay, or to the Export Trade Controller, Madras or Amritsar, in accordance with procedure shortly to be announced by them. No application should be made before this announcement.

While allowing this temporary liberalization of exports and recognising the importance of preserving the export trade, the Government of India considers that the handloom industry must in future so arrange its production that it will play a larger part in satisfying domestic requirements while a smaller quantity of handloom cloth is produced for export. The industry is being asked to make the necessary changes in the character of its production.

Facilities for Civil Aviation Employees

SCHEMES to provide more facilities for Civil Aviation employees and to improve air transport in general were approved by the Standing Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Communications at its meeting in New Delhi on February 12. The meeting held with the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Minister of Communications, Government of India, in the Chair, also approved the propose to levy stationery charge in respect of postal envelopes and a programme of capital works for the Posts and Telegraphs Department and civil aerodromes.

To meet the growing needs of aviation, meteorological centres have been established in the air fields. The staff has to work for 24 hours and are situated far away from towns and other residential localities. Adequate transport facilities are also not available and the situation will not ease unless 60 per cent of the staff is provided with residential accommodation near the air fields. A sum of Rs. 16 lakhs is required for constructing quarters at different aerodromes.

Similarly as the radio communication installations have to be kept open all the hours of the day and in view of the absence of Government quarters near the aerodromes to accommodate the staff and the irregularity of transport services, it was decided to purchase a number of motor vehicles that would carry the staff between their residences and places of duty. The vehicles would cost a sum of Rs. 13,48,500.

The committee approved of the proposal to levy a stationery charge in respect of articles of postal stationery. At present, except in the case of registration envelopes neither the cost of manufacture nor the paper used is recovered from the public. Although the cost of producing registration envelopes is Rs. 40 for 480 envelopes, they are sold at an extra nominal charge of only half anna over and above the postage rate of four annas for such articles. With the growth of traffic the use of these envelopes has increased so much that nearly one third of the total number of letters that are transmitted through the post are embossed envelopes with the result that the department is required to bear the extra cost of manufacture of paper from its own revenue. It is now proposed to use better quality paper for the manufacture of envelopes.

The programme of capital works for the development of Civil aerodromes in 1949-50 relates mainly to the construction of residential quarters and the establishment of wireless transmitting stations at various aerodromes. A sum of Rs. 1,81,55,480 will be incurred over a period of 2 to 3 years for this purpose.

Committee to Advise on Tea Exports

The growing importance of tea as a major item of export in India's economy and the various problems that have arisen recently in connection with this commodity have rendered it necessary for the Government to set up an *ad hoc* committee to consider and report on various problems connected with this industry.

The committee's main terms of reference cover measures to be taken to step up tea exports to hard currency countries, devise ways and means of providing additional tea warehousing accommodation in Calcutta and investigating the question of training Indians in the tea broking business, including blending and tasting, and methods for improving the quality of tea exported from the country.

The committee will be composed of representatives of the Indian Tea Association, the Ministries of Transport and Finance of the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal, the Port Trust Commissioners, Indian growers of tea and the Calcutta Tea Traders' Association. Mr. K. K. Chettur, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, will be Chairman of the Committee. Meetings will be held in Calcutta.

EXPORT TRADE CONTROL

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 12 said:

With a view to preventing the re-export of commodities imported from "hard" and "medium" currency areas, the Government of India have decided to bring all goods from those areas, whether otherwise controlled or not, within the purview of the Export Trade Control. The relevant notification, issued under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, appears in Section I of Part I of the Gazette of India dated February 12, 1949.

The areas referred to above comprise:

The continent of North, Central and South America and adjacent Islands, excluding Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Peru and any territories which are part of the Sterling area, the Dutch monetary area of the French franc area; Belgium and Belgian Colonies; Japan, Switzerland and Sweden; the Philippines; Portugal and Portuguese colonies, excluding Portuguese India; "Bizonia", i.e., the Anglo-American Zone of Germany.

Territories which form part of the Sterling, Dutch monetary and French franc areas include British, Dutch and French possessions in the continent of America. They do not however include Canada and Newfoundland.



VICE-ADMIRAL WOODHOUSE ENTERTAINED

Vice-Admiral C. H. L. Woodhouse, Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Fleet, paid a visit to New Delhi recently. (Above) Sardar Patel, Mrs. Woodhouse, H.E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Lady Mountbatten and Sardar Baldev Singh photographed at the Government House luncheon given in honour of Vice-Admiral Woodhouse. (Below) Sardar Baldev Singh (left), Admiral Woodhouse (Centre), and Pandit Nehru photographed at the dinner given by India's Defence Minister in honour of the C.in-C. of the East Indies Fleet



We do not favour the idea of borrowing on the present scale from the International Monetary Fund but if the central reserves of the sterling area, to which we were at one time a source of strength, insist on continuing to limit our claims on them in the same way as at present, we shall have no alternative to continuing to borrow. One ray of hope in the situation lies, of course, in the fact that we hope, in future years, to import less food and to divert our food purchases to the soft currency areas. It is also possible that the international prices of food grains will not remain at the present high levels.

Exchange Control

While we have exchange control with all countries in the world, we have none with Pakistan. This has been rendered possible by the fact that simultaneously with the separation of their currencies on July 1, 1948 India and Pakistan came to a monetary and payments agreement. The main terms of this agreement, which is in the first instance valid for a period of one year, are that each party will hold the currency of the other up to a limit of Rs. 15 corres, that thereafter up to a further limit of Rs. 10 crores, accounts will be settled in free sterling and the balance in sterling in Account No. II.

The reason for entering into an agreement of this kind was that the Governments of both Dominions were anxious to ensure that the obstacle to inter-dominion trade, which the imposition of exchange control would necessarily entail, should, if possible, be avoided. I am glad to say that this agreement has worked satisfactorily and that currency considerations have not stood in the way of inter-dominion commerce.

Financial Year, 1948-49

I shall now proceed to give a brief review of the financial position in the current and the ensuing years.

For the current year the deficit is now estimated at Rs. 1.55 crores against Rs. 2.14 crores provided in the budget.

The revenue receipts are now estimated at Rs. 338.32 crores against the budget estimate of Rs. 255.24 crores, an increase of Rs. 83.08 crores. With the relaxation in the import controls during the course of the year there has been a considerable expansion of imports and the revenue from Customs is expected to be Rs. 36.49 crores more than the budget estimate. The yield from the excise duties on sugar, matches, tyres and tubes and vegetable products has also shown a substantial improvement and with the excise duty on cotton cloth imposed last December and estimated to yield Rs. 7 crores in a full year the revenue from Central excise duties is likely to be Rs. 4.28 crores more.

Income-tax receipts are now placed at Rs. 20.61 crores more than the budget largely as a result of the intensive drive for the clearance of arrears and the recent ordinance authorising the provisional collection of tax on the basis of the statements of income of the assessees, but of this increase Rs. 5.38 crores will accrue to the Provinces as their share of revenue. The revenue from the two Government commercial departments also shows increases. The contribution from Posts and Telegraphs is likely to be Rs. 2.95 crores more while from the Railways, as the House is already aware the contribution will amount to Rs. 7.34 crores against Rs. 4.5 crores taken in the budget.

The profits from currency also show an increase of Rs. 3.65 crores. There is also a carryover of Rs. 1.33 crores on account of Government's share of the profit on stocks of sugar frozen in December 1947 which was not realised during that year and certain pre partition receipts amounting to Rs. 13.4 crores.

Expenditure

The total expenditure this year is now estimated at Rs. 339.87 crores, an increase of Rs. 82.49 crores over the budget estimate which nearly wipes out the increase in revenue. Of this increase, Defence Services account for Rs. 34.35 crores and Civil estimates for the balance of Rs. 48.14 crores.

Defence Services :—The expenditure on Defence Services during the year has been affected by the continuance of the operations in Kashmir, the extent and duration of which could not be foreseen at the time the budget was prepared and for which, in consequence no provision was included and also by the unforeseen deterioration in the situation in Hyderabad which led to the police action last September.

In view of these developments the armed forces had to be maintained at a higher strength than was contemplated in the budget. New units had to be raised and some of the operational demands for stores, equipment and munitions had to be met by fresh procurement. In addition to our own forces we had to take in service larger forces from the Indian States and the Government of Nepal also loaned us some of their troops for purposes of internal defence. All these measures entailed additional expenditure for which there was no provision in the budget.

The increase of Rs. 48.14 crores in civil expenditure is mainly due to three causes. Firstly, the revised estimates include a new provision of Rs. 20.75 crores for meeting pre-partition liabilities for which no provision was made in the budget. At the time the budget was framed, sufficient data regarding the outstanding liabilities were not available and the arrangements with Pakistan for meeting and adjusting these had not also been settled.

It was hoped that these liabilities would be met and shared currently by the two Dominions but the Pakistan Government declined to meet these liabilities on the ground that they were initially those of India and that Pakistan would take its share only through the debt settlement.

The Government of India do not accept this view as, in their opinion, after the division of the available cash balances of the undivided Government between the two Governments, the outstanding liabilities should be paid and currently shared by the two Governments.

But in order to avoid hardship to those who had made supplies or rendered services to the undivided Government, the Government of India have agreed to meet the liabilities in the first instance. Certain outstanding payments relating to the pre-partition period, such as the Provincial share of income-tax, are also due to the Provincial Governments now located in India which the Government of India propose to meet.

Secondly, the expenditure on the relief and rehabilitation of refugees which has always been difficult to estimate and for which a provision of Rs. 10.04 crores was made in the budget is now expected to amount to Rs. 19.45 crores. This increase is partly due to the carryover of certain liabilities from the previous year, mainly payments to Provincial Governments, which could not be made before the close of last year and partly to increased expenditure on relief which has to be regulated with reference to the constantly changing requirements of the situation.

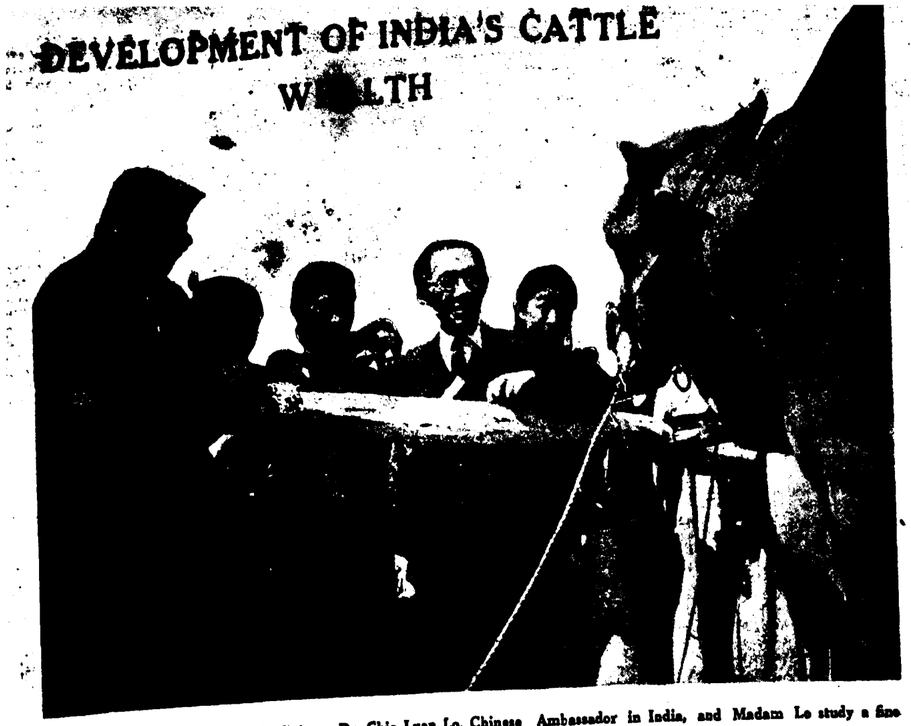
Food Subsidies

Thirdly, the expenditure in the subsidising of imported foodgrains and the payment of bonuses to Provincial Governments on internal procurement is now expected to exceed the original budget by Rs. 12.05 crores. The House will remember that after a review of the food position last October it was decided that with effect from October 1, 1948 the Central share of the loss on the supply of imported foodgrains to deficit areas should be raised from two thirds to three quarters and that a similar concession, limited to the Centre meeting half the loss, should be extended to Indian States. Part of the increase is also due to the fact that while the budget provided for subsidies up to the end of the calendar year provision has now been made for the full financial year.

I should also mention a further reason for the increase in civil expenditure. The House will remember that in the budget for the current year my predecessor made a lump cut of Rs. 2.5 crores for economies likely to result from implementation of the recommendations of the Economy Committee. The work of this Committee has taken somewhat longer than was originally expected and its reports on a number of Ministries are still under examination. No savings are therefore likely to be realised this year.

For next year I am not making any provision at this stage as it is not possible, until firm decisions have been taken on their recommendations, to estimate the

(*Continued on Page* 363)



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Food Minister, Dr. Chia Luan Lo, Chinese Ambassador in India, and Madam Lo study a fine specimen of Indian bull at the 8th All India Cattle show

Food Minister Inaugurates 8th All India Cattle Show

THE 8th All-India Cattle Show was inaugurated on February 27, 1949 by the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India at Rajghat, Delhi. The presence of a large number of rural people interested in cattle breeding and welfare added colour to the ceremony. Among others present were diplomatic representatives including Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of U. S. S. R. and China, some of the members of the Constituent Assembly of India and officials of the Central and Provincial Governments. The proceedings began with the singing of the *Jana Gana Mana*.

Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-President of the All-India Cattle Show Society in welcoming the Hon'ble Minister emphasised the importance of cattle shows in developing the livestock wealth of the country and hoped that with the continued interest and co-operation of the Provinces and States and an increased grant from the Centre, the Committee would overcome the obstacles which stood in the way of fulfilment of its object.

Observing that some of the best breeds in the country have gone over to Pakistan, as a result of the division of the country, Sardar Datar Singh remarked that the need for developing our own breeds was, therefore, greater which could be done by fostering a spirit of competition among our breeders and to give them every encouragement.

The Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, in his inaugural address, while complimenting the Cattle Show Committee on its efforts during the last 10 years to improve the live-stock in India felt that the gap between the effort and the ultimate aim was still large and said that an extensive organization was necessary so as to reach the homes of millions of farmers who were directly interested.

He suggested that efforts should be made to organize from next year a cattle competition for every group of 20 villages in the country and fix January 30, as a National Day when every village in India could participate in these shows. Observing that efficient bullock power was essential for India's efforts to increase her food and agricultural production he appealed to the villagers and farmers, to extend their full co-operation in this great national effort.

The Hon'ble Minister, thereafter, opened the Show and visited the various exhibition stalls. Among the farms and Institutes which had opened their stalls included the Keventers, the D. C. M. Chemical Works, Imperial Chemical Industries, the Government Institutes of Agricultural Research, Delhi, and Veterinary Research, Izatnagar, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, Veterinary Departments of the Government of U. P. and East Punjab and others.

Nearly 400 entries were received by the Show Committee, including breeds of the most famous type available in India. The characteristic features of some of the important breeds are given below :—

Gir—The home of this breed is Kathiawar. These are good milkers and the general appearance is strikingly impressive. The



The United Council for Relief and Welfare met at Government House on March 6, 1949, under the chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who is the Vice-President of the U.C.R.W. Lady Mountbatten, Patron of the U.C.R W., also attended.

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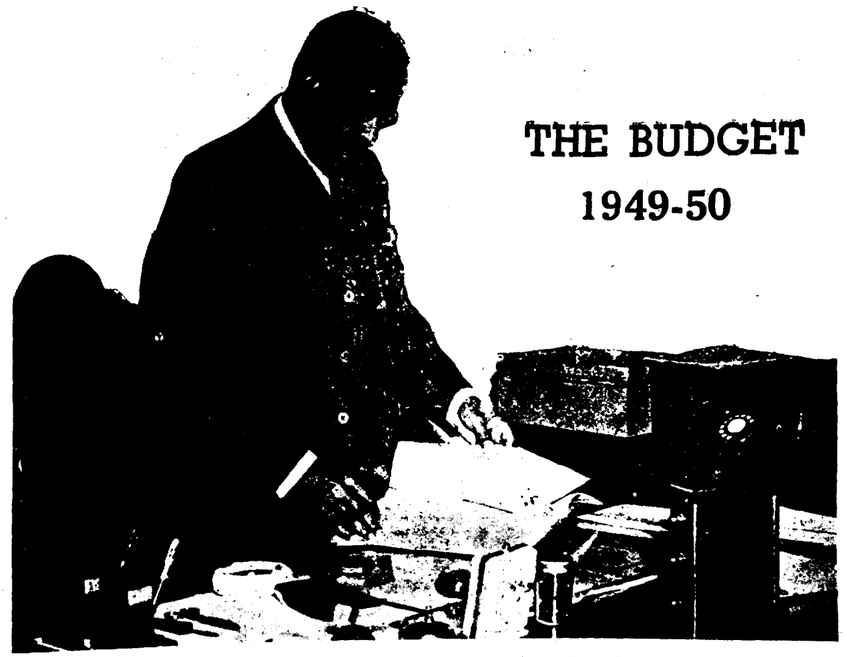
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Cover Picture : Sardar Patel studying a portrait of Gandhiji presented to him when he laid the foundation stone of the Mahatma Gandhi stupa in Mysore recently.



THE BUDGET 1949-50

Dr. John Matthai, Finance Minister, glances through his Budget speech just before leaving for Parliament

THE Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, presenting the second annual Budget of the Indian Dominion to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on February 28, 1949, announced measures of taxation relief of about Rs. 6 crores and additional taxation of about Rs. 20 crores, thus converting the estimated deficit of Rs. 14.79 crores for 1949-50 into a small surplus of Rs. 45 lakhs.

The revenue estimate for the budget year is Rs. 322.98 crores against expenditure of Rs. 322.53 crores. The revised budget of the current year shows a deficit of Rs. 1.55 crores as against Rs. 2.14 crores originally estimated. Defence expenditure which constitutes roughly half the total expenditure is placed at Rs. 155.43 crores in the current year and Rs. 157.37 crores in the next. Borrowings from the market are expected to yield Rs. 85 crores.

The taxation proposals include abolition of the Capital Gains Tax, relief in income-tax for the lowest and middle income groups, reduction in super-tax, removal of export duty on oil seeds and vegetable oils, relief in customs duty on raw materials for industry, abolition of surcharge on air mails, increase in postal rates since all first class mail is to be carried by air.

Besides, the Budget proposals envisage additional customs duties on luxury items, new export duty on cigars and cigarettes, increase in duty on motor spirit, increase in import duty on betelnuts, increase in excise duty on sugar and motor tyres, excise duty on cotton cloth, both fine and coarse, and rationalization of match duty.

Here is the full text of Dr. John Matthai's Budget speech :—

Although this is the fourth year since the cessation of hostilities, the return of normal conditions, without which it is impossible to expand production and develop trade, seems still as far off as ever. Over large parts of the world, conditions remain disturbed and the progress of recovery from the ravages of the war is painfully slow. In Europe the impasse in Berlin, the civil war in Greece and the emergence of two rival camps among the countries that fought the war as allies are symptomatic of the abnormal conditions which still prevail. The Palestine question, which is a serious threat to peace and stability in the Middle East, is still unsolved.

Nearer home, the continuance of civil strife in China, the disturbances in Burma, which concern us deeply in view of our close economic ties with that country and the large interest our nationals have in it, and the unprovoked assault of the Dutch on the Indonesian Republic, all these retard the economic recovery not merely of this largely underdeveloped area of the globe but of the whole world. Prosperity, like peace, is indivisible and while these conflicts are going on in various parts of the world involving a tragic waste of men and material, the common man in all countries, particularly the less developed countries, continues to pay a heavy price in want and suffering.

In our own country, as in most other countries in the post-war period, the major problem has been that of keeping the inflationary trends under control. It is not necessary for me to dilate on the causes of the emergence of these trends since the end of the war. While as a result of the war the purchasing power in the hands of the community increased considerably, the available supply of commodities in the post-war period was not sufficient to meet the increasing demand for them.

The shortage of essential commodities particularly food and clothing, aggravated the situation owing to the rise in the money income of some sections of the community who in the past never competed for food and consumer goods on the same scale. Difficulties in transport and distribution accentuated the

animals are of medium size with a well proportioned body and robust constitution. The best type has a majestic bearing, an intelligent expression, light, easy, proud gait and a docile temperament. The massive forehead, the peculiarly curved horns and the long pendulous curled ears are the most characteristic features of the animal.

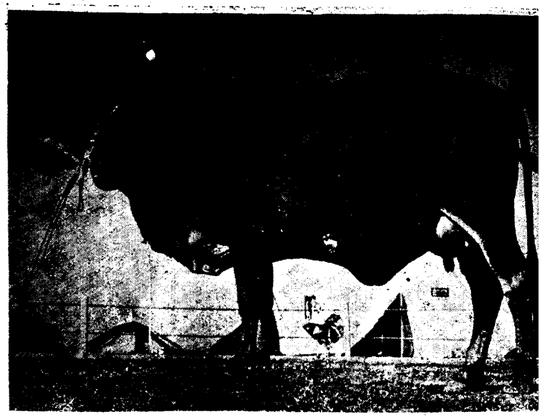
Hariana—The home of this breed is the area covered by the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon and parts of Karnal and Delhi. Cattle of the pure breed, which are found in Jhajjar and Rohtak Tehsils, have a long and narrow face with a flat forehead and a well marked boney prominence at the centre of the poll. A dual purpose animal, valued as a powerful work animal and at the same time capable of providing a fair amount of milk. Bullocks are particularly good work animals for rapid ploughing and road transport.

Khillari—This is a well known draught breed of the Southern region of Bombay Presidency. The characteristic features are grey white coloration, the long sweeping horns which emerge near each other at the top of poll, in an upward direction, the well developed hump placed in front of the wither, the voluminous dewlap and small sheath and the comparatively short tail with black switch reaching only a short distance below the back.

Kankrej—The home of this breed is particularly along the Benas and Saraswati rivers in the Rann of Cutch, Ahmedabad District and Radhanpur State. The Kankrej is one of the heaviest Indian cattle. It has a powerful body with broad chest and straight back. The gait is peculiar to the breed, the action is smooth, there is hardly any movement of the body. The head is held noticeably high, the stride is long and even, the colour of the male is silver grey, iron grey or even black. Hind and fore legs have black markings; the coronet is always black. Colour and colour markings are lighter in females than males. Udder is well shaped, skin is soft, pliable with fine glossy air.

Murrah—The home of this breed is Hariana tract. Murrah buffalo cows are amongst the efficient milk and butter producers in India. The buffalow-cow has a very deep massive frame with a comparatively light neck and head, short tightly curled horns in a spiral form and long tail reaching the fetlock. The popular colour is jet black with white marking on the tail.

Sahiwal—This breed is mostly found in Ferozepur District (Jalalabad area) of East Punjab and other border towns of East Punjab *e.g.*, Amritsar. This is a milch breed and is known as the "Lola" due to great development of loose skin. It is a heavy breed, body is symmetrical, with broad head, thick, short horns and fine loose skin. The female has the general appearance of a high class animal with capacity for feed. The head of the female is medium sized and lean while of the male, it is massive. The bullocks are lethargic but useful for slow work.



This red Sindhi cow from the Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, was declared the best cow in the All India Cattle Show. Its age is eight years



This bull of Hissar breed belonging to the Government Livestock Farm, Hissar, was declared the best bull in the Cattle Show. Its age is four years and eight months

Sindhi—Sindhi cows are high milk yielders and the most economic milk producers. Substantial progress has been made during recent years in developing this breed in parts of Southern India particularly in Travancore. The correct colour of the breed is a deep red. The bull is much darker, the extremeties being almost black when fully grown. The Sindhi animals, either male or female are of medium size and are compact and symmetrical in shape. The average weight of cows is 750 lbs., and of bulls about 925 lbs. The head is of moderate size. The Sindhi cow is particularly docile and is distinctively a dairy animal. The bull is virile.

Tharparkar—This breed has been developed during recent years at Karnal and Patna and good herds are available at the former place. The cows are good milkers and the bullocks are good workers. Of medium weight, they are useful for both ploughing and carting. The typical Tharparkar is a deep, stockily built animal of medium size and good quality with straight limbs and good feet. It has a strong well proportioned frame with good bones and joints of fine quality. The colour is black except on udder.



Seven-year-old 'Karan' from Rohtak, of Murrah breed, was declared the best buffalo bull in the All India Cattle Show



'Lajjo,' a buffalo of 'Nili' breed owned by His Holiness Shri Satguru Maharaj Pratap Singhji, Maharaj of Gurdwara Bhaioi Sahib, Ludhiana, was declared the best animal as also the best buffalo cow in the Show

CATTLE BREEDERS' CONFERENCE

The Second All-India Cattle Breeders Conference, met at the All-India Cattle Show ground at Rajghat, Delhi, from February 27 to March 2, 1949. Among the important resolutions passed were decisions to approach the Central and Provincial Governments to grant lands for cattle breeding farms, to develop and multiply useful cattle breeds which have been lost to India because of partition of the country, to organize Animal Husbandry departments in new Unions and States, to establish an adequate agency to give effect to the resolutions passed in the conference and to restrict the sale and export of animals from their home tracts.

The Conference which was attended by delegates from Bombay, U. P., East Punjab, Madras, Mysore, Coorg, Hyderabad, Central Provinces and Berar, Rajputana, Madhya Bharat, Kashmir and Travancore also decided to undertake the organization of cattle shows all over India with the ultimate aim of arranging one show for every 20 villages every year. January 30, 1950, was fixed as the target.

It was urged that special steps should be taken to develop such breeds like Red Sindhi, Tharparkar and Sahiwal as these breeds have gone over to Pakistan. Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-President of the All-India Cattle Show Committee, in his presidential address stressed the need for developing these breeds in India.

It was also decided to approach the Government of India for special funds for the Cattle Show Committee. While expressing its satisfaction over some improvement in the transport of animals participating in the Cattle Shows, the Conference requested the railway authorities to grant concessions for the transport of animals by passenger trains.

RAJAJI ON IMPROVEMENT OF INDIA'S CATTLE WEALTH

"It is well to remember that the doctrine of non-killing and compassion will not alone improve our cattle. Well planned and deliberate steps must be taken if we desire to possess good draught and milk-yielding cows, and not animals that are a charge on our pasture and fodder crops without being either happy themselves or contributing to human happiness", observed His Excellency Shri Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, in a message to Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-President, All India Cattle Show Committee, on the occasion of the prize-giving ceremony at the All India Cattle and Poultry Show which concluded on March 4. In the absence of His Excellency the Governor-General who could not come due to indisposition, the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, presided.

Here is the full text of Rajaji's message:

"I am very sorry to be guilty of ill-health and of a breach of promise in consequence. I send this apology for my absence at the 8th annual show of the organization that has been rendering very useful service in animal husbandry.

"It is well to remember that the doctrine of non-killing and compassion will not alone improve our cattle. Well planned and deliberate steps must be taken if we desire to possess good draught bulls and milk-yielding cows, and not animals that are a charge on our pasture and fodder crops without being either happy themselves on contributing to human happiness.

"Even in the times of Valmilki, men knew the difference between good breeds and bad breeds of horses and other animals. A people who saw good in the caste system could not fail to see the advantage of careful animal husbandry. We have a great deal to learn from other countries as to how to plan and progress in our animal production."

A distinguished gathering, dotted with a large number of enthusiastic rural population who had collected at the Cattle Show ground to see that the prize-distribution ceremony greeted the animals and their owners when they came to the Rostrum to receive the prizes. The Hon'ble Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Railways and Transport, some members of the Constituent Assembly of India, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, a large number of officials of the Central and Provincial

Federations in their areas. He hoped that remaining Provinces and States would also follow the lead given by some of the Provinces to start their development plans.

Speaking of the potentialities of Goshalas in the economic development of the country, Sardar Datar Singh said that in about 3,000 Goshalas and pinjrapoles in India, there were over 6 lakhs of cattle of which about 20 per cent could be used for dairy and breeding purposes and the remaining 80 per cent were old and infirm animals which needed to be segregated. The animals which could be used for dairy purposes could produce 3,000 mds. of milk per day. Similarly about 50,000 bulls and bullocks could be raised which would be useful for service in the fields or as stud bulls.

Central Goshala Federation

In a resolution passed unanimously, the Conference requested the Government of India to form a Central Organization consisting of representatives of the Central, Provincial and State Governments and the Provincial Goshala federations with a view to devise co-ordinated and planned assistance in the development of Goshalas and pinjrapoles, to review periodically the progress in work and plan a co-ordinated programme for the whole of the country and to educate and organize public opinion for the development of this institution. It was suggested that for the present the Organization should be a Government sponsored body with its headquarters in Delhi.

The Conference appreciated the action already taken by some of the Provincial Governments in setting up Provincial Goshala Federations and recommended that those provinces and states which had not yet set up similar organizations should do so early.

Segregation Camps

In an another resolution, the Conference opined that the establishment of *Go Seva Sadans* in suitable areas where unserviceable cattle of Goshalas and pinjrapoles could be segregated and maintained without further propagation was the first essential step for making any improvement in the existing conditions of these institutions. It recommended to the Central and Provincial Governments to explore all possibilities for the early establishment of Cattle Segregation Camps in suitable areas and provide facilities to the Goshala managements for their successful working.

Seth Govind Das, who moved this resolution, expressed the hope that this measure, if properly implemented, would do away with the need for cattle slaughter. Shrimati Mira Behn observed that this was the only humanitarian way to deal with the unproductive cattle. She also urged, in this connection, the desirability of castration of inferior bulls and putting them to use in farms or as transport animals.

The other resolutions passed at the Conference were:—

The Conference requests the Government of India, Provincial and State Governments to sanction comprehensive schemes of some permanent nature under their post-war development plan providing for more active assistance to Goshalas and pinjrapoles, as a stage has been reached when these public institutions can, to a great extent, supplement the Government's efforts in improving the cattle wealth of the country;

The Conference requests the Provincial and State Governments where Goshala Federations and such other institutions exist to recognise the importance of these organizations and to give them proper representation on various Government sponsored bodies dealing directly or indirectly with the cattle and dairy development;

The Conference urges that Goshalas should take up wider activities, concerning development of cattle and should serve as centres for cattle improvement in the surrounding areas by giving advice through their technical workers. They should also serve as nuclei for the provision of breeding bulls and female stocks to the surrounding areas for further propagation; and

The Conference urges upon the Governments concerned to take steps with a view to place Goshalas and pinjrapoles on a firm financial footing, by legalising collection of Goshala levies.

F. A. O. EXPERTS FOR INDIA

The services of two experts of the F.A.O. will in the near future be available to the Indian Government to advise them on problems of Indian agriculture.

The Central Ministry of Agriculture has under consideration the organisation of an agricultural extension service, which would bring to the cultivator the results of scientific research and laboratory experiments conducted by the Central or provincial Governments. Much progress in this direction has been made in the U.S.A. and the F.A.O. expert will advise the Indian Government on setting up a similar organisation in India, with suitable modifications to meet Indian conditions.

The second expert will assist India to prepare improved rinderpest vaccine. The F.A.O. scientists have been assisting Chinese agriculture in the large scale manufacture of an improved vaccine, which is stated to give life immunity to the cattle.

The terms of consultation for these experts include the payment of a subsistence allowance in India and travelling expenses. It is considered likely that the F.A.O. would require the assistance of Indian experts in agriculture for the benefit of some underdeveloped countries in S.E. Asia

COMPOST PRODUCTION IN BOMBAY

During the first six months of 1948-49, the Agriculture Department of the Government of Bombay produced 77,563 tons of composts from town refuse, which is several thousand tons more than the production of whole of 1947-48. The Government, in pursuance of the decision taken at a meeting of the Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee in March 1948, started a vigorous drive to increase manure production and the results of the last six months have been encouraging.

The Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee has fixed the following six-monthly targets of compost production for the Province: From 1-10-48 to 31-3-49, 100,000 tons; from 1-4-49 to 30-9-49—150,000 tons and from 1-10-49 to 31-3-50—200,000 tons.

Steps have already been taken by the Provincial Government to achieve the targets fixed and it is proposed to introduce necessary legislation with a view to compelling municipalities and other local bodies to convert the whole of their refuse material into compost.

It has been estimated that by a proper utilisation of the refuse available in the 304 towns of Bombay Presidency with a total urban population of 62.67 lakhs (1941 census), it would be possible to prepare about 6 lakh tons of manure per year.

Distribution of cowdung stocks in Bombay's suburban area has also been undertaken and during the period, April to December 1948, 290 wagon loads of cowdung containing about 5,800 tons of manure were sent out. This figure falls short of the target fixed but difficulties due to the rains in the earlier part of the year and the need for large-scale supply of food and fodder to western India where acute scarcity prevailed, stood in the way thus using up the entire transport capacity. The Government of Bombay are now working upon a scheme to transport manure by motor trucks to the area round about Bombay.

Under the scheme of composting farm and village refuse, which was started in 1944, 1,000 villages have been covered and so far 1,25,000 pits have been dug by the farmers for which about Rs. 5,10,000 have been paid in the form of subsidies. The scheme provides, on an average, for the digging of 90 pits per village and covers, 1,000 villages every year.

The Government have also been working on a scheme for the utilisation of Bombay city's sewage totalling about 120 to 150 million gallons per day. At present, the entire sewage is pumped into the sea thus involving a waste of 7,500 tons of nitrogen per year, equivalent to 37,500 tons of ammonium sulphate, valued at Rs. one crore.

At a conference held recently under the Presidentship of the Minister of Agriculture, Bombay, a scheme of the Bombay Corporation for utilising about 4 million gallons of sewage per day from the Dadar pumping station to the corporation farms was discussed. Further steps are being taken.

In the refuse dumps at Chemboor, about 800 tons of good quality refuse are being dumped daily and at present there are several hundred thousand tons of manures in the depot. Steps are being taken by the Government to distribute this manure to the agricultural population as it has been found to contain a good percentage of nitrogen and phospheric acid.

PROGRESS IN GRAIN PROCUREMENT SCHEMES

Government Policy Reviewed

"THE Government of India have directed all Food Administrations in the country to intensify local procurement of foodgrains. The present expectation is that 40 lakh tons will be procured during 1949. Wherever the local system proves inadequate to meet the needs of the situation, the Centre will not hesitate to apply the maximum pressure." A spokesman of the Central Food Ministry thus summed up Government efforts to enable the fullest utilisation of all grain surpluses in the country for equitable distribution through rationing.

Reviewing the progress made in implementing the policy of control adopted last September, the spokesman admitted that at the time of the reversal of the policy of "progressive decontrol" about six months ago, the Government had no large stocks on hand, nor was there any crop ready for procuring, which factors would have enabled them to make price control effective. Even so, action was taken on a limited scale.

Ten towns were rationed in East Punjab, where a steep rise in prices had been reported. This resulted in a sudden fall in prices. Partial rationing was also introduced in the United Provinces, which while not bringing down grain prices, did arrest a further upward movement. Wheat prices have again risen but this is a normal feature during the tag-end of a crop season. A downward fall in grain prices is indicated with the arrival of the rabi crop and extension of rationing, as Government build up their stocks.

Procurement Schemes

Describing internal procurement as the "lynchpin of food control machinery" the official spokesman stated that the present position province-wise was as follows:—

Assam—For purposes of procurement, the whole province is divided into five main centres and procurement is done by the Government.

Bengal—Procurement, which was not abandoned even under de-control continues to be successful. But because of the absence of land records, as most of the area is under the Permanent Settlement, a grain levy cannot be introduced.

Bihar—The difficulties of introducing a system of levy in most parts of Bihar are the same as in the case of Bengal. Rice and paddy will, however, be procured under a system of monopoly procurement. For this, certain areas are to be declared monopoly procurement areas. All rice mills in the Province are being appointed as sole purchasers of paddy for the Government, and their total production will be taken over by the Government.

Bombay—The Province has reverted to its full-fledged procurement and levy scheme, which was in operation before de-control.

Central Provinces and Berar—Sixty per cent of millets and fifty per cent of rice are to be sold to the Government by the licensed traders.

Madras—The scheme of procurement and rationing at the time of food control is being re-introduced. Under this, the entire surplus of the cultivator is acquired by the Government after allowing him to keep his requirements for domestic consumption, seed and customary payment in kind.

Orissa—Monopoly procurement of rice and paddy is in operation in the province.

East Punjab—Monopoly procurement of rice has already been introduced in the province and the target for monopoly procurement of wheat is 100,000 tons.

United Provinces—Because of serious damage to the *kharif* crops as a result of floods, no procurement is possible except of rice. In the case of rice the full year's target of 100,000 tons for procurement has already been reached, and further procurement will continue. The target for the *rabi* levy is 400,000 tons.

The procurement machinery in many of the States, such as Baroda, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin is considered satisfactory. In some States, however, because of the lack of adequate administrative machinery, the results will continue to be below expectation. It is pointed out that organisational difficulties at present prevent the Centre from doing any thing more than assisting the States' Governments to implement plans already drawn up.

Reports of conditions in certain parts of the country would seem to suggest that if an all-out effort is made and if a responsive atmosphere created, there is every chance of even greater procurement than planned at present.

Rationing

The progress of resumption of rationing in some of the main areas is as follows:—

Bombay has reverted to the position, which was prevailing in November, 1947. By the end of March this year, practically the whole of the Madras Province would be under rationing as also Mysore.

In West Bengal, Calcutta and its adjacent industrial area continued to be under rationing even during the period of de-control; two more towns, Asansol and Kharagpur have now been brought under rationing.

In Bihar rationing has been re-introduced in Jamshedpur while in East Punjab, by the end of March, approximately 19 lakhs of people will be under rationing.

In the U. P. rationing will be extended as procurement of the *rabi* crop begins to operate.

At present the number of persons receiving a complete or partial ration through the Government is 10,47,00,000. In November 1947, before de-control the number was 14,83,00,000.

DID YOU KNOW THAT....

A total of 625 acres of wasteland in different parts of the country, is being ploughed up every day by units of tractors supplied by the Central Ministry of Agriculture.

For every 28,000 tons of wheat procured within the country, India saves Rs. 1 crore worth of foreign exchange.

Nearly 83 per cent of the cultivated area in India is under food crops. Of this 31·6 per cent is under rice, 29 per cent under millets and other cereals, and 14.7 per cent under wheat.

During 1948 the Central Food Ministry distributed 32 lakh tons of foodgrains to deficit areas in the country.

After partition, India has to maintain 78 per cent of her original population, on 71.7 per cent of the original area under rice and 71 per cent under wheat.

The largest and oldest forest college in the East is situated in India, a Dehra Dun.

IMPORT OF SALT FROM PAKISTAN

With a view to relieving congestion at the port of Bombay, it has become necessary to stop import of salt into that port from Pakistan by sea, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 9,

It added, the Government of India have accordingly decided to exclude salt from the scope of Open General Licence No. X which allows free imports of all goods except raw cotton from Pakistan to India. Khewra salt from Pakistan by land will, however, continue to be imported under cover of the said Open General Licence.

A notification to this effect has also been issued in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of March 9, 1949. As regards import of salt from Pakistan by sea into any port other than Bombay, the Government of India have decided that licences should be issued liberally and instructions are being issued to the licensing authorities accordingly.

FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION IN 1947-48

Reduced Acreage—Increased Yield

THE latest returns from Provinces and States regarding acreage and production of foodgrains in 1947-48 show an increase of nearly 6 lakh tons in production of the principal foodgrains during the year as compared to 1946-47. The increase in production occurred in the Central Provinces and Berar, Bombay and the United Provinces and amounted to about 19 lakh tons. This was partly set off by a loss of nearly 12 lakh tons in Madras because of a failure of the north-east monsoon. There was also a decline in production in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and East Punjab totalling about 6 lakh tons, but reporting States of the Indian Union accounted for a net increase of about 4 lakh tons.

Acreage

The figures below show the acreage in 1947-48 under the principal foodgrains as compared to that in 1946-47 :—

FIGURES IN THOUSANDS.

FOODGRAINS	ACREAGE 1946-47	ACREAGE 1947-48.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—).
Rice	60,987	59,656	(—) 1,331
Wheat	24,348	20,209	(—) 4,139
Jowar	37,844	35,665	(—) 2,179
Bajra	21,442	19,626	(—) 1,816
Maize	7,888	7,755	(—) 133
Ragi	5,174	5,108	(—) 66
Barley	7,082	7,127	(+) 45
Gram	16,971	18,498	(+) 1,527

Except for an increase in acreage under barley and gram there has been a decrease in the case of all the other foodgrains. The increase in barley has occurred in Rajputana States and Gwalior and in gram, substantial increase in acreage was effected in East Punjab, C.P. and Berar, United Provinces, Delhi, Gwalior, East Punjab States and Rajputana States.

Production Figures

The figures of production of the principal foodgrains during 1947-48 as compared to that of 1947-48 are given in the table on next page.

While there has been a reduction in the case of rice, bajra and ragi, wheat, jowar, maize, barely and gram record increased yields.

Rice showed an all round decline in production except in the U. P. and C.P. where there was a rise. Increase in production in wheat occurred in Bombay, Bihar, C.P. and the United Provinces. The U.P. and C.P. and Bombay produced more jowar. Production of bajra, maize and ragi increased in U.P. and Bihar while barley and gram showed a sunstantial increase in the East Punjab and the United Provinces. These figures do not include those of increased production in the Indian States, for which separate figures are not available.

Position in Provinces

The position in each of the Provinces regarding acreage and production is as follows :—

Assam: The production figures are available only in respect of rice. The decline in outturn in 1947-48 as compared with 1946-47 was 101,000 tons and is attributed partly to a smaller acreage because of unfavourable weather conditions at the beginning of the season, and partly to the damage caused to the crop by floods, especially in the low-lying areas of most of the districts. Insect pests in some districts and hail-storms in other also affected the crops.

Bihar: The total decline in the outturn of eight major foodgrains during 1947-48 was 70,000 tons. The decline was accounted for mainly by rice and partially by barley and gram. In the case of other foodgrains there was actually an increase in production. The decline in the outturn of rice was due partly to a reduction in acreage as a result of scarcity of rains at the time of sowing and partly because of unfavourable weather conditions.

Bombay: In Bombay, while the acreage under all the eight principal foodgrains showed a reduction, the total outturn showed an increase of 227,000 tons or 8.2 per cent. The increase was mainly accounted for by jowar, bajra, maize and wheat. The last crop had suffered serious damage due to rust during 1946-47. The out-turn of rice, ragi, barley and gram showed a decline.

C.P. and Berar: Central Provinces and Berar produced 895,000 tons of foodgrains more in 1947-48 than in 1946-47 This was mainly due to appreciable increase in the outturn of rice, jowar and wheat.

East-Punjab: The total decline in the production of wheat, rice, jowar, bajra and maize during 1947-48 was 328,000 tons; due partly to a smaller acreage on account of insufficient rains at sowing time and partly to damage caused to crops by communal disturbances, and by floods in the case of jowar and maize crops. The production of barley and gram, however, showed an increase of 212,000 tons.

Madras: The total decline in the acreage and outturn of major foodgrains during 1947-48 was 1,326,000 acres and 1,155,000 tons respectively. The decrease in area was due to insufficient rains at the time of sowing. The decline in production was due mainly to the failure of the north-east monsoon rains in some districts and excessive rains in the Circars, during the month of December, 1947. Rice, Jowar and Ragi crops were also reported to have been affected to some extent by insect pests in certain districts of the province.

Orissa: In Orissa the production showed a decline of about 88,000 tons which was almost entirely accounted for by fall in rice production. The area under rice during 1947-48 showed a slight increase (i.e. 63,000 acres) but the outturn showed a decline due to unfavourable weather conditions.

United Provinces: Production of all major foodgrains showed a general increase, the total increase amounting to 817,000 tons.

West Bengal: The total decline in the outturn of eight major foodgrains in 1947-48 was 219,000 tons, which was mainly accounted for by fall in rice production. The weather conditions were adverse in the early stages of the crop, causing diminution in acreage and lower yield. Some damage was also reported to have been caused by excessive rains in some parts of the 24-

FIGURES IN THOUSAND TONS.

FOODGRAINS	PRODUCTION 1946-47.	PRODUCTION 1947-48.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—).
Rice	19,856	18,760	(—) 1,096
Wheat	4,744	5,348	(+) 604
Jowar	5,277	5,730	(+) 453
Bajra	2,667	2,525	(—) 142
Maize	2,035	2,111	(+) 76
Ragi	1,476	1,391	(—) 85
Barley	2,414	2,488	(+) 74
Gram	3,599	4,310	(+) 711

Parganas and by floods in Murshidabad and Birbhum. The outturn of jowar and ragi remained practically the same as during 1946-47.

Increase in States

The total increase in production in the reporting Indian States was 419,000 tons, which occurred mainly in Rajputana States, Central India States, Eastern Agency States, East Punjab States and Gwalior. Hyderabad and Bombay States recorded a decline in production of major foodgrains amounting to 79,000 tons and 23,000 tons respectively.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN PAKISTAN

"Dr. Sita Ram has been appointed High Commissioner for India in Pakistan," said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on February 28, 1949.

Dr. Sita Ram was born on January 12, 1885. He was associated with the Indian National Congress from 1905 to 1919. In 1921 he was elected a member of the U. P. Legislative Council and since 1925 has been its President.

A keen educationist, Dr. Sita Ram has been connected with many educational institutions of the United Provinces. For several years he was a member of the Executive Council of the Allahabad University. He has also been intimately connected with the Banaras Hindu University as a member of its Executive Council.

EXPORT OF HOSIERY GOODS

In view of improvement in the supply position of hosiery goods, the Government of India has decided to liberalise the export of hosiery. Manufacturers as well as others who are in the hosiery trade may apply for licences to the Deputy Chief Controllers of Exports, Bombay and Calcutta, and the Export Trade Controllers, Madras and Amritsar, abiding to procedure which will be notified by them.

INTERNATIONAL RICE COMMISSION

Mr. S. V. Ramamurti's Statement

MR. S. V. RAMAMURTI, Head of the Indian Delegation, [speaking at the first plenary meeting of the FAO International Rice Commission at Bangkok on March 7, said :

"On behalf of India I wish to express our great satisfaction at the formation of the International Rice Commission. If I may strike a personal note, I had the pleasure of proposing the formation of a Rice Board for South-East Asia at the meeting of the Preparatory Commission of the F. A. O. in October 1946. I am glad that the proposal has come to fruition today.

"Rice is a crop which stands at the core of the economy of South-East Asia. The original home of Rice has been stated to be South-East Asia and China. After lapse of centuries and even millennia, there has been little change in the primary place which rice holds in the dietary of this region. Ninety per cent of the world production and consumption of rice takes place in South-East Asia. It is, therefore, of utmost importance to us in South-East Asia to study the production, distribution and consumption of rice in all their aspects and make improvements which Science and Organization make possible today.

"The countries of South-East Asia have basic similarity in geography and history and in potential resources of nature and man. Yet they have widely varying levels of rice production. For instance, in India on irrigated land we get an average of 1,200 lbs. of rice per acre, in China 2,400 lbs., and in Japan 3,500 lbs. It will be of value if a comparative study of the factors affecting production in South-East Asian countries is made so as to correlate them with levels of production. It should thus be possible with comparative as se for methods of rice production being adopted from one country to another neighbouring country.

"In South-East Asia we are witessing the co-operation of continents in Rice cultivation. The practice of rice cultivation originated there. Today large scale organization of rice cultivation with mechanical methods, may be contributed by America and Australia. It is fitting therefore, that this Rice Commission, dealing with a problem which is primarily South-East Asian, has the benefit of international co-operation. Poverty anywhere is now recognized as the enemy of prosperity everywhere. Rice is the basis of South-East Asian poverty. I trust that this Commission will help to make Rice the store of our prosperity. On behalf of India, I extend full promise of co-operation with the work of the Commission."

INDIAN DELEGATION

The Indian delegation to the inaugural meeting of the International Rice Commission consisted of :

Leader : Mr. S. V. Ramamurty, I. C. S. (Retd).

Alternate : Mr. Bhagwat Dayal, Indian Charge d'Affaires at Bangkok.

Advisers : Mr. K. Ramiah, Director, Central Research Institute, Cuttack.

Dr. S. R. Sen, Deputy Economics and Statistics Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi. (Adviser-cum-Secretary).

The agenda included consideration of the rules, procedure, and organisation of the Commission in terms of its constitution : review of major obstacles to the expansion of rice production and to the better utilisation of available supplies and examination of the steps to be taken to improve national and international rice statistics.

OUR MAIN STAKE IN WORLD AFFAIRS IS PEACE

—Pandit Nehru

MOVING the demands for grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on March 8, in Parliament, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru outlined India's foreign policy and reiterated India's strong determination to steer clear of power blocs. "Our foreign policy is one to keep apart from big blocs of Nations—rival blocs—and to be friendly to all countries and not become entangled in any alliances military or other that might drag us into any possible conflict" he said. "Our main stake in world affairs is piece, to see that there is racial equality and that people who are still subjugated should be free."

Here is the text of Pandit Nehru's speech:

This House is no doubt interested in the many aspects of our foreign policy and foreign affairs and how they affect India. Probably, in the course of the debate today, attention will be drawn to many of these factors, but with your permission, Sir, and the indulgence of the House, I should like to deal with the general aspects of foreign affairs and foreign policy as they affect India and as we look at them rather than to say much about the smaller aspects of this main problem.

Even before that, I should like to say something in the nature of a general survey not only of foreign affairs but of India itself. We have had in the course of the last few days a great deal of criticism of the Budget proposals and many of the failings of Government have been pointed out with more or less, force.

So far as I am concerned, I welcome every type of criticism and I do believe that it would be unfortunate if this House became just, shall I say, a static House, a subservient House, a House which just says "Yes" to anything that the Government might put forward. Eternal vigiliance is the price of liberty and every member of this House has to be vigilant and the Government, of course must be vigilant.

Objective Outlook Needed

But there is always a possible tendency for those in authority to become a little complacent. Therefore, I repeat, that for my part, I welcome the vigilance of Hon'ble Members of this House in drawing our attention to our failings or any other error or delinquency on the part of the administration. I hope that that criticism is offered in good spirit, in a friendly way and that it does not challenge the bona fides of the Government. Of course, if the bona fides of the Government are sought to be challenged, I do not mind that, provided it is clear that that is the issue.

I have felt in listening to these criticisms during these days or reading about them that perhaps we are concentrating too much on the trees and not looking at the whole woods. We are not looking at the whole picture of India today and what has happened in the course of the last 18 months or so. Look at it, as far as you can, objectively—as if you were at a distance and saw this changing scene.

I think if you could transport yourself to the period a year and a half ago and to all that was happening then and to all that has happened since then, you will find that there has been not only a great change in India but that India has gone ahead in many ways in spite of all our difficulties and all the travails that we have passed through. Our Government, to some extent particularly myself, have had to carry very heavy burdens and we have to carry them still and there are great difficulties ahead of us.

Nevertheless, in all honesty, I have a



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

feeling of achievement, not failure, and look upon the future, I do not mean the distant future but the near future, with full confidence and feel a certain secret emotion at being privileged to participate in the service of India at this tremendous stage of her history.

May I say, as you have referred to the Budget proposals, that this Budget itself contains provisions, many of which may not perhaps be pleasing to some members, may be we might have done better here and there, but the budget itself, I think, is a sign of our strength and the strength of the nation. I think that the House and the country will see that the care and foresight given to this Budget by our Finance Minister will be paid in full measure in the months and years to come.

We have proceeded cautiously, because, frankly speaking, we dare not take risks with this great trust we have got. Many a thing that we would like to do we have refrained from doing, because we cannot gamble with India's future or India's present. It is too serious a matter for us to go ahead even with our own theories or ideas on the subject, if there is any risk or danger involved in them.

So we have proceeded cautiously. It may be that somewhat quicker results might come to us if we were a little more dashing in this matter, but I personally entirely agree with this cautious approach at this present critical time. Apart from any small matters here and there, I should like to pay my tribute to my colleague, the Finance Minister, for the courage and vision and high ability with which he has tackled our problem. (*Cheers*).

India's Role

The Indian Union is an infant State, infant free State, a year and a half old, but remember that India is not an infant country. India is a very ancient country with millennia of history behind her—history in which she has played a vital part not only within her own vast boundaries but in the world and in Asia in particular. India now, in this last year or more, emerges again in the main trend of human affairs.

Now, that is something of great historical significance. I could have said that Asia emerges in this main trend of history. Asia, in the long millennia of history, has played a very important part. So has India, of course; but during the last two hundred years or so, certain developments of science and technology in Europe, and America a little later, led to Asia coming under the domination of Europe and to a restriction of her activities in the world at large. She became confined and restricted.

Various changes took place internally in India and in Asia during this period. But generally speaking, India and other countries of Asia withstood this political and economic domination of Europe. Now, that period and the epoch has ended, and India now comes, I think, into the forefront in national affairs and world events.

One of the major questions of the day is the readjustment of the relations of Asia and Europe. When we talk of Asia, remember that India, not because of any ambition of ours, but because of the force of circumstances, because of geography, because of history and because of so many other things, inevitably has to play a very important part in Asia. And not only that; India becomes a kind of meeting ground of various trends and forces and a meeting ground between what might roughly be called the East and the West.

Look at the map. If you have to consider any question affecting the Middle East, India comes into the picture inevitably. If you have to consider any question concerning South-East Asia, you cannot do so without India. So also about the Far East. While the Middle East may not be directly connected with South-East Asia, both are connected with India. Even if you think in terms of regional organisations in Asia, you may have to keep in touch with the other regions. And whatever regions you may have in mind, India cannot be ignored her important part.

One of the major questions of the day is the readjustment of the relations between Asia and Europe. In the past, especially by virtue of her economic and political domination, the West ignored Asia, or at any rate did not give her the weight that was due to her. Asia was really given a back seat and one unfortunate result of it was that even the statesmen did not recognise the changes that were taking place. There is, I believe, a considerable recognition at this stage, but it is not enough yet.

Even in the Councils of the United Nations, the problems of Asia, the outlook of Asia, the approach of Asia have failed to evoke the enthusiasm that they should. There are many ways of distinguishing between what may be called the approach of Asia and the approach of Europe. Asia today is primarily concerned with what may be called the immediate human problems. In each country of Asia—underdeveloped countries more or less—the main problem is the problem of food, of cloth, of education, of health. We are concerned with these problems. We are not directly concerned with problems of power-politics. Some of us, in our minds, may perhaps think of that.

Europe, on the other hand, also is concerned with these problems no doubt in the devastated regions. Europe has got a legacy of conflicts of power, and of problems which come from the possession of power. They have the fear of losing that power and the fear of somebody else getting greater power and attacking one country or the other. So that the European approach is a legacy of the past conflicts of Europe.

No Legacy of Conflict

I do not mean to say that we in Asia are in any way superior, ethically or morally, to the people of Europe. In some ways I imagine we are worse off. There is, however a legacy in Europe of conflict. In Asia at the present moment at least there is no such legacy. The countries of Asia may have their quarrels with their neighbours here and there, but there is no basic legacy of conflict such as the countries of Europe possess. That is a very great advantage for Asia and it would be folly in the extreme for the countries of Asia and for India to be dragged in the wake of the conflicts in Europe. We might note that the world progressively tends to become one—one in peace and it is likely to be one, in a sense, of war. No man can say that any country can remain apart when there is any major conflagration. But still one can direct one's policy towards avoiding this conflict and being entangled in it.

So the point I wish the House to remember is this: First of all, this emergence of India in world affairs is something of major consequence in world history. We who happen to be in the Government of India or in this House, are men of relatively small stature. But it has been given to us to work at a time when India is becoming a great giant again. (*Loud applause*) So, because of that, in spite of our own smallness, we have to work for great causes and perhaps elevating ourselves in the process.

When India became independent a year and a half ago, we chose the time, or if you like, fate and circumstance chose the time for us, which was one of exceeding difficulty. There were the damages and the consequences of the last great war. And immediately we were independent there were volcanic upheavals in India. It would have been difficult enough for us if there had been complete peace in India to face all the problems that had accumulated during the period of our arrested growth in the past, but added to that came new problems of colossal magnitude. How we faced them the House remembers, and it will be for history to record whether we failed completely or we succeeded or succeeded partially. Anyhow we survived and made good in many ways, apart from mere survival. And gradually we have overcome those problems and gradually we have made of India a single political unit.

Largest Political Unit

And may I point out to this House that the political unit that is India today is the largest political unit, in terms of population, in the world? But population and numbers do not count, it is the quality that counts. I would say further that from the point of view of our potential resources and our capacity to use those potential resources, we are also potentially the biggest unit in the World. I say that not in any spirit of vain glory, but let us recognize the huge trust we have in our keeping and let us then think of it in terms of the great burden and the great responsibility.

Shall I put to you another background? That was this. We, the great majority of the members of this House and vast numbers of people in this country, have spent our lives in what might be called a revolutionary activity, in conflict with authority. We are bred up in that tradition of revolution etc., and now we sit in the seats of authority and have to deal with difficult problems. That adjustment is not an easy adjustment at any time for anyone.

Gandhian Philosophy

Then again, not only we were revolutionaries and agitators and breakers up of many things but we were bred up in a high tradition under Mahatma Gandhi. That tradition was an ethical tradition, a moral tradition and at the same time an application of those ethical and moral doctrines to practical politics. That great man placed before us a technique of action which was unique in the World, which combined political activity and political conflict and a struggle for freedom with certain moral and ethical principles.

Now I dare not say that any of us, not all of us, lived up to those ethical and moral principles and I do dare say that in the course of the past 30 years or so all of us, in smaller or greater degrees, and the country itself in smaller or greater measure, was affected by those ethical and moral doctrines of the Great Master and Leader.

And now with that idealism and ethical background we faced practical problems and it becomes an exceedingly difficult thing to apply that particular doctrine to the solution of those problems. That is a conflict which individuals and groups and nations have often had to face. It came to us in very peculiar circumstances and it was intensified by those circumstances and so there has been this travail of the spirit in most of us.

We have often thought enough of Gandhiji and his great doctrine, of his great message and while we praised it often enough, we felt: "are we hypocrites, talking about that and being unable to live up to it? Are we deluding ourselves and the world?" Because if we were hypocrites, then surely our future was dark. We may be hypocritical about the small things of life but it is a dangerous thing to be hypocritical about the great things of life.

And it would have been the greatest tragedy if we exploited the name and prestige of our Great Leader, took shelter under it and denied in our hearts, in our activities, the message that he had brought to this country and the World. So we have had these conflicts in our minds and those conflicts continue and perhaps there is no final solution of those conflicts except to try continually to bridge the gulf between that idealism and that practice which is forced down upon us by circumstances.

No Blind Automatons

We cannot and I am quite positive that our Great Leader should not have had us function as blind automatons just carrying the something which he had said without reference to change in events. On the other hand, we have to keep in mind those very ideals to which we have pledged ourselves so often.

There is always a great difficulty between the approach to a problem of a Prophet and of a Politician. We had the combination of a Prophet and a great Statesman, but then we are not prophets nor are we very great in our statesmanship. All we can say is that we should do our utmost to live up as far as we can to that standard, but always judging a problem by the lights of our own intelligence, otherwise, we will fail. There is this grave danger, on the one hand, of denying the message of the Prophet, and on the other, of blindly following it and missing all its vitality.

We have therefore, to steher through these. Then a politician or a statesman, or call him what you will, has to deal not only with the truth but with men's receptivity of that truth, because if there is not sufficient receptivity of it from the politician's or statesman's point of view that truth is thrown into the wilderness till the minds are ripe for it. And certainly a statesman cannot function and in a democratic age much less can he function unless he can unite

people believe in that truth.

So unfortunately but inevitably compromises have to take place from time to time. You cannot do without compromises, but a compromise is a bad compomise if it is opportunist in the sense that it is not always aiming at the truth. It may be a good compromise if it is always looking at that truth and trying to take you there. So in the past year and a half we have faced these difficult problems, and the difficulty has been obvious enough to many but perhaps who would have thought of this travail of the spirit under which we suffered all the time. All we can do is to pull ourselves back occasionally, look at our activities and examine them from that high standard which was laid down and try to remain as near to it as possible.

It was a curious thing that we who carried on the struggle for freedom in a non-violence and peaceful way should immediately have to be confronted with violence of the intensest form, civil violence as well as, what may be called, military violence, that we should have to undertake a kind of war in a part of the country. The whole thing seemed to be a complete upset of all that we stood for; and yet circumstances were such that I am quite convinced that we had no other way and that the way we took was the right one.

Kashmir Issue

May I mention to the House that towards the end of October 1947, when this question of Kashmir suddenly came upon us, when we heard that raiders had come into Kashmir and were destroying and looting, it was a very difficult question for us to decide. It was difficult enough from the military point of view, because we were isolated and far away and the sending of arms or troops by air was no light undertaking from the purely military point of view.

But the real difficulty before us arose from inside, it was a difficulty of the spirit. What will this land us in? On the one hand there was the powerful call of the people of Kashmir, those people who were being attacked and destroyed. We could not say "No" to them. On the other hand we did not quite know where it would lead us.

And in that difficulty of the spirit I went—as I often did—to Mahatma Gandhi, for his advice. It was not natural for him to give advice about military matters. What did he know about them? His struggles were struggles of the spirit. But listening to me if I may with all respect say so, he did not say "no" to the course of sotion that I proposed. He saw that a Government as we were had to follow its duty even in the military line when certain circumstances arose. And throughout those few months, before he was taken away from us, I conferred with hin on many occasions about Kashmir and it was a great happiness to me that I had his blessings in the steps we took.

So, looking back on this year and a half, we have built up India as a single organised political unit, and in this, as the House knows, my respected colleague, the Deputy Prime Minister, has played a supremely vital part. We have some little further to go in that matter. But I hope those further problems also will be settled very soon. There is the problem of Kashmir.

There are the problems of what are called foreign possessions in India, Pondicherry, Chandranagore, Goa and the rest. And all along we have stated that we want a peaceful solution in regard to these foreign possessions. But it is quite clear that there is only one future for these possessions and that is complete integration with India. We are prepared to wait a little for it, to avoid conflict etc. We want peaceful solutions of these and other problems. But it is an inconceivable thing that in this new, resurgent India, bits of territory should belong to powers far away. So we are trying to the best of our ability to find a peaceful solution of these problems.

Many Problems

May I point out another thing. The House, very rightly is vigilant about avoidance of waste, about growth in our administrative services etc. There is an Economy Committee sitting, and there are other committees considering this problem. Please remember that the Government of India which has been functioning since August 15, 1947 has had to face many other problems than any other Government of India had to face previously.

First of all, the previous Governments although they were endowed with certain social objectives, they did not think of them as primary functions or of the same importance as we necessarily must.

Secondly, take this field of foreign affairs about which I am speaking. There were no foreign affairs then. It has been an entirely new adventure for us, building up our foreign and international position. This has meant necessarily additions to our staff here and in foreign countries, large additions and large expenditure of money.

It may be that some economy is possible but that should be considered and looked into. But you cannot be an independent nation and not have those foreign relations. Indians are spread out all over the world. We have to look after their interests.

Apart from Indians living in other countries, we have various interests, trade interests and other interests. We have to buy things. We have to sell things. It is quite impossible for any independent country, more especilly a great and big counry like India, to carry on its normal existence without these foreign relations, with foreign establishments, foreign embassies, legations, trade missions and the like.

I mention this because often enough there is criticism of our spreading out all over the world with our foreign embassies etc. It is perhaps thought that that is just a gesture to satisfy our own vanity. And I am told, sometimes, that I have got some kind of a bee in my bonnet; that I forget the troubles in India and I do not consider them, our domestic problem, and that I think only of sending ambassadors, from Timbuktu to Peru.

Well, I should like the House to consider this matter and be quite clear about it, because to refer to Timbuktu and Peru in this connection does not appear to me to be the height of wisdom. It shows quite an extraordinary lack of appreciation of what India is and what internally and domestically India requires. If we do not go out and have our foreign establishments, somebody will have to look after our interests. Who is that somebody? Are we going to ask England to look after our foreign interests in other countries as Pakistan has done in many countries? Is that the type of independence that we imagine? What does independence consist of? It consists fundamentally and basically of foreign relations. That is the test of independence. All else is local autonomy.

Once foreign relations go out of your hand, into the charge of somebody else, to that extent and to that measure you are not independent. If we are an independent nation, we must have foreign relations. In fact, we cannot carry on without them. If we had foreign relations we have to have the establishment necessary to carry on those foreign relations. And foreign relations though they involve trade, business etc., are not like opening a branch of a business or firm, as some times some of our business magnates seem to imagine.

It is a very intricate and very difficult business dealing with the psychology of human beings, the psychology of nations, with their background and culture, linguistic and so on and so forth.

High Status of India

We have rather rapidly developed our Foreign Service from scratch. It has been a difficult business and it would be absurd for me to say that everything we have done in the development of our Foreign Service has been entirely to my satisfaction. But I would like to say from the experience I have gathered during the last 18 months or so that we have done on the whole remarkably well and that the test—the one test of that of course—is the status of India in the eyes of the world.

Individuals may have erred here and there, but the final test is: Does our foreign policy yield results or not? Does it deliver the goods or not? I think it has delivered the goods to some extent, to a considerable extent; indeed to a surprising extent. I should like to express my high appreciation here in this House of the work of many of our Ambassadors and Ministers abroad and of the work of our Delegations to the United Nations. And allow me to inform the House that the reputation of India in the United Nations Assemblies is very high.

Our three chief foreign missions are, as the House knows, in London, in Washington and Moscow. There have been criticisms about relatively small matters. It may be about appointments and the like. I will not go into them. But I should like to tell the House, speaking always as Foreign Minister, that I would welcome any query which is brought to me and I shall either enquire into it or give the information that I have in my possession to any Member of the House. There are bound to be many such things deserving enquiry, arising out of a vast establishment. I think these principal missions of ours in London, Washington and Moscow have done remarkably well.

In China we have had to face very difficult situations and our Embassy there has faced them with great credit. In Paris (France), we have had a succession of misfortunes due to many causes, but chiefly that we have hardly had any place to stay in for a year. There is no proper place and they have lived in very undesirable quarters. On the whole, we have succeeded in building up our Foreign Service in a very short time with considerable success. Naturally, we shall go on trying to improve it.

Then the main question that troubles this House often enough is the position of Indians abroad. Now that question has to be viewed in a different light from what it used to be in the past. In the past our main effort was to get the British Colonial Office to interest itself in bettering the conditions of Indians abroad. We as an independent nation have to deal with other independent nations. Naturally, we try to do our best. I believe the conditions of Indians abroad are being bettered, but the main thing that has happened is this that the status of Indians abroad in the eyes of the world has gone up tremendously.

Relations with Commonwealth

The problems we have to face in world affairs at the present moment bear a great deal of relation to the conflicts that are going on. We have stated repeatedly that our foreign policy is one to keep apart from big blocks of nations—rival blocs—and to be friendly to all countries and not become entangled in any alliances, military or other that might drag us into any possible conflict.

Some people have criticised us and suggested to us that that is not a good enough policy; and that we are losing what we might get by a closer association or alliance. Others, on the other hand, have criticised us by saying that while we say one thing we act secretly or otherwise in another way. It is a little difficult, of course, to give an answer to an imputation of motives, but as a matter of fact we have very strictly followed that policy of not getting entangled in any kind of commitment, certainly not military with any other power or group of powers, and we propose to adhere to that policy, because we are quite convinced that that is the only possible policy for us at present and in the future. That does not, on the other hand, involve any lack of close relationships with other countries.

The House will remember that sometime back I mentioned the question of India's possible relationships with the Commonwealth and I informed the House of the broad lines of our approach to this problem when a conference was held in the House agreed with that. Subsequently, the question was considered by the National Congress at its Jaipur Session and in broad lines they also laid down the policy to be pursued. So far as we are concerned, we propose strictly to adhere to those directions: Of course changing circumstances have to be understood and interpreted in different ways, but the broad lines of policy have been laid down and the broad lines of policy are these:

That India will naturally and inevitably in the course of a few months, may be, become an Independent Republic.

That in our external, internal or domestic policy, in our political policy, or in our economic policy, we do not propose to accept anything that involves in the slightest degree dependence on any other authority.

Subject to that, we are prepared to associate ourselves with other countries in a friendly way. We are associated today in the United Nations with a great number of countries in the world. Anything else that we might do will naturally have to be something that does not go against our association with the United Nations.

It is only in terms of independent nations co-operating together that we can consider the problem of our association with the Commonwealth. There may be, as some people have suggested, alliances with this or that nation. Alliances usually involve military and other commitments and they are more binding. Other forms of association which do not bind in this manner but which help in bringing together nations for the purpose of consolidation and, where necessary, of co-operation, are, therefore, far more preferable to any form of alliance which does bind. What the outcome may be I do not know. As soon as I know I shall inform the House but what I am placing before the House today is this: That our policy in regard to this matter is going to be strictly determined by the Jaipur Congress resolution.

Conference on Indonesia

Recently there was a conference on Indonesia held at India's instance in New Delhi and many countries from Asia came there, besides Egypt, Ethiopia, Australia and New Zealand. That conference forcibly brought several matters before the world's eye and at that conference one of the resolutions passed was that we should explore methods of closer co-operation. We are pursuing that line of enquiry and perhaps in the course of a month or two or perhaps more we may have some more definite results to consider; possibly we might have another conference to consider the possible lines of co-operation.

Again, that co-operation can only be the co-operation of independent nations without the least commitment of any to the other. But it is a fact that there are so many matters in common between us that it is helpful for us to co-operate with one another. We have [illegible] of co-operation might be, because, as I said a little while ago, India is interested in several regions of Asia. Whether all should be grouped together or separately, I do not know. That is for us to consider together as to what is more feasible, but in any event two facts have to be borne in mind.

One is that whatever structure of co-operation we might build up will be entirely within the scope of the Charter of the United Nations. Secondly, there will be no binding covenants in it but largely one of consultation and co-operation that naturally flow from common interests.

So our policy will continue to be not only to keep apart from power alignments but trying to make friendly co-operation possible. Fortunately we enter upon our independence as a country with no hostile background in regard to any country. We are friendly to all countries. Our hostility during the last 200 years was mainly directed towards the dominating power here and because of India's independence that hostility has largely vanished, though it may survive in some people's minds. So that we approach the whole world on a friendly basis and there is no reason why we should put ourselves at a disadvantage, if I may say so, of becoming unfriendly to any group. I think that India has a vital role to play in world affairs.

Independent Role

The various ideologies that confront the world today, the various *isms* which threaten conflict repeatedly may have a great deal, I think, to commend themselves but all of them have been derived, if I may say so, from the background of Europe. Well, the background of Europe is not something apart from the background of the world and there is much in the background of Europe which is present in India or in other countries.

Nevertheless, it is true that the background of Europe is not completely the background of India or the world and there is absolutely no reason why we should be asked to choose between this ideology and the other in toto.

India is a country with a tremendous vitality which it has shown through its history. It has often enough imposed its own cultural pattern on other countries not by force of arms but by the strength of her vitality, culture and civilization.

There is no reason why we should give up our way of doing things, our way of considering things, simply because of some particular ideology which emanates from Europe. I have no doubt at all that we have to learn a great deal from Europe and America and I think that we should keep our eyes and ears completely open.

We should be flexible in mind and we should be receptive, but I have also no doubt at all that we should not allow ourselves, if I may use the words of Gandhiji, we must not allow any wind

from anywhere to sweep us off our feet.

So we should approach these problems, whether domestic or international problems, in our own way. If by any chance we align ourselves definitely with one power group, we may perhaps from one point of view do some good but I have not the shadow of a doubt that from a larger point of view, not only of India but of world peace, it will do harm.

Because then we lose that tremendous vantage ground that we have of using such influence as we possess (and that influence is going to grow from year to year) in the cause of world peace. What are we interested in world affairs for?

We seek no domination over any country. We do not wish to interfere in the affairs of any country, domestic or other.

Our main stake in world affairs is peace, to see that there is racial equality and that people who are still subjugated should be free. For the rest we do not desire to interfere in world affairs and we do not desire that other people should interfere in our affairs. If, however, there is interference, whether military, political or economic, we shall resist it.

Friendly Approach

So it is with this friendly approach that we look at the world. It is true that in doing so we are often likely to be misunderstood, because passions have been roused all over the world and sometimes each country thinks that if you are not completely lined up with it you are its enemy or opponent. It is unfortunate if people think so; we cannot help it. We may sometimes even lose some petty advantage because of this fear and suspicion in other people's minds.

But even now other countries are beginning to realise that we are playing an independent role, that we are not tied up to anybody, that we consider problems dispassionately and objectively in so far as we can judge them on the merits and not from that other point of view, which is becoming very common, that is to say from the point of view of a certain manoeuvring for a possible future war. That is the point of view from which problems are dealt with today.

It is not for me to criticise other nations and their policies. But I just do not see why India should function in that way or should become a part of this world manoeuvring that is going on. We have to keep apart from that and at the same time develop the closest relation with all those countries. It so happens that because of history and chance our relations—economic and trade—are far greater with some countries than with others. Well, we will continue them always seeing that they do not come in the way of our growth, do not hamper us in our progress. Otherwise, we keep them so that we can play a very important part in world affairs.

The supreme question that one has to face today in the world is how can we avoid a world war? Some people seem to think that it is unavoidable and, therefore, they prepare for it and prepare for it not only in a military sense but in a psychological sense and thereby actually bring the war nearer. Personally, I think that is a very wrong and a very dangerous thing to do.

Of course, no country dare take things for granted and not prepare for possible contingencies. We in India must be prepared for any possible danger to our freedom and our existence. That is so. But to think in terms of the inevitability of world war is dangerous thinking. I should like this House and the country to appreciate what a world war means, what it is likely to mean.

It just does not matter who wins in the world war because it will mean such utter catastrophe that for a generation or more everything that we stand for in the way of progress and advancement of humanity will be put an end to. That is a terrible thing to contemplate and everything should be done to avoid this catastrophe.

Avoidance of War

I feel that India can play a big part, and may be an effective part, in helping in the avoidance of war. Therefore it becomes all the more necessary that India should not be lined up with any group of powers which for various reasons are in a sense full of fear of war and prepare for war. That is the main approach of our foreign policy and I am glad to say that I believe that is is more and more appreciated.

We are at the present moment on friendly terms with all countries. With our neighbours, Pakistan, I think the situation is improving from day to day. It is much better than it was a few months ago. I hope it will improve more. With Afghanistan and Nepal we are on the friendliest terms. With other countries in Asia and in Europe our relations are getting closer and closer, our trade is extending and so on and so forth.

We should utilise this position I think in the United Nations and elsewhere to fulfil the cause of peace, and it is possible that a number of other countries which are not happy at the prospect of war may also support the attitude that India might take up. We have dealt with questions in the United Nations as individual separate questions, —for instance, in regard to Korea, in regard to Palestine, in regard to some other matters too, and we have displeased people because we have dealt with individual questions and gave our opinion on the merits. Of course the merits cannot be divorced from various other possible consequences. I think people have realized often enough that the advice that India gave and which was not accepted then was the right advice and the trouble would have been far less if the advice had been accepted then. There are many aspects of this question which I can speak about, but I have already taken a great deal of the time of the House.

I would beg the House to look upon the matter from this wider point of view that I have placed before it, that is the emergence of India and Asia into this modern trend of human affairs, the inevitability of India playing an important part by virtue of her tremendous potential, by virtue of the fact that she is the biggest political unit in terms of population today and is likely to be in terms of her resources also. She is going to play that part. If we have to play that part we have to look upon this question from this bigger point of view and not from the small difficulties and problems that may face us and that part must essentially be one of promoting peace and freedom in the world, of removing racial disequalities.

Durban Riots

And may I in this connection say that it has been a matter of deep grief to us to learn of the racial riots that took place at Durban in South Africa. I do not wish to say much in regard to that except that if racialism is encouraged anywhere it is bound to yield such trouble. But it is a matter of deep grief to us that Indians and Africans should be involved in such rioting. It has been, not today but over years past, our definite instructions to our envoys in Africa and elsewhere that we do not want Indians to have any special interests at the cost of the Africans anywhere.

We have impressed upon them to co-operate with the Africans in gaining the freedom of those Africans and we have repeated these instructions again. I hope that after this unfortunate experience of Durban, Indians and Africans will come together again. Indeed there is evidence from East Africa and elsewhere of a great measure of co-operation between Indians and Africans.

I hope that this House and this country will approve of the general lines of policy that I have suggested and indicate that it is India's desire to play this important part in favour of world peace and thereby perhaps help in avoiding that supreme catastrophe, that is, a world war.

PEN-FRIENDS WANTED

Requests have recently been received from a number of young boys and girls from Mauritius, who are anxious to make pen-friends with young people in India. These boys and girls are interested in stamp collecting, photography and general political and social problems. Those interested in making pen-friends with these young overseas compatriots may please write to the Director of Indian Information Services, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations or to the office of the Commissioner for the Government of India in Mauritius, Port Louis, direct, who will be able to forward their letters to people at the other end, that is in Mauritius, who have already addressed him numerous letters on the subject.

KAMALA NEHRU MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Governor-General Opens Begum Azad Wing

"MAHATMAJI had described Kamla Nehru as a woman of spiritual beauty. She is gone but her spirit dwells here still and this hospital is worthy of that spirit. May the citizens continue it in this condition and help it expand more and more," said H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, performing the opening ceremony of the Begum Abul Kalam Azad Wing of the Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, on March 1, 1949.

His Excellency said:

It gave me great pleasure not only to go round the hospital as it was but to have had the privilege of opening a new wing to the hospital to be named after Begam Abul Kalam Azad. The old hospital which was opened by Mahatmaji eight years ago is a splendid and beautiful memorial. I must say that having seen many a hospital in India I was pleasantly surprised to see the beauty of this memorial.

The person in whose name and to keep whose memory fresh this hospital was opened by Mahatmaji is not among us to witness many things which would have given her the greatest joy conceivable. She is not alive to see India in her present status; she is not alive to see Panditji at the helm of affairs. I am a constitutional Governor-General, but I am also a human being and I can understand what a wife would feel and what a husband would feel. It is a great thing not only to see one's work take such a beautiful shape, to see a free country and a free nation but also to see one who was so dear occupy the highest position of responsibility.

Pleasant as was my visit going round the hospital, I had all the time a back ground feeling of sadness—but it is no use dwelling on this. Mahatmaji's own partner in life, Kastruba Gandni, was not alive to see the fruit of her husband's labour and sacrifice. But these are eminent names. There are many others about whom we can say the same thing; many husbands who now enjoy the fruits of freedom and who keep their sorrow a secret.

But let us now look at the bright side of it. As I told you, this hospital is a thing of which Allahabad can be proud. There are few towns in India where they have such a perfect work of modern science and economy and foresight. Hospitals must be like this if we are to speak about them as anything more than mere temporary devices. It is not easy to make a thing of beauty like this.

Allahabad citizens should be proud of those who worked to make this memorial so beautiful and it is a great privilege that I have enjoyed this day. I must tell you that though I saw Kamla Nehru in sick bed, for some reason or other this is the first time that I see this hospital and it gives me the greatest joy. Mahatmaji had described her as a woman of spiritual beauty. She is gone but her spirit dwells here still and this hospital is worthy of that spirit. May the citizens continue to keep it in this condition and help it expand more and more.

I am so glad that I have had the personal joy of opening a new wing today to be added to the hospital and I am specially glad Maulana Sahib is here to see this good work of humanity actually performed.

I am rather lucky. The Government of the United Provinces have increased their annual grant in a very generous manner and have given a promise not only to give Rs. 60,000 per annum, but have given Rs. 1 lakh immediately as donation: and this with a surplus Budget before the Assembly. It is a very lucky thing for a man who is given the key to perform the ceremony of opening a new structure to have the opportunity to announce such generous assistance from the Government of the day so that the management of the hospital may have no more anxieties.

Dr. Jivraj Mehta, however, is thinking that I am overstating the case! He is still very anxious. He wants not less than Rs. 8 lakhs more in order to complete the programme of expansion. If Mahatmaji had been here, probably he would have emptied your pockets this very moment. It is a pity that I have not his authority. Unless I advise my Ministry to levy taxes, I would not be able to get all that money straightaway.



The Governor-General being shown round a ward of the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, by Dr. Jivraj Mehta. Behind His Excellency is Dr. K. N. Katju, Governor of West Bengal



The Working of an X-Ray apparatus is being explained to H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari in the Begum Abul Kalam Azad wing of the hospital



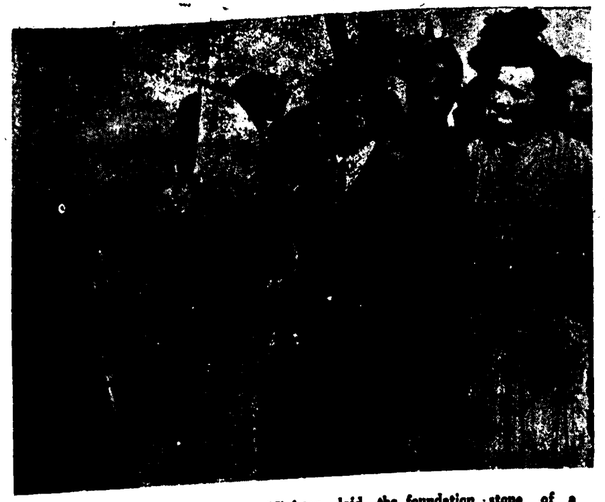
Pandit Lalli Prasad Zutshi being presented to the Governor-General at the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital

But I do think that the generosity of the people of India and of the United Provinces in particular, together with the great names with which we associate this hospital and this wing, altogether will make the work of collection not very difficult. I think that within the next two years Dr. Mehta will have his additional Rs. 8 lakhs for making his expansion programme complete. I want the audience to give their blessings for my propheey.

It is a great pleasure once again, let me say, to have had this privilege. May this hospital have the blessings of all good men and women in India. Thank you very much for giving me this audience.



The Governor-General addressed a huge meeting at the hospital after opening the Begum Azad Wing



Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, laid the foundation stone of a primary health centre at Najafgarh, 20 miles from New Delhi, on March 6. Lady Mountbatten (right) was also present at the ceremony

NAJAFGARH HEALTH CENTRE

Health Minister Lays Foundation Stone

"TOO long have the villages in India been neglected, too long have the Bhore Committee proposals remained mere paper recommendations," said Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, laying the foundation-stone of a primary health centre at Najafgarh, a village about twenty miles from New Delhi, recently. "This is an epoch-making event in the history of health services of India. May such centres multiply quickly all over the land," she added.

Amongst those present at the ceremony were lady Mountbatten, Lady Pamela Mountbatten, H. H. the Princess de Ligne, wife of the Belgian Ambassador, representatives of the American Embassy and the United Kingdom High Commissioner's Office, members of the World Health Organisation and officers of the Ministry of Health. A large number of villagers from Najafgarh and the surrounding areas thronged to witness the function. The Chief Commissioner and the Director of Health Services, Delhi Province, welcomed the Health Minister and the guests.

A miniature design of the proposed health centre and a health exhibition arranged for the occasion attracted much attention.

The first of its kind in India, this centre is being constructed in pursuance of the Bhore Committee's recommendations and will serve as a model for other similar centres elsewhere in the country.

It will have, to begin with, a six-bed hospital and a dispensary with a male and a female Medical Officer of Health, nurses, midwives and other medical and public health personnel. The intention is to expand and equip this health centre with 40 beds during the next five years, to serve a population of over 20,000 living in 26 villages, within a radius of of two miles. The medical officers in charge will carry out combined preventive and curative duties.

Provision for Maternity Service

The medical officers and other staff of the health centre will, in addition to their duties at the centre, render medical and maternity services in the homes of the people, and will also educate the public in matters essential for the maintenance and promotion of health.

Housing accommodation for the health staff has been provided. A motor ambulance will be in use, and the question of providing an additional animal-drawn ambulance for villages which lack satisfactory communications is under consideration.

The centre is expected to start functioning in about a year.

Ordinary telephone trunk calls to and from Hyderabad (Deccan) will be available to the public from April 1, 1949.

Indian Association Formed in Iran

Amidst scenes of enthusiasm an Indian Association of Iran was formed in Teheran on February 23, 1949. Nearly 600 Indian nationals met in a conference at the Indian Embassy. His Excellency Syed Ali Zaheer, India's Ambassador to Iran, presiding over the Conference, stressed once again the need for the Indian community not only to form themselves into an association but also to work selflessly and co-operatively for its healthy growth. The unity of effort and of the aim and object, said the Indian Ambassador, was of paramount importance. Just as India today acted as one united body of peoples so also should all Indian nationals abroad act in unison and harmony.

The Ambassador's soothing words helped to iron out the differences of opinion. The decision to inaugurate the Association was unanimous. Not only that but the adoption of the constitution and the election of the office-bearers was also unanimous—a very happy augury for the future of the Association.

The Association unanimously decided that the Indian Ambassador in Iran will be its patron. The following were elected office-bearers: President—Sardar Harbans Singh; Vice-President—Seth Narsi Das; Honorary Secretary—Sardar Labh Singh; Honorary Treasurer—Sardar Daljit Singh Satara; Joint Secretaries—Sardar Pyara Singh and Sardar Harnam Singh. The Committee members include Sardar Lakhmir Singh, Sardar Harnam Singh and Babu Dina Nath.

The Ambassador said that he was very happy indeed that the Association had come into being and had elected its office-bearers in a spirit of unanimity and harmony. He wished the Association success. A number of Indian nationals gave generous donations for the Association. After the Conference, Sardar Harbans Singh, President-elect, gave an At-Home to the Indian community.

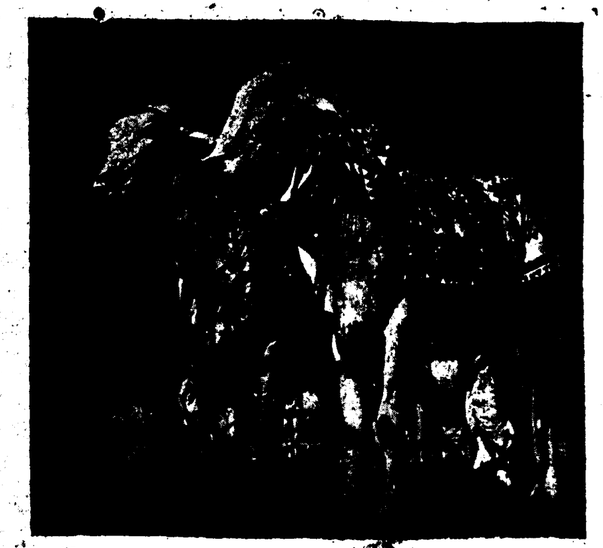
REGISTER OF NURSES

A Register is being compiled by the Directorate-General of Health Services, Government of India, of all nurses, midwives and health visitors in India.

Forms asking for details of qualifications and registration have been posted to all such persons whose addresses have been made available through the provincial Registers.

Any nurse, midwife or health visitor who has not received such a form should write for one to the Chief Nursing Superintendent, Directorate-General of Health Services, Government of India, New Delhi.

The next quarterly examination for the award of Certificates of Competency as Radio Telegraph and Radio Telephone Operators will be held at the Abdullah Fazalbhoy Technical Institute, St. Xavier's College, Bombay, commencing on April 25, 1949, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 2.



Bulls of Nagori breed, Jaipur, Rajputana

Governments and visitors from Delhi and its suburban area were present.

The Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram in a brief speech appealed to persons with wealth and intelligence to come forward and take active interest in agriculture and animal husbandry and observed that if any real progress was to be achieved it was essential that activities of the All India Cattle Show should be extended to the rural areas, as much as possible.

Sardar Datar Singh, welcoming the Hon'ble Minister, said that public enthusiasm for the Show had been increasing, and as compared to 294 entries received last year this time there had been about 400 entries and the number of exhibition stalls opened was twice last year's number. He also stated that it had been decided to hold All-India Cattle Shows in future years in different places of the country so that people from all parts could participate in it in an increasing extent. The Government of U. P. have invited the All-India Cattle Show Committee to hold their next-year's show in that province.

Recipients of Awards

Substantial cash awards of about Rs. 20,000 and 69 cups valued at about Rs. 69,000 were distributed and some of the famous breeds of India namely, Gir, Hariana, Khilari, Murrah, Sahiwal, Sindhi, Hissar, Malvi Nagori, Nimadi and Tharparkar obtained prizes. Breeders from different parts of the country as well as a number of Government farms and institutions were recipients of these prizes. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, annexed the prizes for the highest milk-yielding animal in the show. The Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, got the award for the highest milk-yielding—Red Sindhi cow. His Holiness Maharaj Pratap Singhji of Bhaini Sahib, Ludhiana got the prize for the best Nili bull, the best animal of the Nili breed, the best buffalo-cow in the show and for the best animal in the show.



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Food Minister, giving away the prize to the owner of the highest milk-yielding cow in the All India Cattle Show. The award was won by a red Sindhi cow put on show by the Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore

FUMIGATION OF AMERICAN COTTON

In accordance with the rules issued under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914, all American cotton imported into India has to be fumigated at the Bombay Port, stated a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on March 12.

The Government of India have provisionally revised the rates which are as under. The figures in brackets show the old rates :—

Rs. 5-4-0 (Rs. 3-10-0) per square bale; Rs. 3-4-0 (Rs 2-8-0) per round bale, or when cotton is landed at the special American cotton wharf.

Rs. 7-1-0 (Rs. 5-2-0) per square bale and Rs. 4-10-0 (Rs. 2-8-0) per round bale.

The minimum fee for fumigation of American cotton imported at any one time on a single ship will be Rs. 250/- instead of the old rate of Rs. 200/-.

The expenses of fumigation, including the cost of loading the cotton into the barge, conveyance to the fumigation wharf, unloading from the barge after fumigation and delivery at the *bunder* are borne by the importers.

The position will be reviewed in August 1949.

Information has been received that the Government of New Zealand has increased the quota for export of butter to India from 400 to 500 tons, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 4, 1949.

Importers of butter in India may place their orders with suppliers in New Zealand. Butter can be obtained from New Zealand without import licence.

PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF GOSHALAS AND PINJRAPOLES



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, addressing the All India Conference of Cattle Welfare Workers

Cattle Welfare Workers' Conference

THE establishment of a Central Organization, consisting of representatives of the Central and the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Goshala Federations, with the object of promoting a planned development of Goshalas and Pinjrapoles in India and the isolation of unproductive cattle in Segregation Camps was recommended at a meeting of the Cattle Welfare workers convened by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, at New Delhi on March 5, 1949.

The meeting which was presided over by the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, was attended, among others, by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shrimati Mira Behn, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Pt. Thakardas Bhargava, Ch. Ranbir Singh, Acharya Jugal Kishore, Seth Govind Das and Shri Radha Krishna Bajaj, besides representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments and of the Provincial Goshala Federation, of Ajmer-Marwara, Bihar, Bombay, East Punjab, Delhi, C.P. U.P., West Bengal, Cutch and Jaipur.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, in his opening address, urged upon the Conference to bear in mind the magnitude of the problem involved in improving the lot of 250 millions of India's cattle population and suggested that the aim should be to increase the productive capacity of the cow so that there could be more milk available in the country.

At present, he said, only 5-oz. of milk or milk products per man was available in India while in the U.S. A. it was four times this figure. Although cattle was looked upon with veneration in India, the way in which it was being treated in the country was not, the Hon'ble Minister pointed out, the way of showing our veneration.

Referring to the recent decision of the All-India Cattle Show Committee to hold a cattle competition for every group of 20 villages on January 30, every year the Hon'ble Minister said that the improvement of cattle, which was the underlying idea of such cattle shows was possible only when Goshalas played their proper part in the Scheme.

He added that each Goshala should be a training centre and should look after, as far as possible, the cattle of the neighbouring area.

Administration on a Family Basis

Dr. Rajendra Prasad observed that Goshalas and pinjrapoles should be administered on a family basis so that the income derived from the produce of milk and other services of the Goshala could be used in maintaining the old and unproductive animals kept in the Goshalas. Development in all its aspects—dairy, breeding, provision of grazing lands and segregation of the unproductive cattle, he urged, should form part of the scheme.

Shrimati Mira Behn suggested drawing up a comprehensive scheme for development of India's cattle wealth in general and Goshalas, in particular, and observed that provision for grazing lands, raising fodder, including green fodder and taking of cattle census were all essential. Discussing the question of cow slaughter she said that if the slaughter was to be stopped, only dual purpose animal—useful both for milk yield as well as for breeding purposes—should be raised, otherwise the resulting situation whereby lots of unproductive animals would have to be fed would be worst than slaughter itself.

Seth Govind Das, Member, Constituent Assembly of India, congratulated the Government for convening the conference which, he remarked, was a step in the right direction. He pleaded for the establishment of Go Seva Sadans to look after the infirm and the dry cattle and this, he said, would also stop cow slaughter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga while welcoming the idea of a Central Federation of Goshalas suggested that the protection to she-buffalo should be given the same importance as the protection of cow. Pleading for stoppage of indiscriminate cow slaughter he paid a tribute to those who were striving to prevent cow slaughter.

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, Member, Constituent Assembly of India, thought that it would be better if the proposed Central Goshala Federation were statutorily recognised by the Government of India as the development of cattle was of supreme importance in the context of the present food shortage in the country.

Economic Potentialities

Sardar Datar Singh, the Cattle Utilisation Adviser to the Government of India and the Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, tracing the genesis of the present conference said that the need for planned development of India's Goshalas and pinjrapoles had been engaging the attention of the Government of India for the last several years. In March, 1944, a meeting was held under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research when tentative schemes were drawn up for development of Goshalas.

According to the recommendations of this Conference, some preliminary work has already been done and several provincial Governments have set up Goshala



The Prime Minister addressing the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

NEW AND MORE VITAL APPROACH TO PROBLEMS

Pandit Nehru's Appeal to Capital and Labour

PANDIT Nehru, in an outspoken speech at the 22nd Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, on March 4, 1949 asked the capitalists to cease thinking in terms of their own interests only.

He referred to the 'tremendous unreality' in the mental atmosphere throughout India. He did not object to criticism however strong, however persistent it might be, but he objected to a spirit of excessive pessimism and imputation of *mala fides* on the part of the Government.

Pandit Nehru said: "We as a Government, are existing today, because the common people want us to remain where we are. We will quit the moment I have a suspicion that the people of India do not have faith in us. Because of their confidence in us, we are shouldering the burden of the State."

He appealed to all groups of people and particularly the industrial and the commercial community, to change their "old approach and to bring a new and vital approach to the problems."

Here is the text of Pandit Nehru's speech:

Mr. President, and Members of the Federation, yesterday in your Presidential address you touched upon a variety of problems; you referred to events in foreign countries and to domestic problems, more especially those affecting the trade, commerce and industry of this country. I am sorry I was not present here to hear that address, but I read it and tried to profit by the reading. You will not expect me to say something about everything that you said, because that would be a complicated story, but I would, by your permission, like to say something about certain broad aspects of our problems and certain broad approaches to those problems of ours.

May I just repeat, first of all, a little of what I have just said in Hindustani? It is this that while it is very comforting to me to be addressed as you addressed a little while ago in terms of praise and affection and confidence, nevertheless, I have a feeling, when I come to such gatherings as this, or any other type of gathering, that I am treated, and my Government is treated, as if we were prisoners in the dock, with all our faults and errors, failings and deficiencies pointedly placed before us, not only placed before us, but sometimes even with a hint that although we are past redemption, nevertheless the duty has to be performed. That does not happen merely in such gatherings but even in the Assembly Chamber—even by colleagues of ours, not opponents.

Well, I welcome criticism and I welcome your pointing out all our failings—particularly my failings, in fact, sometimes I recount them myself. I think it is good for an individual and for a nation always to try to find out where it is going wrong and to correct itself, and never to be afraid of criticism. I welcome that criticism. I do not welcome it quite so much if behind that criticism there is an imputation of *mala fides* on our part. Naturally, nobody likes that.

But I find that criticism in whatever type of gathering I am going to except one which I would tell you later: we are criticised by the captains of industry—industrialists—and commercial magnates and the like. We are criticised by the leaders of labour for suppressing them. We are criticised by the refugees or displaced persons for not doing enough for them. We are criticised by Provincial Governments for not helping them. We are criticised for not doing this or that. We are criticised for not being economical enough and for not reducing the bloated staff in the Secretariat. We are criticised for retrenchment when we try to reduce somebody and we are criticised in a variety of other ways. Our foreign policy is criticised; our domestic policy is criticised. If controls are established, we are criticised; if decontrol is established, we are criticised! Now, I take that this is in some measure a healthy sign.

I said that I was not criticised in one type of gathering. That type is when I happen to come into close touch with the common people of this country (Cheers). They do not criticise me and I would like you to spend a moment of thought at that. We, as a Government, are existing today because those people have faith in us. I would not be there, for instance, if I had the suspicion that the people of India—the common man of India—did not have faith in us. And it is because of that affection that we are shouldering the burden and you know very well that burden is not a light burden or a pleasant burden.

Nevertheless, we are shouldering it partly because we think it is our duty to carry on this work till such time as we have completed another stage of it, till such time as we can hand it over to others stronger and more worthy to shoulder the burden and in the main because we have that sense of the confidence of the vast majority of the Indian people.

Now, criticism, as I said, is welcome. But when we are criticised, whether as friends or as opponents, exactly what is our approach to this problem or any problem of India. It seems to me that we have not yet and when I say "we," I include all kinds and groups of people in this country, whether it is the industrialist or labour or workers, merchants or anybody else, or politicians like me, or congressmen and others—that we have not adjusted ourselves to the changing conditions sufficiently.

We have not brought our minds in line, in tune, with the world as it is. It is a frightfully difficult task to do that, because swift as thought is, the mind lags behind events and in a period of transition through which we have been passing and through which we are still passing, the mind and men's thoughts lag behind events.

Most of us have fashioned our thinking—whether it is political thinking or economic thinking—in terms of the India, that was some years ago; certainly before this change-over took place in India. We have fashioned our approach to political action also in terms of the past which is not so distant.

Changed Conditions

We do not realise that things have changed in the world on account of many things, but chiefly on account of the last big war. Tremendous changes have taken place. Tremendous changes—as you all know and as you yourself referred in your address yesterday—are taking place in various parts of Asia—China, Burma, Indonesia and other places. Now, if the world has changed so much, surely, it should affect our thinking and we should try to understand it and try to adapt ourselves to those changes.

Now, our approach to problems here was an approach of undiluted criticism of the Government that was. That was the British Government at the time. It was—and rightly so—an agitational approach, because our first duty then was to upset, to remove and push away that Government and to have our own Government here. So we fought and struggled and ultimately succeeded.

Now, obviously that approach is not in keeping with the present situation in India. Nevertheless, most of us are still full of that same approach. We cannot get rid of it. I find most of my colleagues in the Assembly can only function in that way. They cannot function in any other way. They are very dear colleagues and all that, but it is rather distressing to find that lack of appreciation of changing conditions. If any country or any people do not understand things as they are, then those things run away without them, or in spite of them. You cannot conquer events or control events or affect the course of events unless you understand them thoroughly.

Now, many of you are experts in your own field of activity and, no doubt, you analyse events fairly carefully, probably more than many other people do, and bring all your experience to bear upon an understanding of those events. Nevertheless, it is quite possible that the premises with which you start will not be always quite correct, although the logic and the reasoning may be correct. It may be that the basis of your thought may be something that is past, not present. May be you are thinking in static terms and not in terms of the dynamic world of today. All this may happen.

Practical Approach

So because of this fact there is, I feel, a tremendous unreality in the mental atmosphere of India today all round, whether I talk to you or to labour or to anybody else. As I was sitting here, a member of your Federation, who was moving or supporting a resolution, finished up by saying something about practical approach to things; because, of course, industrialists and business men take pride on being practical; politicians also talk of being practical. What amazes me, however, is that these men, who are grounded on this practicality, whose God is "being practical," are sometimes most amazingly ignorant of men of what is happening around. Their idea of being practical is to imagine that the world never changes and follow something that they and their forefathers have done to the past.

The politicians too are very hard-headed and practical men. Being hard-headed and practical, people force them to bring about a huge war in the world. Dealing with terrific problems they work hard and earnestly, but fail to solve them and then have another war and create problems and so on. So the cycle goes on and we are all trying to be practical. Now, surely, there is something wrong about this approach to things. So, I have become a little weary of people who call themselves practical and hard-headed. That hard-headedness often represents a complete lack of resilience in the head.

Take another thing. In looking at either the foreign or domestic spheres today, the obvious thing that every person knows is that things are interrelated tremendously. You can't isolate them today; you cannot consider the problems of India as if it was not related to the other problems of the world, either politically or economically. That involves our understanding of what is happening in other parts of the world.

It is not an easy matter because in other parts of the world there is also the same worship of what is considered being practical, with the result that it is amazing how people continue to follow a path which demonstrably has led to disaster in the past. I should have said that while it may be difficult to be wise to begin with, surely it does not require too much wisdom to avoid doing something which has led to disaster.

Nevertheless, oddly enough, we have not done that. The point is that we continue to pursue a path knowing full well that it will lead to disaster. Now, either we have completely lost all sense of wisdom and we are in the grip of something in the nature of a great tragedy leading to an inevitable catastrophe and what we can do is to face the disaster and catastrophe with a certain dignity. Or else there is some way not bring the best results.

Now, looking at India, the complexity of the problems we have here, and we have had a multitude of them, each one of them a major problem, and looking at the past year and a half or more during which time this Government have been functioning, I am conscious of so many things that we have done badly, so many things that we wanted to do and we have not done. We put before ourselves rather high ideals and we have failed to achieve them in the measure we wanted to. That is perfectly true.

Nevertheless, speaking, quite deliberately as Prime Minister of this great country and as representing my Government, I say to you that I have not come here with a note of apology from Government to you. I am proud of what my Government have done and I think we have faced our problems with courage, without any excitement, problems which might have baffled many a Government and many a people.

It is true that we have not done what we wanted to because we aimed, and we should aim, very high. It is true that we committed errors and mistakes, but if you take an overall view of the country, whether in foreign relations or in the domestic sphere, and for the moment if you remove your eyes from the numerous eddies, whirlpools and stagnant water, you will see the main tide advancing and advancing pretty rapidly. I have not a shadow of doubt in my mind that this country is advancing and will advance rapidly in the future.

Faith in Future

There are many people in this country whose chief business, it seems to me, is to run down their country, to run down their people, to run down their Government, to run down almost everybody, I said, I don't mind criticism, however strong, however persistant. We want criticism, we want opposition, if you like, I don't mind that. But I do mind this spirit of excessive pessimism, and if I may use that word, croaking about India's future.

It is folly to be just optimistic and not to see facts as they are. But it is at least as great a folly to be pessimistic and imagine all kinds of evil happenings overtaking us. So, in spite of the burdens that we have to face and in spite of, if I may say so, of the criticism that overwhelms us, I have a good heart when I think of India and of its future. That does not mean that we should take up a complacent attitude. Nothing could be more foolish than that.

We have big problems before us and we have to work very hard to solve them, but if we have to solve these big pro-

blems in a democratic way, that requires a very large measure of co-operation between Government and people; between the Central and the Provincial Governments; between all classes and groups of people in India. It requires faith in ourselves and in the work ahead of us and in our country. It requires, as I said, criticism certainly, but not that type of criticism which is meant to hinder, but a type of criticism which is meant to help and construct. That leads us to this that we must change our old approach that we had and bring a new and more vital approach to the understanding of the problems.

Now, I just want to put to you another and a very difficult question that always faces me and my Government. We were born and bred, if I may say so, politically in the Gandhian doctrine. We did not adopt Gandhiji's views altogether, either in regard to non-violence or in regard to economics. Nevertheless, we accepted them from many points of view as suited to our country, and, maybe, suited to the world too in some ways, if not a hundred per cent but in a large measure. Now, imagine a people who had carried through their struggle for freedom trying always to adhere to peaceful methods, having to face an extremity of violence and having to face it by the armed might of the State. It was no pleasure to us to do that and it brought great problems and conflicts in our minds.

Gandhian Doctrine

We were responsible, as a Government, for peace and order in the country and if we did not maintain peace and order there was danger of the whole country going to pieces. We dared not give up that responsibility or act otherwise. We did it, but always in our minds there was this conflict and a feeling that we were hypocritical in talking about those great doctrines that Gandhiji had laid before the country and taught us. We talked of Gandhiji and then proved false to him at every step. It was a painful thought to us. The facts as they were in the country quite compelled us to act in a particular way. I do not know whether it would have been better if we had acted differently. We acted according to our wisdom, not at any time denying the validity or truth of that message that Gandhiji gave us, at the same time doing something which we thought was imperative.

Now that problem in its varying phases comes up again and again. Here we are committed to civil liberty in its broadcast form. There can be no freedom in a country without a wide extension of civil liberties. Here we are also interning people without trial in large numbers and some of our Provincial Governments are passing legislation of a kind to which we had taken the greatest objection in the old days. It is an irony of fate that we have to do it. Yet, we have done it and done it after full thought, not casually, because the matter was of the most serious concern to us.

Now, what are we to do about it? People come to us complaining about civil liberty and they find a certain an wering echo in our minds, but the fact is that if we do not act something infinitely worse takes place in the country—chaos and disorder. Not chaos and disorder only, for you know that brutal murders have taken place in some parts of the country, and if there is one thing that this Government or any Government cannot possibly permit so long as it calls itself a Government or has even a semblance of Government it is this kind of deliberate murder and sabotage that any group may indulge in.

I do not mind the preaching of any doctrine, whatever it may be, provided there is no violence about it. I do not think any interpretation of civil liberty includes the preaching of violence or acts of violence. And we have had to deal in the past year and a half in this country with various phases of intensive violence, whether it came in the early days of August, September, and October in the Punjab or in Delhi, or whether it came subsequently from communal organisations and the like, or from certain labour bodies and a good deal from certain sections of the Communist Party of India, chiefly functioning at first roundabout Hyderabad—in both sides of the Hyderabad border—in West Bengal and elsewhere.

Civil Liberty

Now, I want to make it perfectly clear that it remains our conception of civil liberty that we should allow the fullest freedom to people of all groups to preach their doctrines peacefully, provided there are no incitements to violence. It just does not matter whether we agree with that doctrine or not; if it does not lead to violence we shall allow it to be preached. But if it does, if it is meant to lead to violence or sabotage etc., then it will not be allowed to be preached and it is necessary to limit civil liberty for that purpose, civil liberty will be limited. There is no other way about it.

You know, only a few days ago, of the horror that took place in Calcutta. It is not a question so much of a few persons being killed, bad enough for persons to be killed, but it was the manner of doing it that has upset me. What upset me was the feeling that people should deliberately indulge in that kind of thing. What is the background out of which this horror emerges. Why do our people, who normally speaking are gentle and kind to each other, develop this mentality and commit this kind of horrible deeds?

Well, we must face and stop that kind of thing, however much that might involve putting into prison of people without trial or with trial. Because if that kind of thing continues, then normal life of every kind stops. Only a number of gangsters survive and dominate and terrorise over the community. We are not going to allow gangsterism to flourish in this country.

It is a great pity that this kind of thing should be associated in peoples' minds with labour or the workers as such, because I am convinced that the workers of India, the labour force of India, is a fine labour force, a fine lot of people. Occasionally they may get excited or misled but properly approached they are fine material and, after all, it is out of that material that you are going to build India. You have to deal with that material and you have to deal fairly and justly. And what has pained me most is the association in peoples' minds that some of these horrible deeds are the outcome of what might be called labour work or trade union work etc.

Our Government has tried to encourage the organisation of labour trade unions and the like because it is well known that from every point of view it is better that labour be properly organised, should have freedom to organise, freedom to deal with its own interests than that it should be unorganised, both unable to protect itself or to deliver the goods. So we have encouraged it.

Trade Unions

As you know, we have also passed legislation for settlement of dispute, conciliation, etc., so that, as far as possible, strikes might be avoided. Many of you, perhaps, have objected to some of the legislation that we have passed. Yet, there is no alternative, either you have strikes and major strikes or you have some machinery for the settlement of disputes. Obviously the latter course is better, provided the machinery is good and is not meant to harass any party but to see that justice and fairplay is effected.

We are proceeding on those lines and we intend proceeding on those lines in spite of the misguided efforts of either some of the workers or some of the employers. It is not good Government getting excited and giving up the cause because some people misbehaved. That would be a very wrong thing to do. Nevertheless, we have to face the situation today which might lead to certain people, certain unions or others affiliated to the communist party indulging in not only strikes of the normal type but something far worse—sabotage, destruction and disruption.

Some days ago, I made a statement in the Assembly which you might have seen. Now we are going to meet that situation and are going to put an end to this kind of business. Let there be no mistake about it. What troubles me is not our lack of ability to meet it, because we will meet it, we are strong enough to meet it, but what troubles me is that this kind of conflict leaves a trail of evil behind it, an ill-will, and a kind of impression spreads among other sections of the community that the industrial workers of India or the railway workers of India are to blame. But as a matter of fact the great majority of them are decent folk who do not want to do anything of this kind.

Now, if I may address you particularly, that is the industrialists and others concerned with India's commerce. A great deal of stress has been laid in the past year or so on the sensitiveness of the investors, of the businessmen and the industrialists etc. He is a frightfully delicate person and if any wrong word is said or some speech is delivered, his temperature goes up. The sensitiveness of the body or of the mind or of the spirit is nothing compared to the sensitiveness of the pocket.

I should like you just to think about it, of the talk that has taken place in the last year or so, of how the groups which you represent so well have been frightened by some budget or by something else that has happened or by certain other measures taken or not taken. All this has been repeatedly said and there is, no doubt, some truth in it. I do believe you have been frightened. Do you think it has redounded to your credit in the country by recounting to all and sundry repeatedly about getting frightened by anything that happens?

May I tell you that instead of adding to your credit, it has made people think that you are rather a timid folk, not in your prime. When I say, not in your prime, I am not referring to individual ages but rather to the fact that—and this is a fundamental fact—whether the capitalists, industrialists etc. in India are big enough to face the problems of the day or not big enough, and generally the idea is spreading that their stature is rather small and they get frightened at the slightest upset and they start complaining and retiring into their shells and asking others to help them, to pull them out and to push them on. You are entitled to seek help from Government, ask for it and all that, but it is bad for you or for any group to give the impression of this frailty and feebleness. After all, in the world today, it is said that various economic ideologies are in conflict. On the one side, in the main, is the so-called capitalist ideology and, on the other, the so-called communist or Soviet ideology.

Problem of Production

It is a fact that these are different economic approaches to the problem and further each party is convinced of its own approach, but it does not necessarily follow that you must have either this or that. There may be many intermediate ways. You all know that capitalism or the industrial capitalism that came into the world about 150 years or so ago had a big problem before it—the problem of production. It has solved that problem in theory and largely in practice in large parts of the world.

Therefore, industrial capitalism has been, in spite of everything, a tremendous success. It has solved the problem of production. Having said that, the other question arises: how far it is solving the other problems of the day? It is on its trial whether it can solve the problem of distribution also with equal success as it has solved the problem of production. If it cannot solve that problem, then some other way will have to be found. It is not a question of theory; of communism or socialism or capitalism. It is a question of hard fact.

In India if we do not solve ultimately the basic problems of our country—Food, Clothing, Housing etc. etc.—it does not matter whether we call ourselves capitalists, socialists, communists or anything else, if we fail to solve these problems, we will be swept away and somebody else will come in and try to do it.

So ultimately these major problems of the day are not going to be solved by argument or by war but by the fact as to which method succeeds in delivering the goods. Whatever method that might be, that method which delivers the goods and brings about the necessary change and gives satisfaction to the masses, will justify itself and give hope. That method need not necessarily be an extreme method belonging to either of these two rival ideologies. It may be anything in between.

In fact, you find in the world today in most countries an attempt to find other ways which certainly are completely divorced from the old style capitalism and which go towards what is normally called socialism. They are approaching fast towards it. It may be that in India we may also find some way more suited to the conditions of our people, some middle way of that type. Therefore, I am not enamoured of these 'isms' so much and my approach is and I should like to say the country's approach should be rather a phlegmatic approach of considering the problem and forgetting the 'ism' attached to it.

Good of the Masses

Our problem today is to raise the standard of the masses, supply them with their needs, give them the wherewithal to lead a decent life, to help them to progress and advance in life not only in regard to material things but in regard to cultural and spiritual things also. What will happen to the distant future, I do not know, but I should like to set them on that road and I just do not care how or what the 'ism' is that helps me to set them on that road, provided I get there.

And if one thing fails, we will try another. We need not be dogmatic about this approach or that approach. Anything that comes in the way has simply to be ignored, or will be swept away. With all respect, I should like to inform you that if your demands come in the way of the good of the masses, your demands will be completely ignored. Of course, they need not and they should not, because your interests are tied up with their interests really, but I do object to your going about the country—and I say so in your interest—and talking about your demands and how much your pocket has suffered. Forget your pocket and if you cannot forget, do not mention it. It goes against you. So the only test should be whether it is good for the masses, and no other.

Nationalisation

Now, take another thing which seems to be almost like a red rag to the proverbial bull—nationalisation. What exactly does that mean in the context of India? Sometime back, last year I think, I spoke on that subject. I forget if I addressed you on that, but I spoke in the Assembly. Other people have spoken about it. The Deputy Prime Minister the other day said something about it. People seem to imagine that the Government is shifting about from one policy to another and cannot make up its mind.

Well, as a matter of fact, there has been no doubt in the Government's mind about this matter. There has been not even the necessity for us to reconsider anything because our mind was quite clear about it. Our mind was clear not because of certain theories, though, of course, there is theory behind everything, but essentially because of certain practical considerations.

We think that in India, as it is today—I will not talk about the world, because each country has its own problems and has its own way of approach—certain basic industries, the key industries, should be under State's control, whatever the state may be, whether it is the Central State, Provincial or Municipal. Partly because it is dangerous for those key and basic industries to be controlled by private interests and for other reasons also.

As for the other industries, they can be under private control, but remember again that when a State plans its industrial or other development, planning itself involves a certain measure of control or direction from the State, otherwise there can be no planning. In effect this is not a new thing. The Indian National Congress 17 years ago laid down this policy of State control of basic key industries or other industries and certain other essential industries and services. Now, that is the initial approach to it.

Immediate Tasks

Secondly, what should be tackled immediately and what should be tackled later. In a statement on Industrial Policy we mentioned certain things which we thought must be immediately undertaken by the State or nationalised —if you like to use that word and for the rest we said, even in regard to certain basic and key industries, that we would not touch them for at least ten years, may be more. It did not also mean that we are going to touch them immediately after the 10-year period. Why did we say that? Not, to be perfectly frank with you, because of love for those who control those industries, but because our resources were limited and so we came to that conclusion.

Because we were anxious to help in industrialising the country, we felt that the resources that we had would be far better used in starting new basic industries or new big schemes, as we have in view, than in merely transferring the ownership of some industries from private hands to the State control. So in the balance we thought we would maintain those private industries and give them every encouragement. We do not know when the time may come when we may nationalise them, but in the meanwhile we may build up a nationalised structure of new industries, apart from certain essential industries like Defence etc. which must be nationalised anyhow.

So it was a question of utilising our resources to the best advantage and proceeding ahead in consultation with the people concerned, including representatives of commerce and industry and other interests, so that we may get the best value out of our money and at the same time not upset things that were going on.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the other day in Madras or Hyderabad something to the effect that looking at

ner and Jodhpur in particular. We have sent certain sample quantities abroad and we have got a completely satisfactory report regarding their quality and durability. It will not be an easy job; we will have to move 2,000 tons of gypsum every day for the purpose of keeping the factory going, which means—if metre gauge has to be used—we will require nearly 200 wagons per day. But we are in close touch with the Transport Ministry and with their co-operation we are now arranging to move a sufficiently large quantity of gypsum to Sindri for the purpose of piling it for use as soon as the factory is in a position to start."

Continuing the Minister stated:

"There is a lot of misgiving in the minds of some Honourable Members as to what has been done at Sindri. We have taken cinema pictures of the progress of work which has been already done and in the course of the next fortnight or so I hope to be able to invite Members of the House to see an exhibition of the film.

Aircraft Factory

"With regard to the Hindustan Aircraft Factory, during the last one year it has done work which deserves praise from all concerned. Apart from repairing and re-conditioning aircraft, which have been in use not only for internal purposes but also abroad, we have now started our new Designing Section and that Section is completely under the direction of an Indian. Several foreign experts came and visited the factory during the last year and every one of them complimented not only on the way in which work was being done but on the general programme that we have been able to place before ourselves. It is our intention to secure the services of a design consultant and during the last fortnight we have received an offer from a German expert who holds an international position in the world and we have already invited him to come out to Bangalore for the purpose of remaining with us for a limited period and for giving training to the Indian staff which is working there.

"We are now producing a type of aircraft which will be required mainly for the Defence Ministry and we shall be able to go in for production in the course of the next month or two. Of course, this we are doing under special licensing arrangements with a firm in England but we are also hoping that the work which is now being done in our own design shop will be completed in the course of a year and half and we will be able to produce in India an aircraft which was designed by an Indian and manufactured by a staff of Indians under Indian control.

"We have also during this year made arrangements with a British firm which has been doing special work in our coal mines for open-cast mining operations. That was completely under the control of a British firm and at the end of the lease it has been decided that that work will be done by a company of which ultimately the major share-holders should be the Government of India. It appeared that this specialised work was done only by foreigners; during the last few years there was no provision for training Indians at all and one of the first conditions that we have laid down is that in the course of the next five or six years a sufficient number of Indian technical personnel will be trained.

"We have also developed a scheme for the Mathematical Instruments Office which is now manufacturing instruments of high precision and we have now been able to secure the services of two experts from Germany—we have sent a cable to Germany for the purpose of engaging them and they are expected to come here in the course of the next few months to help us to reorganise the work of this department.

"Sir, so far as private enterprise is concerned, the bulk of industrial activity in India is naturally in the hands of private people. I do not wish to go into details with regard to the work which has been done in this field but it has been our endeavour during the last year to establish much closer contacts than hithertofore between industrialists and the Government of India. Our Industrial Advisory Council, representative of all interests, is functioning.

Closer Contact with Industries

"We have got today twenty-five development Committees each representing a major industry and the object of these Committees is to meet every quarter to discuss relevant problems, either relating to availability of raw materials or of capital goods or of transport difficulties.

"We more or less try to fix up a target figure for our production and we try to see how by a process of mutual help it is possible for us to keep up to the target. We have been able during the last one year to help each other to the best of our ability and here we have acted—Ministries of Commerce, Transport and Industry and Supply—with the closest possible co-operation.

"We have not been able to establish a Planning Commission yet but there is a Cabinet Sub-Committee functioning which is called the Economic Committee of the Cabinet under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister and we meet at least twice or thrice a month for the purposes of discussing problems of mutual interest and evolving a common policy of economic development affecting various Ministries.

"The Industrial Finance Corporation which functions under the control of the Finance Ministry, although it is more or less an autonomous organisation, came into existence only about six months ago and during this short period this Corporation has found possible to help about twelve different industries in different parts of India and the total financial assistance which the Corporation has already sanctioned comes to Rs. 2.25 crores.

An Hon'ble Member: How many industrialists?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Twelve limited companies in different parts of India. Now, that also indicates the anxiety of the Government not merely to offer advice but also to offer financial assistance so that the total industrial development may proceed on lines which are approved by Government.

"I have just referred to the progress which we have made with regard to the heavy industries. Government lays considerable stress on the need for development of cottage and small-scale industries. This is a sphere no doubt which is mainly for the Provinces to deal with, but for the first time we have appointed an All-India Board which met about two and a half months ago and we have formulated a programme of action which, if implemented by the Provinces as also by the Central Government, will, I have no doubt, solve a very difficult economic problem which now faces us today. We, no doubt, will lay every possible stress on the development of large-scale industries. We will see that those industries are distributed in a rational manner in all parts of India, but we do not wish to commit the mistake of concentrating only on large-scale industries.

Cottage Industries

"I feel, Sir, that the future of this country lies in a proper adjustment of the claims of large-scale industries and small-scale industries. In fact, if we really want to re-vivify the rural life of this country, if we really want to tackle the grave problem of unemployment that faces the country today, we can do so not only by having large industries in different parts of the country but by a regional planning of small-scale and middle-sized industries in different areas.

"We have, therefore, put ourselves in close touch with the Provinces. This is a sphere of work which we do not wish to take away from provincial control. Complaints are sometimes made that the Government of India is taking away all powers with regard to industrial development. What we have done is this. Apart from certain industries which the State may itself bring into existence, we are adopting a general policy of development of centrally regulated industries. Naturally, to that extent, the power of the provinces will have to be curbed, but apart from that, the provinces will have a very large sphere of activity left to themselves, and one sphere of activity on which the provinces can and should concentrate is to explore how to develop not only cottage industries but also small and medium size industries.

"We have received a report from the working of conditions in Japan. I do not wish to trouble the House with regard to the details, but it is clear that if we can proceed more or less on the same lines as Japan for the purpose of developing cottage industries, we will be able to solve one of the most important and difficult problems that faces India today."

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General)—Anything towards Khadi and charkha?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: "So far as charkha is

concerned, we have included that as a part of our activity.

"So far as the control is concerned, I do not propose to go into the details. I believe in the course of our debate, reference will be made to the several commodities which are now under control, but the most important of them relates obviously to textiles. I think, Sir, what the difficulties are in regard to the administration of control, but I can definitely assert that so far as control on our textiles is concerned, generally it has succeeded. There is no doubt that prices have been controlled; there is no doubt that production has increased; there is no doubt that today there has been a larger distribution of cloth in all the provinces in India than was the case previously.

New Scheme

"The only difficulty which has arisen is with regard to the accumulation of cloth in certain producing areas mainly arising out of the inability of the provinces to lift them in time. With regard to that also, we have now provided a new system. If a province fails to purchase the cloth quotas allotted to it by the end of the month following the month for which the quota is given, then it will be open to the mills under certain conditions to sell these stocks and distribute them through approved trade channels. I have got the latest figure—I got it last night—regarding accumulation. I find, so far as Bombay and Ahmedabad are concerned, the accumulation comes to about four weeks only. That is the figure which I received last night."

Shri R.K. Sidhwa (C.P. and Berar: General)—What is the quantity?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Four weeks production.

So far as the other areas are concerned, the accumulation varies from six to ten weeks.

Shri C. Subramanyam (Madras: General)—What about Coimbatore?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am not going into the details. Later on in the afternoon I shall come to that.

Prof. N.G. Ranga (Madras: General)—There is the growing shortage of supply of cotton.

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am going to refer to that point just now.

"So far as accumulation is concerned, the House should not forget that normally about four to eight weeks accumulations did exist in the past, but of course this time in certain areas accumulations are more. One difficulty arose out of the fact that in December the total quantity of stamped cloth which the mills declared was nearly 30 to 60% higher than the average for the previous three months. The reason why this was done was that from January the prices were reduced and mills were anxious that whatever they had should be stamped by the end of December, 1948. I am not blaming the mills. That was a natural tendency, but that also helped to accumulate the cloth. The other reason was that Pakistan has been unable to lift nearly about 100,000 bales of cloth allotted to it. Arrangements have now been made for Pakistan to purchase their stocks within a short time and if that is done, I believe in the course of the next month or so the position will be considerably relieved.

Future of Textile Industry

"But, Sir, I would sound a note of warning with regard to the future of textile industry in relation to cotton. This is a serious matter. So far as cotton is concerned, the House probably knows that we use nearly about 42 lakhs of bales of cotton. So far as our own production is concerned, we expected about 28 lakhs of bales this year, but we have been told by the Agriculture Ministry that we cannot expect more than about 23. There will be a deficit of 5 lakhs of bales here.

"With regard to the 10 lakhs of bales of cotton that we used to get from Pakistan, the quantity has been reduced to 6½ lakhs of bales. We have got a certain quantity of imported cotton from Egypt and from certain other places like East Africa, but taking all these together I find that this year is coming to a close with a deficit of about 7 lakhs of bales of cotton which will have to be taken out of the surplus which we already have with us, which means that after eating out a portion of this surplus, we will be left only with about 8 or 10 lakhs out of a total reserve of 19 lakhs of bales. This matter is already engaging the attention of the Agriculture Ministry. If we want to utilise more areas for cultivation of cotton to the detriment of food, obviously the country will not like it."

The Hon'ble Member: What about the question of price for cotton?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: "The price is a different question. Even if we increase the price, the quantity will not increase. So far as the price is concerned, we are going to take up this matter before the next sowing season starts and I hope that in the course of April we will be able to arrive at a decision on this matter. So far as the price of cotton coming from outside is concerned, we are paying obviously much more. As the Members know, for every piece of cloth nearly 50 to 60% goes to cotton. So if we have to purchase cotton at very high prices, it will naturally affect the price of cloth as well.

So far as the other controlled commodities are concerned, I can only make this general observation that it has been our policy to delegate as much power as possible to the provincial governments. It is not feasible for the General Government sitting here in Delhi to regulate control of commodities which are spread throughout the length and breadth of India and issue orders from here. We have delegated as much of the powers to the provinces as is possible.

"With regard to industries which are of all-India importance, obviously the allotments have to be made from the Central Government. Further, we have appointed Advisory Committees with regard to almost all the commodities so that consumers, manufacturers and other people who are interested may come to know the basis on which allotments are made, may offer their suggestions, and whenever such suggestions are made, they are placed before me and I try to accommodate them wherever possible. We also invite representatives of the provincial governments from time to time. We put our heads together and bearing in mind the availability of the materials which are with us, we try to make an allotment that is fair and just to all.

"Of course, one difficulty has been with regard to transport, but that also has improved during the last few months. Apart from the Central Transport Advisory Board meeting regularly every month, we have other special Priority Committees and whenever we get complaints from certain industries, we bring the matter to the notice of the transport authorities and there is a genuine attempt on the part of all to solve the difficulties which confront us.

Disposals

"With regard to disposals, I find that is one of the matters which will come up for discussion. I do not propose to go into detail now in regard to it. I can only just say that up till now we have sold Rs. 112 crores worth of goods, and still Rs. 140 crores worth of goods—book value—remain to be disposed of. Now, Members will please remember the difficulties that confronted Government since August 15, 1947. Before partition, the purchases slowed down. Immediately after partition, on account of the Punjab disaster, there was a ban put on the sale of the disposals stocks.

"The Defence Ministry also, quite rightly, put a ban on the sale of the stocks for reasons which are obvious to Honourable Members. In fact, I can just give one figure. Defence Ministry used about Rs. 22 crores worth of goods from the Disposals during the period when hostilities were in progress. If these goods had had to be purchased from the open market, Government would have had to pay at least double the amount. In any case, today, all the bans have been withdrawn and I am hoping that in the course of 1949 we will be able to sell at least 75 per cent of the stocks that we have in hand."

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is it not Government property that you hold in the Disposals?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: "It is Government property. If the Government had to purchase these things from the open market for the requirements of Defence, then, the Government would have had to pay much more.

"Here, there is some conflict of opinion. Some people want quick disposal, no matter where the things are sold. Others feel that there should be proper checking and we should not allow the bulk of these stores to pass into the hands of speculators and middlemen, who

will make huge profits. The policy that we have pursued is that we give preference to the Government indentors, Central Government, Provincial Governments, States, Educational and Scientific institutions.

"Then, we give the next preference to industries. If the industries want any goods for their own use, we certainly give them preference. Last comes the category of ordinary traders and merchants who desire to purchase them for the purpose of re-selling them. We are in consultation with the Finance Ministry and we are trying to evolve a system whereby it will be possible for us to make these surplus goods available to Governments and also to organised bonafide industries for the purpose of their own use."

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Where are these stores kept?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: All over India.

Purchase Organisation

"So far as the purchase organisation is concerned,—that is the last subject which I propose to touch—in the course of 1947—including the portion of 1947 when we had an undivided India—the Government of India purchased stores worth about 92 crores of rupees, including purchases in England and the United States of America. In 1948, up till October, when we had a divided India, we have purchased for rupees 92 crores. In other words, by the end of March 1949, we shall be purchasing to the extent of nearly about rupees 125 crores. It appears that the purchases made in India have also increased enormously which means so much more goods produced in the country which had been purchased by the Government for its own use. If any questions are asked with regard to the purchase organisation particularly in England or America, I have not full details and I shall only be glad to answer.

"I know there have been some defects and weaknesses in the functioning of the Ministry. But, I can say that during the last one year, it has been our constant endeavour to improve the efficiency of our machinery. Today, the Government must look upon their activities from a new angle of vision. When private industries or others who are struggling come to us for assistance, we do not want merely to say, no, to them or create difficulties for them. No matter whether it is a big industry or a small industry or from whichever part of the country he comes, it is the moral duty of the Government, if the Government believes in industrial development, to give every assistance to them. That has been the policy of the Government. We may have failed in some cases but if the difficulties are pointed out, we shall only be too glad to improve them. I am hoping that in the course of the next year, with the co-operation of all concerned, we will be able to march towards further progress and development which will redound to the credit of the country."

SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR'S ADVICE TO INDIAN FILMS INDUSTRY

SHRI R.R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, met representatives of the Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association at Willingdon Sports Club, Bombay, on March 10, 1949.

Referring to the problems raised by Shri Chandulal J. Shah, President of the Association, the Minister of State said: "If we do not rise to the occasion now and make the profit motive subserve the higher cause of the welfare of the people, a time will come when the nation will make us do so, and then all grace would be lost.

"Films is not only an industry today but a great art which is now vital to the development of our national life and culture. It is one of the most important media of information, education and entertainment. All these three are not exclusive of each other but rather interpenetrating. All art attempts to do what I have stated and is great to the extent it succeeds in this noble endeavour.

"Therefore, I would appeal to you not to look upon your calling as something which gives you merely your daily bread. This great nation which has now come into its own requires the services of us all in its onward march towards revitalisation. No less sacrifices are needed today than when we fought for freedom. The only way in which we can serve the nation is by discarding personal and selfish ends and by using all our energies for the service of our countrymen.

"The points you have raised are not new and have been before Government in one form or other. They all point to the immediate necessity of a thoroughgoing inquiry into the industry. You have done well in putting before me all the important points in a consolidated form. The Government has already decided to set up an inquiry at a very early date and the inquiry will be a thorough one. It is neither easy nor proper for me to anticipate the results of such an inquiry. But we may be sure that the recommendations will be such as would positively promote the development of the industry in national interests."

Shri Chandulal Shah assured the Minister that the industry which had made so many sacrifices in the struggle for freedom would not be found wanting in the task of national reconstruction and development.

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on February 20, said:—

His Excellency the Governor-General is pleased to make the following appointments in the Nagpur High Court:—

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.T. Mangalmurti, I.C.S., at present an acting Judge, to be a permanent Judge in the vacancy caused by the elevation of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivian Bose as Chief Justice.

(2) Shri Kaushalendra Rao, Bar-at-Law, to be an acting Judge.



His Excellency the Governor-General administered the oath of office to the Hon'ble Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (fourth from right) Minister of State, at Government House on February 28, 1949. Pandit Nehru, Sardar Baldev Singh, Shri Jagjivan Ram, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Shri R. R. Diwakar and Dr. B. V. Keskar were present.

IMPORT OF LOCOMOTIVES

Railway Minister's Statement in Parliament

ANSWERING certain criticism relating to the orders placed by the Railway Board, recently in U.S.A. and Canada for the purchase of 300 locomotives, Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Minister for Railways and Transport, made the following statement in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on February 28, 1949:

During the discussions on the Railway Budget, the Hon'ble Shri Mahavir Tyagi expressed misgivings regarding the order recently placed by the Railway Board for 300 locomotives in the U. S. A. and Canada, certain criticisms have also appeared in the press. In my speech at the close of the debate on February 23, I commenced to reply to these but was unable to complete it for lack of time. At the request of the Hon'ble Members present and with the concurrence of the Hon'ble the Deputy Speaker, I undertook to make a statement to the House giving the real facts, and with your permission, Sir, I now make this statement in compliance with that undertaking.

The criticisms levelled against these locomotives are broadly—

(1) As regards design—

(*a*) that they are too heavy for Indian track;

(*b*) that they are not intended to run on track supported by wooden sleepers;

(*c*) that they are of a type suitable only to American conditions, and will not give satisfactory performance in India;

(*d*) that they are designed to draw heavier loads which will require considerable alteration in the existing yards; and

(*e*) that they are provided with bar frames which cannot be repaired in our Workshops.

(2) In respect of placing the orders—

(*a*) that no effective tests of this type were conducted;

(*b*) that the number ordered is too large for our requirements; and

(*c*) that orders were not placed on the Continent of Europe.

(3) In general—

(*a*) that Mechanical Engineers were not consulted in drawing up the design and that, when consulted later, they were of the opinion that it did not fit in with Indian requirements;

(*b*) that Government had to incur considerable expenditure on deputing experts to America to investigate this question; and

(*c*) that a large number of locomotives of this type which had arrived in India, are idling as being unsuitable.

The recent orders for locomotives include 300 broad gauge WP type with one firm in the U. S. A. and two firms in Canada; 20 metre gauge YP type engines with one firm in the U. S. A.; and 150 metre gauge YG type with two firms in the U. S. A.

The WP type was evolved by the Railway Board in 1946 as an Express Passenger locomotive designed to burn inferior grade coal, with a tractive effort almost exactly that of an older type with a heavier axle load. As a first step, orders were placed for producing 16 locomotives of this type as prototypes for trials in India. Owing to the inability of the U. K. Manufacturers to produce these prototypes quickly, the order was transferred to a firm in the U.S.A. The first of these locomotives arrived in India in October 1947, and was put immediately through tests which, besides the usual ones, included boiler performance, fuel consumption with varying loads and on varying gradients, oscillation and 'hunting.' The locomotive was also tested under "worn conditions."

WP Type Locomotives

The results were examined in the Central Standards Office for Railways and by the Railway Board, and the design was finalised in consultation with our Consulting Engineers, a British firm, whose expert personally visited India for the purpose. The WP type was also examined by the locomotive Standards Committee, who raised no major objection. Whatever modifications were considered necessary as a result of the tests were incorporated in the final design before bulk orders were placed.

The WP locomotive has an axle load of 18.5 tons as against the axle load of 19.8 tons for the XC type Pacific locomotive with the same tractive effort which has been in use in this country. The total static plus hammer blow loads under the driving wheels total 12.4 tons for this type of engine as against 14.5 tons for the XC type, which means a reduction of 15 per cent. We have at present in use in India for goods traffic a certain number of locomotives of the XE type with an axle load of over 22 tons.

The WP design is, therefore, very much lighter than a number of types which we have in the country including even the type in use with the same tractive power. This locomotive is considered safe for use on 80 lbs. track, and most of our main lines are laid with 90lb. rails and some sections with even heavier rails, namely, 100 lb. and 115 lb. The factor ruling the weight and type of engine that can run on any track is not the type of the sleeper on which the tract is laid but the weight and type of the rail. The statement that the new WP engines are too heavy for the track has, therefore, no justification.

Reference has also been made in the criticisms to the engineering works in progress in the Ghats near Bombay. These works have been undertaken as measures of safety and have nothing to do with the WP engine. I may mention that the WP engine has passed over the Ghats on the existing track on its journey from Bombay to Bhusaval.

I have already mentioned that, before the bulk order for WP engines was placed, extensive tests were conducted on the prototypes and the results analysed in consultation with the Consulting Engineers. The performance of the WP protoypes was so good that Railway Administrations specially asked for them. The 16 engines are operating on the E. I., G. I. P., and B. B. and C. I. Railways, working Mail and Express links very satisfactorily. The General Managers of all the three Railways have throughout expressed satisfaction at the performance of these engines, with the exception of minor defects, steps to rectify which have already been taken in the bulk orders.

In view of the apprehensions voiced in the House, I discussed the matter on February 24, with the General Managers of the three Railways on which these locomotives are now in use—who happened to be here for another conference—and they have since submitted written reports stating they are fully satisfied with the suitability and performance of these locomotives.

Bar Frames

The provision of bar frames has come in for severe criticism on the ground that our Workshops are not equipped for undertaking repairs on them. It is correct that we have not yet done this kind of work, but there should be no difficulty in obtaining at once the necessaiy equipment for doing it and in training the staff for it in a short time. Steps are being taken towards this end. Workshop adjustments of this nature are inevitable in the adoption of any change in design. Every country in the world except the U. K. has adopted the bar frame and this design has been regarded by the Cousulting Engineers, a British firm, as an improvement on the plate frame.

The reference to heavier loads in the design of the engine is probably to the WG type which is a goods locomotive with a bar frame. It is not dissimilar to the American and Canadian built engines which were imported during the war. The reason for evolving this new type was that the boiler design was the same as that for the WP and, therefore, more suitable for the use of inferior grade coal. The WP and WG boiler being similar, a greater degree of interchangeability and standardisation will be achieved, and this is expected to assist considerably in maintenance.

I have also already mentioned that, in drawing up the design of the WP engines, the locomotive Standards Committee consisting of Chief Mechanical Engineers of Railways were consulted, and such minor points raised by them were considered by the Railway Board in consultation with the Consulting

our present resources we just are not going to nationalise some of the other things we have left out, because if we did that we will stop development in other sectors of our national economy. So entirely from the practical point of view, as well as from the point of view of not upsetting anything which is working to-day which we want to work, we have arrived at this decision.

Now, you and we and all of us in fact have to understand each other, and if you think that we are out to injure your interests, then, of course, co-operation is difficult. Or if we think that you are out to play a lone hand in injuring our interests, our economy, not as individuals but the State, then there can be no co-operation, because there is lack of faith in each other.

May be we do not always agree but the fact is that whether we agree or we do not agree, commonsense should dictate that we should pull together. Otherwise, it is good for neither, and I want you to think about that because you know very well that whatever the rights and wrongs of things may be the industrialists and the commercial classes in India have become rather unpopular with the general mass of the people.

They have become unpopular because some people amongst them have not behaved rightly, have taken advantage of situations to seek profit for themselves at an inordinate rate to the disadvantage of the community at large. That kind of thing done perhaps by a relatively small number, or whatever the number may be, has stuck to the commercial community. It has given a bad name and I do not quite know how you can get rid of that bad name.

But I say to you to make every effort to do so, because ultimately it is not through legislation or through Government protection that we can go very far in the production of everything but through the goodwill of the various parties concerned in that undertaking. If there is a certain feeling that the commercial community has not acted rightly towards the general public, something has got to be done in the nature of, if I may say so, "*prayaschith*," and I am quite serious about it.

Labour

It is a very serious matter that the labour has misbehaved, in many places terribly, and the recent example in Calcutta is pretty bad. Now we can criticise it and control. But it is one thing for labour to misbehave, that is to say, after all they are not trained to high behaviour, it is quite another thing for persons who have to set a standard to others to misbehave. That is bad and that, again, gives an opportunity to labour to misbehave because they see others do also and so the vicious circle goes on.

So I would like you to think of this and to see to it that the kind of case you put to the public is a case in which they do not see so much self-interest, they also see that you are acting for the community as you ask others to act, because after all we have to sink or swim together whether it is the labour force in India or whether it is the industrialists.

It amazes me to see in India today people or groups who are out to create trouble and disaster and chaos that has nothing to do with any 'ism.' So far as I am concerned, communism or socialism or anything, I cannot imagine any communist if he is honest and if he thinks in terms of India's future indulgence in the activities that the Indian communist party is indulging in today.

It is immaterial whether I agree or disagree with communism, but I say the activities of some groups in India today, regardless of the merits of the social theory they have, have nothing to do with the future good of India. They are based on entirely extraneous considerations. They are based, I believe, on the deliberate object of creating chaos in India, out of which perhaps ultimately they may hope something new may emerge.

Now that is a very curious approach to ruin this running machine of India and perhaps waiting for a generation or two for something else to emerge. That is the thing which I am quite sure the people of India will never tolerate. It is that they are up against.

We are up against certain groups who want chaos and disorder in India as they have created chaos and disorder in Burma and elsewhere. That has to be combated by all and that can only be combated not if each group pulls differently and talks in terms of its own interest and not in terms of the State or the general good.

Food Problem

One thing more about food. Food has become almost the basic problem for us today. Food is one of the things on which I think it can be said rightly that we have failed in dealing with the situation. I think the very case with which we have been able to get stuffs from abroad has rather prevented us from facing the problem properly. I think we should think in terms of not getting any food at all after a certain period from abroad—let us put it at two years. I should not add a day more, and just make up our mind that we shall live with the food that we produce after two years or die in the attempt.

I am quite convinced in my own mind that essentially, basically, the food problem of India is not a difficult problem. Somehow or other, we have made it difficult. After all the deficit in food, I believe, now is about 6 per cent or 7 per cent. Now it may be 10 per cent, because of bad seasons. Surely, it should be easily possible, quite apart from the long-distance schemes, the schemes which will bear fruit after about five, six or 10 years, in the course of the next two years or so to make adjustments by increasing intensively our growth of food, fresh areas, etc. or by change of food habits, whatever it may be, to fill this deficit of 7 to 8 per cent. That is how I should like both the Central Government and the Provincial Governments and the other agencies to function. It is no good our carrying on in that way, depending on vast quantities of food from outside and getting into greater difficulties.

I have taken a lot of your time and I have not perhaps referred to many of the points that the President referred to in his address. As you know, we are now discussing our Budget in Parliament here. And that Budget, like the many things that we do, is being fiercely attacked by all kinds of people. That Budget is essentially a cautious Budget, a non-adventurous Budget and a Budget which has come out of our very able Finance Minister's mind after a great deal of thought.

It is easy to criticise it, but I want to tell you that we have looked upon this problem rather deliberately with a view not to results today, but rather to results in the next year. It was easy enough for us to say or do things now which might have made this Government a little more popular. It was quite easy, but we had the courage not to seek popularity that way, but to try to lay the foundations for a big advance soon after, as we intend doing. Whether that way of working is welcome to the public or not, I do not know, because people prefer something good immediately to a future promise.

Firm Foundations

But after all we, as a Government, have to think not of today but of to-morrow and the day after. We have to think of building up this great structure of India on firm foundations. We have tried to lay these firm foundations during the last year or two. But before we even started laying those foundations we met dragons on the way and we had to fight those dragons, and if not kill them, disable them at least. We have plenty of other wild animals to face.

Nevertheless, the foundations of that future India are being laid today and we would be false to our own faith in that future if we imperil that future by doing something now which might be pleasing but might not bear results tomorrow, the results that we seek.

We are after all a kind of Caretaker Government awaiting for the Indian Republic to come into existence to hand over charge of India. We should like to hand over charge of an India which has already achieved a certain measure of greatness and is rapidly advancing to higher fields and to a far greater status in every way, both domestically and internationally. JAI HIND.

UNESCO ESSAY COMPETITION

In order to stimulate public interest in its programme of work, the United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has decided to conduct an essay and poster competition for young children in schools of member States.

The competition is entitled, "Together we build a New world." The entries should reach the Ministry of Education, Government of India by June 1, 1949, through the Provincial or State Government concerned from whom full particulars about the scheme can be obtained.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS OF INDIA

Government Measures to Step Up Production

SUBMITTING the demands for grants in respect of the Ministry of Industry and Supply in the Dominion Parliament on March 9, the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, said:

"1947 was a bad year for India. So far as production was concerned we recorded a fall which was almost unprecedented in the history of India during the last quarter of a century. 1948 fortunately has shown some improvement in the industrial production of the country. The increased production on a percentage basis will be somewhere between 12 and 16.

"I am not suggesting that this increased production indicates that all is well or there should be any slackening of effort on the part of Government or of industry or of labour. There need be no undue self-complacency. At the same time we can confidently claim that we have turned the corner.

"If we are able to pursue a policy of progressive development depending on the co-operation of industry, labour, as also of all sections of the public, I feel, we will be able to tide over the very difficult economic situation that confronts India today.

Industrial Policy

"Sir, in the course of 1948 we declared our Industrial Policy. It is not my intention now to repeat in minute detail what that policy is. But I would briefly say that that policy kept before it the essential interests of the country as a whole. We did not make any fetish about any particular abstract theories or 'isms' but we were anxious to place before the country a programme which we thought was a balanced one, was fair and equitable to all concerned, and which, while it should give incentive to the industrialists, would also hold out hopes and a message of good cheer to labour, be just to it and to others, who were connected with industries in India.

"We decided that we would ourselves undertake some projects which we consider to be of a basic character, of a fundamental character, and at the same time we would encourage private enterprise to develop some of the industries which we thought should receive our first attention. We were anxious that there should be an all India policy for industrial development. Industry has mainly remained a provincial subject, but as time marches on, as we realise the significance of the unity of India, we feel it essential that there must be an all-India, centrally regulated, policy at any rate in relation to the major industries of this country.

"Now, Sir, in the course of 1948 you may ask what is it that Government has done with a view to implement the promises which the Government made in course of the budget discussion of last year. Now, among the new projects—I am not going into the details—but among the new projects we have already sanctioned two schemes, one for the establishment of a dry core telephone cables factory and another for the establishment of a penicillin, suplha drugs and paludrine manufacturing factory.

"We have under active consideration the project reports which we have received for the establishment of one or two factories for the manufacture of one million tons of steel. We have selected heavy electrical machinery, manufacture of radio equipment and radar, synthetic oil from coal, tractor and machine tools as five of the main projects which are now under examination and it is my hope that in course of this year we will be able to take preliminary steps for the purpose of implementing at least some of them.

"Members of the House will see that there is a provision in the budget for a sum of about Rs. 3 crores for development purposes. Obviously, if these schemes are to mature fully in course of the next four or five years we will have to spend anywhere between Rs. 200 and 300 crores. Where that money will come from, how these schemes will be financed and conducted are matters which will have to be examined by Government in course of this year. In course of time I expect that we will have to come up before the House for final approval of our policy.

Expert Assistance

"I may pause here for a moment and briefly refer to the procedure which Government have followed for the purpose of considering these big projects. We called to this country some of the big and well-known consultants and experts from different parts of the world and we have aksed for their assistance in preparing the project reports. These experts have come—not from one selected or favoured country—they have come from the U.S.A., from England and from many countries on the continent. They have gone round our country. We have placed our preliminary reports before them. They have examined the position regarding raw materials, transport facilities and also the requirements of the country, and the project reports which they have prepared bear direct relation to the facts which we placed before them.

"In addition to this, Sir, we have two or three other big undertakings which we have already taken in hand. The first and foremost is the Sindri factory for the manufacture of fertilisers. As the House will remember, our programme is to manufacture 350,000 tons of fertilisers, and this, I believe, will be the biggest fertiliser factory in the whole of Asia. I am in a position today, as unfortunately I was not in course of my last budget speech, to say that we have completed in course of this year three-fourths of this factory and if everything goes on well, we will be able to start production somewhere between early and middle of 1950. We have selected a large portion of our staff.



Dr S. P. Mookerjee

"The policy we have pursued is to select Indians; we have sent them abroad; nearly twentyfive of them have gone to England and America and are working in different factories for the purpose of equipping themselves well and coming back to Sindri and taking charge of their work. We have made it a rule that every foreigner whom we may have to select for a temporary period has an Indian under-study attached to him.

Cement Factory

"Apart from the Sindri factory we have also decided to establish a cement factory which will be producing about 250,000 tons of cement per year. In the course of the next two or three weeks we expect to complete the acceptance of tenders for the purchase of plants and machinery for the establishment of this factory.

"Here, Sir, I may say that there w a certain delay in receiving plants and machinery for our main factory from England but with the assistance of our High Commissioner in London who acted with the full support of the U.K Government it has been possible for us to obtain high priority for many of our plants and machinery which have already arrived on the spot.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Where will this factory be started?

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: At Sindri in Bihar.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I was asking about the cement factory.

The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: "At the same place. Sir, we had one difficulty and that was with regard to gypsum. As you know, gypsum, we expected, when the scheme was originally passed, would come from Pakistan. But I am now happy to announce that we have satisfied ourselves that sufficient stocks of gypsum will be available from within India, from Bika-

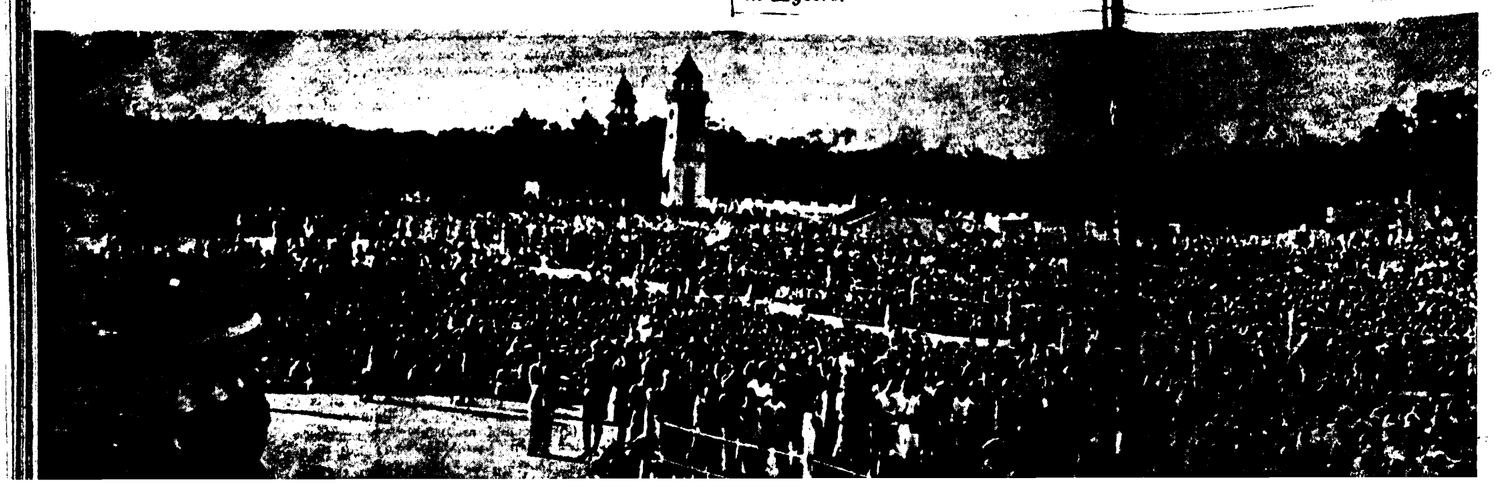






SARDAR PATEL IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad gave Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's Deputy Prime Minister, a great ovation when he visited the State recently. The Osmania University conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on Sardar Patel. (Left) H. E. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad and Sardar Patel photographed at the Bolarum Residency; (above) the Prince of Berar, son of H. E. H. the Nizam, and the Deputy Prime Minister (right) Sardar Patel receiving the degree of Doctor of Laws from Major General J. N. Chaudhuri, Chancellor of the Osmania University, at the Convocation held on February 26; (below, left) Sardar Patel addressing a mammoth meeting at Fateh Maidan, Hyderabad and (below, right) the Maharaja of Mysore (second from right) and Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Dewan of Mysore, greeting Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Miss Maniben Patel on their arrival at Mandakhally aerodrome in Mysore.





Engineers. But before placing bulk orders for the WG type, "trial before purchase" was not regarded as necessary. The British firm of Consulting Engineers, who examined the proposals, were, however, fully consulted. The WG is a high tractive effort, but slower speed, locomotive of a wheel arrangement known as 2-8-2 and not of the Pacific or 4-6-2 type. The 2-8-2 type is inherently one which is not sensitive to developing 'hunting' or other dangerous tendencies. It was on the considered advice of our Consulting Engineers that a bulk order for 100 WG locomotives was placed with a firm of loco manufacturers in the U. K.

The number of locomotives becoming overage, and due replacement by March 1950 is about 1,470 and by February 1948 orders had been placed to cover only 489. It was necessary to bridge the gap and, after investigation by the Chief Commissioner of Railways, orders were placed for an additional 390. Including these, the total orders placed so far cover only 879 locomotives, against the replacement requirements of about 1,470 by March 1950. The fear expressed that the orders so far placed by the Railway Board for locomotives are in excess of our requirements is, therefore, unfounded.

Our need for locomotives is urgent. The deciding factor in placing orders has been the price, delivery dates and the willingness of the manufacturers to produce in accordance with Indian designs. Orders for these locomotives were placed in the U. S. A. and Canada as the locomotive builders in these countries offered terms most suitable to us.

The criticism that Government had to incur expenditure in sending experts to America to investigate this question of design of locomotives is not correct. No expert has been sent out to America for this purpose.

Of the WP locomotives, so far only the 16 prototype engines have reached India. Therefore, there is no question of locomotives idling because they are "unsuitable." The first batch of the 300 WP locomotives is to be ready ex-Works in February/March 1949, and all the 300 should be in service on Indian Railways by the end of 1949.

C.P.W.D. NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

The Government of India have set up a Negotiating Committee in the Central Public Works Department to go into disputed claims of contractors in respect of works carried out during the period December, 1941 to March, 1946. This step has been taken to avoid litigation in Courts.

The Committee will consist of three members, namely, Mr. H. P. Sinha, I. S. E. (Chairman), Mr. Ranuq Lall, Deputy Accountant-General, and Mr. S. T. Advani (lately an Officer of the Sind Judicial Service) who will be the Legal Member of the Committee.

The Committee is required to submit monthly progress reports to Government, and will function for six months or till all the cases referred to it are disposed of, whichever is earlier.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST TRAFFIC

MEASURES to encourage tourist traffic to India particularly to Kashmir during the ensuing season, were dicussed by the Sub-Committee of the Tourist Traffic Advisory Committee which met on March 7, at the Central Secretariat, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Y. N. Sukthankar, I. C. S., Secretary, Ministry of Transport. Representatives of the Kashmir Government and of the Ministries of States, Railways, and Information and Broadcasting, and of tourist and hotel organizations were present.

Those present included Mr. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Deputy Prime Minister, Jammu and Kashmir, Khwaja Ahsan Ullah, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Commissioner in India, Mr. Vishnu Sahay, I.C.S. of the States Ministry, Mr. S. Chakravarti, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Mr. V. P. Bhandarkar, Member (Transportation), Railway Board, Mr. B. L. Sharma, Principal Information Officer, Government of India, Mr. M. S. Oberoi of the Associated Hotels of India, Mr. S. Prakash of Indian National Airways and Mr. George Brown of Messrs Thomas Cooks.

In a short speech welcoming the Committee members Mr. Sukthankar explained Government's plans for the promotion of tourist traffic specially from hard currency areas like the United States and invited suggestions from the Committee.

Considerable discussion centred round attracting tourists to Kashmir. Mr. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad on behalf of the Kashmir Government, said that Kashmir was a country of great scenic beauty and was always a tourist's paradise and that the season would commence in April. There were, however, certain difficulties in the way of promoting tourist traffic to the State, he added. These were the present inadequate transport—both road and rail—facilities and the permit system.

As regards transport, he hoped that it would soon cease to be a problem as proposals were under consideration for the more efficient working of a road transport service. He also emphasised the need for better and increased accommodation arrangements at Pathankot, the nearest rail-head to Kashmir. In regard to the permit system, the Committee recommended suitable measures to eliminate the difficulties.

Speaking on the question of publicity, Mr. Sharma made some useful suggestions such as a campaign through posters depicting the scenic beauty of Kashmir with the slogan "Visit Kashmir", illustrated brochures, photographs of Kashmir scenes and publicity through A. I. R. and the Press.

The Committee then went on to consider certain aspects of Governmental activities, for example, prohibition, food restrictions, and permit, visa and customs formalities, etc., which, it was said, tended to discourage foreign tourists from visiting India. On the representation of the Travel Agency and hotel representatives, the meeting recommended relaxation of food and drink restrictions.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the suggestion to set up a Tourist Traffic Branch in the Ministry of Transport, one of whose main functions would be to co-ordinate work of the various bodies engaged in tourist traffic and generally to help such organizations.



Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways, recently visited the Central Lost Property Office of the B.B. & C.I. Railway, Delhi. Here, the Minister is inspecting some of the unclaimed articles, which ranged from children's toys and puzzles to costly X-ray projection apparatus

EXPORT LICENCES FOR PAKISTAN

New Procedure Explained

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 5, said:

The Government of India have watched with growing anxiety the fact that export licensing for Pakistan is becoming every day a more and more complicated affair on account of the fact that a very large number of people who had never before traded with the territories now constituting Pakistan and who had never before any interest in the particular commodities which they now seek to export are applying for licences, merely because the existence of a trade barrier and export licensing make these transactions appear to be specially profitable.

The number of applications in most instances runs to many thousands, a substantial proportion of which is from speculators of the class refered to above. The administrative task of examining these applications and eliminating the spurious cases, backed sometimes by forged documents and flotitious statements, has tended to throw the whole control machinery out of gear and has resulted in a serious hold-up of trade which is of vital interest to both the Dominions.

Export of Mustard Oil

Administrative considerations apart, the Government of India feel that the interest of the trade between the two Dominions will be best served by reducing to a minimum the various formalities and technicalities that have been growing in number and volume. They have, therefore, come to the conclusion that, while it may be necessary to have quantitative restrictions on the total volume of exports of different commodities from India to Pakistan on account of the needs of internal consumption in India the interest of both the Dominions will be best served by free exports, limited, wherever necessary, to a specific period of time in which every genuine trader will have a free and equal opportunity to participate.

To start with, therefore, they have decided that exports of mustard oil to East Bengal should be allowed to go without any export licences for a period of one month.

FREE EXPORTS TO PAKISTAN

In another Press Note issued on March 7, the Ministry of Commerce stated:

In pursuance of the policy already announced in a Press Note of allowing exports from India to Pakistan to proceed as far as practicable without licensing restrictions, the Government of India have, after a further review, decided that the following additional items should for the present be allowed to be exported from India to Pakistan without any export licences being required: (1) salt (2) silk and art silk manufactures (other than yarn) (3) woollen manufactures (4) aluminium ware (5) sewing machines (indigenous) (6) brass utensils and art brassware (7) torch cells and cases (8) pressure lamps (9) soaps (10) machine tools (indigenous) (11) tea chests (indigenous) (12) cotton and rubberised belting (indigenous) (13) twist drills and reamers (indigenous) (14) canvas shoes (15) rickshwas (16) cycle rickshaws (indigenous) (17) electric lamps and (18) electric ceiling fans.

Many of the commodities mentioned above are not in such abundant supply in India itself that unlimited exports can be permitted. Government consider, however, that it is undesirable to impose a definite time limit to the period for which exports will be allowed to go freely without ascertaining what the actual monthly off-take is.

It has, therefore, been decided that in respect of these commodities, as well as in respect of mustard oil, matches and hurricane lanterns about which a Press Note has already been issued on March 5, definite time limit should be set *ab initio* for allowing free exports, but when the quota nears completion an announcement would be made indicating the last date of free exports. As a rule, the period of such notice would not be less than a fortnight.

Intending traders are advised in their own interest to confine their commitments to what they can hope to move within a reasonably short period of time and not to make any long-term commitments.

Cloth Despatches from Bombay

Three hundred and thirty-five special trains, 90 more than during December 1948, were run on Indian Railways during January 1949. Important among these were:

B. B. & C. I. Railway—66 for important foodgrains and 26 for general goods from Bombay to up country stations and 25 for other traffic like cotton, hay, etc.:

G. I. P. Railway—7 for general goods, for cement from factories, 11 for firewood and 12 charcoal to Delhi, and 11 for cotton, ballast, foodgrains, etc.,

E. I. Railway—34 for important foodgrains and 1 for general goods to O. T. Railway, etc., and 25 for stones, sand, refractory, jute, etc.

B. N. Railway—33 for manganese ore for export, 7 for iron and steel from Tatanagar, and 12 for firewood, cement, bidi leaves, bamboos, etc.

Nine special trains were run in the Madras Region, five in the Gorakhpur Region and four in the Delhi Region.

Cloth despatches from Bombay area to various zones in the country were better than in the previous month—1,50,151 bales being moved in January 1949 as against 1,48,000 bales in December 1948.

Transport conditions on the B. N. Railway continued to be difficult owing to power shortage, interruption of telephone communication, etc.

It has been arranged to run two special trains per week to New Delhi from Bombay Carnac Bridge including 'smalls' in addition to about 30 wagons per week of Dock traffic. These arrangements are liable to cancellation if the loaded consignments are not removed immediately from the station premises.

MOVEMENT OF WOOL FOR EXPORT

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 5 said:

To facilitate the movement of wool for export, the Government of India announced on November 3, 1948, that a quota of two wagons per week had been allotted on each of the following Railways: B. B. & C. I. and East Punjab.

The quota allotment has since been increased in order further to facilitate the transport of wool. The quotas at present in force in a workable class of priority for stations on the B. B. & C. I. and E. P. Railways are as follows:

From Fazilka	7 wagons per week.
From Beawar	7 wagons per week.
From other wool booking stations on the B. B. & C. I. Railway.	2 wagons per week.
From stations on the E. P. Railway.	2 wagons per week.

of such schools decided that with certain changes they can render great service to free India. After August 15, 1947, there was no longer any room for schools of an exclusive type, but once their exclusive character was removed, the former Chiefs' Schools and European Schools could be fitted into our scheme of national education. Not only so, their special characteristics in developing discipline and corporate life make such schools more necessary for training the future leaders of independent India.

Public Schools

The Ministry of Education have, therefore, decided to put under their direct supervision both schools like the Chiefs' College at Ajmer or Raipur and the European School like those at Lovedale and Sanawar associated with the name of Sir Henry Lawrence. Their exclusive character has been removed and their doors thrown open to all without regard to birth, status or province. They have thus become for the first time Public Schools in the real sense of the term. I am glad to find that here at Gwalior you have developed along the same lines and converted your school into an All-India School which is open to all without distinction.

I am glad to find so many distinguished representatives of the princely order of India present here. May I take this opportunity of saying how greatly I have appreciated the manner in which you have helped in breaking down the barrier between what were the provinces and the States during the British days? By your action in breaking these barriers and bringing your States within the orbit of the Indian Union, you have acted wisely and well. You have also acted wisely and well in transferring power to the hands of representative bodies and thus placing the administration on a level with that of the rest of India. These are great services and I am sure that the country appreciates the spirit in which you have rendered them.

There remains, however, one question that I would ask of you. Till yesterday you were Rulers; to-day you have given up those reins of power. Do you feel that by giving up power in this manner, you have still a function to perform on the stage of modern India? Some of you may feel that now that administration is in the hands of popular bodies, you have nothing further to do. Such a feeling is, to my mind, unjustified, for there is one function you can perform that no one can take from you. You will agree with me that just as ruler has power over his people, he has the opportunity of service to them. His power may disappear but no one can take away his capacity for service.

You have acted wisely in responding to the challenge of the changed times and diverting yourself of your administrative work. You will act even more wisely if you train yourselves to serve the country in keeping with the spirit of the new age, and I can assure you that should you decide to do so, you will have in future India a position ever more exalted than the one you occupied in the past. For in the past, your position was based on power and fear: in the future your position will be built on service and love.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME TO BE REVIVED

THE Government of India have decided to revive the Overseas Scholarships Scheme in a modified form as from the next financial year, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on March 4.

It added: The modified scheme is largely based on the recommendations of the Overseas Scholarships Committee, which was set up by the Ministry of Education under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. B. C. Roy, to scrutinize the working of the Scheme operating since 1945, with a view to making recommendations for its improvement.

The main objective of the modified Scheme will be to send persons for training abroad in subjects, facilities for which are not available in India, partly to ensure improvement in the standard of instruction and research in the country itself, and partly to meet the needs of the Central and Provincial Governments. Only such persons will be sent abroad as can be absorbed in specific undertakings, in operation or planned, on their return.

The scope of the scheme has been extended, so as to meet the requirements not only of Government Departments and of Government sponsored industry, but also of educational institutions like Universities and research and technological institutions. The needs of public utility concerns will also be taken into consideration.

The choice of scholars for training under the new Scheme will be mainly from among persons who have spent some time in a Government organization, an educational institution or a public utility concern, and who are recommended for selection by their employers. On return from abroad they will be expected to serve their parent institutions.

The Ministry of Education are addressing all Provincial Governments and Ministries of the Government of India with a view to ascertaining their requirements. The requirements of educational institutions and public utility concerns will be ascertained through the Ministry of the Central Government or through the Provincial Government concerned under whose administrative or territorial jurisdiction they fall.

It has further been decided that in making awards of scholarships a "means" test will be applied, *i.e.*, the amount of financial help to be given to each candidate will be determined in accordance with his or her parents'/guardians' capacity to bear the expenses of his training.

ROY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The Committee appointed by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, to enquire into the progress and scope of the Overseas Scholarships Scheme have recommended that the Scheme should be continued for a period of five years in the first instance.

The Committee consisted of Dr. B. C. Roy (Chairman), Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Dr. D. B. Dey and Prof. N. K. Sidhanta. In their Report which was published recently, the Committee have recommended that the ultimate objective should be to develop the scientific, technical and educational institutions in India to such a level that training for all branches of study, theoretical and practical, would be available within the country.

Scholars should, therefore, be sent abroad with a view to manning Indian educational institutions on their return. Another important recommendation of the Committee is that Universities, public bodies etc., which participate in the Overseas Scholarships Scheme should bear half of the expenditure on the scholarships allotted to them.

In view of the fact that in most cases scholars sent abroad are to become teachers for advanced studies after their return, the Committee feel that scholarships should be awarded only to persons who have proved their ability for research.

The Committee have also recommended that attempts should be made to place scholars in institutions other than those in English speaking countries.

(*Continued on page 344*)

We are living today in an age of democracy. There are men who think that there is no scope for aristocracy in such a context. This is, however, not my opinion. When aristocracy is opposed to democracy, it may be cast aside by the present age, but when aristocracy serves as an adjunct to democracy and seeks to fulfil its purposes, aristocracy can render a service to democracy which nothing else can. Aristocracy develops a width of vision and a far reaching imagination which is not usually found outside its orbit. Such vision and imagination cannot be acquired by training in a School. Book learning is no substitute for the vision which develops from generation to generation. Your family traditions and the art of leadership which you have developed through the training of generations, can, therefore, help in supplying qualities which we need for building the India of our dreams. My appeal to you is, therefore, to rise to the occasion and prepare yourselves in a spirit of service for taking your right place in the growth and development of free India.

Under a recent notification published in *the Gazette of India* the enforcement of standards and hygiene laid down in the Fruit Products Order, 1948, will be the responsibility of Provincial and States' Governments and local administrations. The Central Government will henceforth be concerned with the laying down of the standards, and the registration and licensing of manufacturers of fruit products.



Mr. John D. Kearney, Canadian High Commissioner in India, presenting a complete set of the Canadian Geographical Journal to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister

CANADA'S PRESENT TO THE SECRETARIAT LIBRARY

AT a short and simple ceremony in the Education Minister's room in the Secretariat, His Excellency Mr. John D. Kearney, Canadian High Commissioner in India, presented on March 5, 1949, to the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad a complete set of the Canadian Geographical Journal for the Central Secretariat library.

In a brief speech before the presentation, the Canadian High Commissioner said that the presentation of the Journal was a token of the close ties of friendship which exist between Canada and India. He said, he had great pleasure, in expressing the feeling of friendship and high regard which were cherished for India not only by the Canadian Geographical Society, but by the whole people and Government of Canada.

In his reply, the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad said that the Government of India valued greatly the feelings of friendship and co-operation expressed by the Canadian High Commissioner. He hoped that the ties of friendship between Canada and India would continue to be strengthened.

The Canadian Geographical Journal is published by the Canadian Geographical Society, a non-partisan organisation founded in 1929 to provide an authentic survey of Canada—the land, its people, its physical and economic resources. It contains information gathered by experts, on many phases of geography and exploration, travel and recreation, plant and animal life, art and handicrafts, scientific and industrial development. In addition, one article in each issue is usually devoted to an outside country of special interest to Canadians.

In the last few years the Society has donated complete sets of their journal to a few libraries in war-devastated countries, and it has recently been decided by the Society's Board of Directors that sets should be presented to other countries having the link of friendship with Canada. India has been selected as a recipient as an indication of the fellowship which exists between Canada and India and the high regard in which India is held in Canada.

AMERICAN SOCIETY'S GIFT TO INDIA

H. E. the Most Rev. Leo Peter Kierkels, Apostolic Internuncio in India, made a presentation on March 9, of 53 cases of Atabrin, containing 11,537 bottles of 100 tablets each, to the Government of India on behalf of the National Catholic Welfare Conference of New York, a Christian humanitarian association doing relief work all over the world, for free distribution to the poor suffering from malaria without distinction of caste and creed.

India's Health Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, accepting the donation, requested the Apostolic Internuncio to convey the grateful thanks of the Government and people of India to the National Catholic Welfare Conference for this useful and timely gift.

This is the fourth gift within the past year from the same source. The first was 600,000 pounds of wheat, the second 180,000 pounds of Ralston cereals and the third 180,000 pounds of chocolate milk powder. These have already been distributed to refugees through Government agencies.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, receives from H. E. the Most Rev. Leo Peter Kierkels, Apostolic Internuncio in India, a gift of Atabrin



PROUD RECORD OF INDIA'S ARMED FORCES

Defence Minister's Tribute in Parliament

WHILE moving in the Parliament on March 7, 1949, for defence grants for the current year the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, reviewed briefly the record of service of India's Armed Forces since the attainment of Independence on August 15, 1947.

He outlined the difficult tasks which the Indian Army had to face as a sequence of the division of the Armed Forces. They had to start almost from a scratch, he said.

Analysing the progress of Nationalization of the Army the Defence Minister announced that there were at present fewer than 200 British Officers, mostly in technical or advisory capacities in the Indian Army. The executive control of the Army was entirely in the hands of Indians.

Referring to Kashmir, Sardar Baldev Singh expressed the Government's sincere hope and desire for peace in the state, for satisfactory solution of the problem and for continued good relations with Pakistan. Paying eloquent tributes to the officers and men, who took part in the Kashmir operations, in face of almost impossible conditions of communications, terrain and weather, he said, they had surpassed all traditions of gallantry.

In his concluding remarks he proudly announced that "our Armed Forces have proved true and loyal to their government and their people," and expressed the hope that "they would continue to serve their country loyally, magnificently and faithfully at all times."

Here is the text of his speech:

Last year, during the Debate on Defence Expenditure, I expressed the hope that it might be possible to present the Defence Budget to the House separately in the same manner as the Railway Budget. The proposal has since been examined from all aspects and it has been found that it is not possible to do so as ours is only a spending department and has no revenue. I am sorry to have given an impression to the House which it has not been possible to carry out. The proposal was in fact contrary to the practice in other countries.

In the statement of the activities of the Defence Ministry which has been circulated, the Hon'ble Members have a brief account of what we are doing. I would, Sir, by your permission, like to place some more details in order to help the Members to have a clearer picture.

Our Armed Forces have made history since August 15, 1947. We know all that fell to our lot immediately and following the attainment of freedom. During those months of grim trials, till very recently, it was the Armed Forces on whom fell the heaviest responsibilities of all manner and types, and it was their loyal and patriotic work, labour and devotion to duty which has meant so much to so many of us over such a short period of time.

Nationalisation

The full tale of how the Armed Forces were placed at the time of partition cannot be told just yet. You remember we had begun tackling the problem of peacetime strength and Nationalisation of Armed Forces, almost immediately after we assumed Office in September 1946.

A Committee was appointed to study the nationalisation problem under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar now my colleague. The Report was completed by the end of 1947. Before that, however, the British Cabinet Mission had arrived and it soon became clear that the country would have to be divided. After August 15, 1947, it was no more the question just of nationalisation; we were now also to divide the Armed Forces as a necessary consequence of the division of India.

Grave Problem

The problem was indeed grave. There were, on the one hand, widespread disturbances and on the other a process of rapid break-up of the Central and Regimental Organisations almost all along the line. On Independence Day, as the Statement in your hands shows, we had at Headquarters but a mere skeleton staff of some 150 Officers and 576 Other Ranks, both Civil and Military. Elsewhere some units ceased to be, others were broken up and disabled for effective functioning. Such very roughly was the condition of the Army. Nevertheless, the situation was faced boldly and without demur.

And, what we have since been able to do, is for the country to see. Lakhs of uprooted men, women and children, driven out of their homes were tended, fed and brought away. Battles have been fought and won. Side by side the problem of re-organisation was not ignored and that process too went steadily on. How it has all been done is indeed a marvel.

Of more than 8,000 British Officers in the Army before August 15, 1947, we have less than 200 today—and almost all of them in technical or advisory jobs. Executive command and control is now entirely in the hands of Indians. Many Indian Officers have had to be promoted far beyond their service and experience but on the whole they have worked extremely well.

In this work of re-organisation and integration we were given valuable help and guidance by General Roy Bucher, the late Commander-in-Chief and other



Sardar Baldev Singh

British Officers and the process of nationalisation was completed when on January 15, 1949, for the first time in the history of modern times an Indian, General K. M. Cariappa, was appointed Commander-in-Chief of our Army. The House will be glad to know that he has made a good start.

R.I.A.F.

The process of nationalisation of the Indian Air Force needs a little elucidation. This Service as such was already almost completely Indian—our young men having taken to the air from its start as if naturally. The problem now in hand is one of expansion and development. Today, except the Commander-in-Chief and less than a dozen R. A. F. Officers on loan, the entire Force is manned by Indians. On the technical side, we have only 14 British civilian technicians in various installations.

Navy

In the Navy which is in its infancy, the process of nationalisation, as the Statement shows, must necessarily be slow. As in the case of the Air Force, but to a larger extent, we will need foreign assistance in our Navy for yet some time to come. I am glad to be able to say that our Air Marshal of the Air Force and the Vice-Admiral of the Navy have been doing a magnificent job in assisting us with their rich experience and knowledge. Their interest and enthusiasm are of the greatest value to the Indian Officers and Men of these Services.

Territorial Army

During the year, in spite of our other commitments and preoccupations we have taken steps towards the organisation and development of both the Territorial Army and the National Cadet Corps. The Statement before you gives details of what has been done so far. I hope the Hon'ble Members will agree

that within the limitations by which we were bound, the progress is by no means meagre. Recruitment in the Territorial Force will begin early in the new financial year.

As for the Cadet Corps, it has already gone into stride in most of the Provinces and the States. The response of our young men in Universities and Colleges has been very encouraging and we are already planning to add to the number of units for which we originally planned.

A word about the facilities for higher and intensive training which we are providing for our Armed Forces will interest the House. Such training is the basis of an efficient Force. Until we attained freedom, we were dependent in this sphere almost wholly on the facilities available in the United Kingdom. This could not continue.

Higher Training Facilities

In Free India, we must have our own institutions for every type of training for our officers both in technical spheres, in ancillary services as well as in the higher fields of scientific research and military strategy. The field of work is formidable but as such training is the basis of an efficient force, we have given first preference to the building up of these institutions in all the three Services. It is my hope that within a few years, we shall have in our own country facilities for every kind of higher training of a higher standard, reference to some of these new institutions has been given in the Statement. Among these the most important are—

The proposed new National Academy,
The School of Military Engineering,
The Armed Forces Medical College,
The Defence Science Organisation; and
the proposed Air Force and Naval Technical Schools.

We cannot go ahead as fast as we would wish as our effort is to lay secure foundations and our speed is limited by our resources.

Ordnance Factories

My narrative of such institution will be incomplete without a mention of our Ordnance Factories. It is in these Factories that we produce some of the munitions of war and other equipment such as Small Arms. Fortunately some development had already taken place in this direction. What we possess of these Factories, therefore, is a national asset of considerable importance. But here again, we do not have all we need. Nor is our technical staff sufficiently advanced, particularly in the higher grades. Therefore, during these last few months, we have attempted to provide training to selected Indian technicians to enable them to assume more responsible positions.

Ordnance Factories by themselves, however are a small comfort, however well equipped or efficiently run. To make them function at their best, we must find the necessary material, raw or processed, within the country itself. In the past, we depended for these on the United Kingdom. We are grateful for all the help we received and continue to receive from them. But we do need to develop our industrial potential on as wide a base as possible.

Basic industries have to be established. Steel and other metals of requisite standards must be produced within India. The Steel Plant to which my Colleague, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister referred in his Budget Speech will take some years to operate. But we have to go steadily ahead and till our own arrangements have been completed we must of necessity depend on imports to meet our requirements. And remember also that along with the development of industries, our own nationals must acquire technical knowledge and specialisation of a high order so that we may not have to depend on outside assistance for long.

All this will take time. Meanwhile we have to meet our pressing needs. These are being met in the existing Ordnance Factories or from foreign countries. Here I will again emphasis that with the first class manpower we have and an Armed Force which the world recognises as one of the finest anywhere, we must also find equipment and armour of the highest standard, for in the sum total of any appraisement of a fighting force, it is the armour, the equipment, the supplies that count as much as the fighting qualities of its men. The Government is conscious of this imperative need to make our Armed Forces self-sufficient and will take action to that end.

An important factor that we have to bear in mind while planning our Ordnance Factories is that in time of peace they can be utilised for manufacturing civilian requirements without in any way affecting adversely the production of ordnance stores and other Armed Force equipment.

All this is an ambitious programme and it involves huge sums of money. Much of it, as the Hon'ble Members will appreciate, is inescapable. Some perhaps could be avoided. This has been done as we are not unmindful of the strain of this heavy expenditure on the economy of our country. The avoidable expenditure has been cut down wherever possible without however risking our supreme objective,—namely, the security of our country.

Demobilisation

In an earlier part of my speech, I said that on assuming office, we had actually begun planning a return to peacetime strength. This was as far back as 1946. Indeed the process of demobilisation had by August 1947 already gone forward to a very large extent, but soon after for reasons already referred to, we were compelled to call a halt and indeed had somewhat to strengthen our forces. Increased expenditure, therefore, was inevitable and here I would like to give in brief some of the reasons which caused this toll of money.

First, There was the campaign in Kashmir and the Police action in Hyderabad. The Police Action lasted only a few days, it is true. But we could not take chances and much work had to be done and organisation had to be built up both on land and in the air so as to ensure a speedy decision. Indeed the reason why this police action ended so quickly and with so little loss of life and property was that in spite of our other commitments, we were able to concentrate on it a scheme of combined operations which worked with clock-like precision. In terms of money the cost of this Police Action was heavy.

Second, we had to borrow Forces from

GEN. CARIAPPA VISITS EX-SERVICEMEN IN THEIR VILLAGES

In order to see for himself the living conditions of ex-servicemen and the widows of Army personnel killed in action, the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Gen. K. M. Cariappa, paid a surprise visit to Padhiana and Manku villages, within 20 miles of Jullundur recently.

Gen. Cariappa was accompanied by Maj. Gen. S. P. P. Thorat, Commander, East Punjab Area, Col. Sujan Singh, Director of Recruiting, and Commander K. B. Godrej of the Recruiting Organisation.

The C.-in-C. stopped and chatted with ex-servicemen he met on the way, and at Padhiana found that they had collected in large numbers to give him a rousing welcome. The news of his visit spread like wild fire and a huge crowd collected to greet the first Indian C.-in-C., which demonstrated the great affection and regard in which he was held by ex-soldiers. The C.-in-C. distributed money among the ex-servicemen in distress and among the widows and children of soldiers who died fighting.

About 700 boys of the Khalsa High School, Kalra, came to Padhiana and gave a splendid display of mass drill. It was highly appreciated by the C.-in-C., who presented a radio set to the institution.

Addressing men, women and children at both the villages, the C.-in-C. exhorted them to keep discipline, preserve law and order and maintain cleanliness. He asked ex-servicemen to keep up the tradition of their Army by inculcating a feeling of brotherhood among the villagers and doing away with distinctions of caste, creed or community.

STALLS FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

On representation from the Defence Services Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation, the Notified Area Committee, Fort, Delhi, has agreed to earmark 50 stalls, to be built in the near future on the Parade Ground opposite the Red Fort, for allotment to refugee ex-servicemen who migrated to the Indian Union and are desirous of resettling in business or trade.

Interested ex-servicemen are required to submit their applications on prescribed forms to the Defence Services Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation, "F" Block (Room No. 381), New Delhi, by April 15, 1949.

College Buildings, which during the last war was the Tactical School. Having a training capacity of 750 Cadets, the School has 40 combatant Officer trainers and 10 civilian Instructors.

Besides the present batch, so far 254 Cadets have passed out of the School in two batches. After an intensive 12 weeks' training at the School, the Cadets are given the option to decide any particular branch of the Army they want to serve and then they are given further specialised training at Corps Schools. Those wishing to join the Infantry, receive 6 months' further training at the School. Selection of Cadets is made from amongst civilians by the Army Selection Board. The periodical intake of cadets is 150 Cadets per month.

GEN. SHRINAGESH OPENS CHILDREN'S PARK

A Children's Park was opened on March 7, in the Delhi Cantonment by Lt.-Gen. S. M. Shrinagesh, G.O.C.-in-C., Western Command. After opening the park, Gen. Shrinagesh went round the play-ground and distributed sweets among the children present. The Park has been named after Gen. Shrinagesh.

Declaring the park open, Gen. Shrinagesh congratulated the Cantonment Board for building the park for children in healthy and natural surroundings. He also thanked members of the Board and the contractor, who had provided equipment in the playground.

Hoping that the example would be emulated by other cantonment boards within his Command, Gen. Shrinagesh said, "The mode of educating children has undergone a radical change. The system of imparting knowledge through recreation is becoming increasingly popular. The child must also be given the opportunity to develop its personality in a natural way, and for this reason play-grounds, such as these, are very helpful."

LAWRENCE MEMORIAL SCHOOL

The Lawrence Memorial School, Sanawar (Simla Hills) is now working as a Public School and is open to all without any distinction of caste, creed or social status, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Education on March 3. Admission to the school will be governed by a merit test, 40 per cent of the vacancies being reserved for the children of Armed Forces personnel.

A graduated system of scholarship is being instituted to enable pupils in straightened financial circumstances to take advantage of the special facilities available in the school. A substantial number of free places will be available to specially meritorious students under the above scheme.

The Governor-General has appointed Shri Jayantilal Chhotalal Shah, B. A., LL. B., Advocate to be a permanent Judge, of the Bombay High Court in the vacancy caused by the elevation of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. C. Chagla, as Chief Justice, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on February 28.



Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh presenting a 'saaad' to a Kashmiri Muslim

RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN POONCH

More than 20,000 people from all corners of the Poonch Jagir congregated at the polo-ground in Poonch recently to participate in a brilliant 'durbar' at which Maj. Gen. Atma Singh G. O. C. presided.

The vast concourse was mainly composed of Muslims who had come to take part in the pageantry from distant places like Mendhar, Mandi, Salotri and Suran. The G. O. C. arrived at the 'durbar' from the Moti Mahal in an impressive procession. On alighting from a jeep, he inspected a guard of honour provided by a unit of the Gurkha Rifles. As he walked through the gangway, he was lustily cheered by the audience on either side. He took his seat in the golden pavillion, on one side of which sat high military officers, including Brig. Sarda Nand Singh, Brig. Moti Sagar and U.N.O. observers, and on the other the dignitaries of the estate.

Addressing the assemblage, Gen. Atma Singh said that the Indian Army had no aggressive designs. It came to Jammu and Kashmir State only to save its people from death and destruction. This task had been accomplished and the way was now clear for the civil administration to embark on their programme of reconstruction. The Army had no governmental machinery and the question of rehabilitation was primarily the concern of the civilian authorities. All the same, the Army is lending them a helping hand in the work of reconstruction.

Immense economic and material benefit had accrued to the Kashmiris, the G.O.C. went on, by the presence of the Indian Army in the State. The only thing that it expected from them in return was love, affection and fellow-feeling, which it had received in an ample measure.

Sanads were presented to several persons who had done meritorious work during the disturbances. Since the link-up with Poonch, the village headmen had been of very great help and assistance to the Indian Army. It was through their co-operation that the recovery of large quantities of arms and ammunition abandoned by the enemy and restoration of abducted women and converted children was made possible.

It has now come to light that when the raiders pulled out from this area, Indian troops came across hundreds of diseased men and women suffering from the effects of starvation or mal-nutrition. The Army Commander made immediate arrangements for medical aid for them, and the State Government sanctioned Rs. 2,00,000 for the resettlement of refugees returning from enemy-held territory.

Two Dakotas brought loads of salt and other stores to Poonch for the civil population on this occasion.

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

(*Continued from page* 338)

where adequate facilities are available, that the number of overseas scholarships should be progressively reduced and that side by side with the Overseas Scholarships Scheme Government should assist the development of existing technical institutions by grants for equipment, wherever necessary and by sending teachers abroad for refresher courses. The Committee recommend that foreign experts should also be invited for short periods to give lectures, etc.

Regarding the award of scholarships, the Committee are of the view that merit alone should be the basis for the award of scholarships, though preference may be given to educationally backward communities in cases where two or more candidates are available possessing similar qualifications and ability.

PLEA FOR LIBERALISED IMPORT CONTROL POLICY

Commerce Minister's Address to Advisory Council

ADDRESSING the first meeting of the Import Advisory Council on February 26, the Hon'ble Shri K. C. Neogy, Minister for Commerce, said, that inflationary conditions in India required a larger supply of goods to be made available so as to reduce scarcity. Restrictive import policies and the large unspent balance of foreign exchange at the end of June, 1948, had shown that a measure of austerity "not warranted by the limitations of our foreign exchange balances with soft currency countries" had been imposed on consumers.

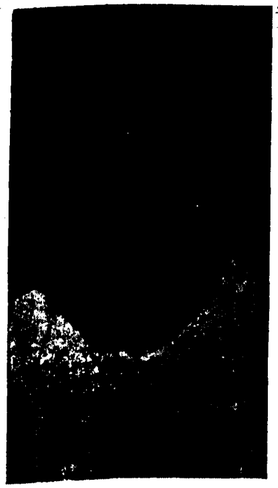
Explaining the results of the recent changes in import policy and the foreign exchange position as it exists today, the Minister declared that imports of capital goods and machinery had increased from Rs. 4 crores per month in 1947 to Rs. 5½ crores per month in 1948. These goods now constituted 15 per cent of India's total import trade; industrial goods, comprising raw materials and semi-manufactures, 40 per cent; essential consumer goods (including foodstuffs), 37 per cent of our dollar imports and 44 per cent of the total import trades; and "luxuries" or "semi-luxuries," only 2 per cent.

Turning to imports from dollar and hard currency areas—food being the most important—Shri Neogy said: "Even when every effort is made to obtain foodgrain supplies from soft currency countries, increased imports from dollar and hard currency areas will be necessary." As a precautionary measure, it had been decided to curtail other imports still further from the latter countries, and the licensing policy for the current half-year in respect of "hard" areas had been influenced by these considerations.

Here is the text of the Commerce Minister's speech:

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the first meeting of the Import Advisory Council. It had long been the desire of the commercial community to be closely associated in an Advisory capacity with the policy and the working of Import Trade Control. Government had considered the question several times in the past, but for various reasons the constitution of this Council had been delayed.

Government controls, in so far as they go to restrict the free choice of people in any particular sphere of their life, tend to be generally unpopular, unless public opinion is fully seized of the economic objectives of such controls. Moreover, the effective operation of controls depends largely on the ready co-operation of the public, especially those whose interests are directly affected. Hitherto, those in executive charge of Import Control attempted to explain their policies and kept themselves informed of public opinion by frequent discussions with the various Chambers of Commerce and other responsible organisations. The constitution of the Import



Shri K.C. Neogy

Advisory Council provides yet another opportunity to Government to consult non-official opinion, and to explain the general economic background which necessitates import control and the principles on which it is operated. As representatives of diverse public interests, members of the Council will be in a position to bring their valuable experience in trade and public life to bear on the executive actions of Government. The Council will thus provide a venue for a mutual exchange of views, for clearing any mis-understandings and for considering suggestions for improvement in the administrative structure and procedure so as to ensure a smooth yet effective operation of control.

Purpose of Control

Import Trade Control was first instituted about eight years ago for the conservation of dollar and hard currency resources as well as of limited shipping tonnage during the period of the war. On the close of the war, it was thought that the controls should be gradually removed. In fact, the economic conditions then prevailing demanded as large an import as possible of plant and machinery for the replacement and maintenance of the industrial units and also of other industrial goods required for increased production.

The consumer demand, long pent up, was also large, particularly because of the inflationary conditions then prevailing. To meet these demands, and as a step towards the ultimate removal of control, the then Government liberalised its import policy during 1946. The system of Open General Licences was extended to a large number of commodities imported from sterling as well as other countries. Even for those commodities which continued under the licensing system, licences were issued so generously that the total value of licences issued during the 12 months ended March 1947 was as much as nearly 1,000 crores of rupees.

As a result of the policy, a large variety of goods of luxury and semi-luxury types were imported during 1946, and early 1947, even from dollar areas. Some of these imports were so large that these luxury goods can still be found displayed in retail markets, giving a mistaken impression that there must be some very large loopholes in our current restrictions on dollar imports.

New Phase

The result of these imports was a heavy call on our foreign exchange reserves which comprised mainly the war-time accumulations of our sterling balances. Early in 1947, it was realised that such generous imports could no longer be allowed and that the country would soon be called upon to limit the imports to what it could pay for from current earnings of export proceeds, plus the transfers from the sterling balances as fixed by mutual agreement with the United Kingdom Government.

From July 1947, Import Trade Control, thus entered on a new phase, being linked closely with foreign exchange control and the balance of payments problem. Since then the main objective of Import Trade Control has been conservation of foreign exchange resources.

For the first half year ended December 1947, our foreign exchange was multilaterally convertible and licences were issued during that period without closely discriminating between the sources of supply. From January 1948, however, the discriminatory form of control has had to be reintroduced, the control being more rigorous against dollar and hard currency imports. Throughout the period of twelve months, ending June 1948, many of the luxury and semi-luxury articles, and even a number of essential consumer goods, were either given no import facilities or severely restricted. Licences were, however, issued liberally for plant and machinery and some of the industrial goods; but a number of industrial raw materials were also on the restricted list.

While these restrictive policies helped in maintaining the balance of payments with dollar and hard currency countries, the position that developed by June 1948 was that we ended with a large surplus balance in our current account with soft currency areas. Meantime, the prices of various articles were also mounting up. It was against this background that the policy of restricted import came to be revised. The main objects of the liberalisation of control after July 1948, were to make further use of our foreign exchange balance in

INTER-DOMINION AGREEMENT

Appeal to Press for Co-operation

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on February 25, 1949 stated:

At the Inter-Dominion Conference held in New Delhi in December last, the extent to which the Agreement reached in Calcutta was observed by the Press in both the Dominions was reviewed. The Conference noted with regret that the Press in the two Dominions had committed breaches of the Agreement. Consequently it produced a revised Agreement which, in addition to the Press, covers the media of books, pamphlets, publications, broadcasting and films. The relevant text is as follows:—

Any propaganda for the amalgamation of Pakistan and India or of portions thereof including East Bengal on the one hand and West Bengal or Assam or Cooch Behar or Tripura on the other, shall be discouraged.

N.B. The word "Propaganda" shall be taken as including any organisation which might be set up for the purpose.

4. (*i*) Both Governments recognise that the wholehearted co-operation of the Press is essential for creating a better atmosphere and therefore agree that every effort should be made, in consultation with the representatives of the Press, wherever possible, to ensure that the Press in each Dominion does not—

(*a*) indulge in propaganda against the other Dominion,

(*b*) publish exaggerated versions of news of a character likely to inflame, or cause fear or alarm to, the population or a section of the population in either Dominion,

(*c*) publish material likely to be construed as advocating a declaration of war by one Dominion against the other Dominion or suggesting the inevitability of war between the two Dominions.

(*ii*) An Inter-Dominion Information Consultative Committee should be set up to meet once in two months, or more frequently if necessary, alternately in Delhi and Karachi and keep under review the activities of—

(*a*) the Press,

(*b*) books, pamphlets and publications,

(*c*) broadcasting, and

(*d*) films.

This committee shall have an equal number of representatives from either Dominion consisting of one Minister from each Dominion, and not more than two Government officers and two representatives of the Press of each Dominion. The subjects listed under (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) shall be dealt with only by the official members of the Committee.

(*iii*) Both Governments shall ensure that their respective organisations handling publicity, including publicity through the radio and the film, refrain from and control—

(*a*) propaganda against the other Dominion, and

(*b*) publication of exaggerated versions of news of a character likely to inflame, or cause fear or alarm to the population, or any section of the population in either Dominion.

The Co-operation of the Press and the film trade has been sought through the President of the A.I.N.E.C., and the Presidents of the various Film Producers' organisations.

The Government of India earnestly hope that, in the interests of harmonious relations between the two Dominions, the Press, Film producers and publishers of books, pamphlets etc., will extend their full co-operation in implementing the Agreement.

SHRI DEVADAS GANDHI'S STATEMENT

The following statement was issued by Shri Devadas Gandhi, President of the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, on February 25, 1949:—

Once again at the request of our Government I have to appeal to the Press of India to do its utmost to advance the cause of peace and goodwill between Pakistan and India. The Inter-Dominion Conference which concluded in New Delhi on December 14 last examined very carefully the question of the attitude of the Press in both the Dominions. At the end, the Conference formulated proposals which are incorporated in the Press Note issued by our Government.

I invite a careful study of the suggestions which the Press in both the Dominions is called upon to adopt. Some members of the Indian Press will demur to the statement that the Press in both the Dominions had committed breaches of the Agreement. We on our side are conscious of studied restraint exercised by newspapers in India. But we cannot claim to have carried out the earlier Agreement of April last, in the letter and in the spirit, in each and every case. We have had difficulties with a section of our own Press. Happily, there has been of late marked improvement in the relations between the two Dominions. That position has to be consolidated.

We, the Press of India, are an organised body and have a very important and leading role to play. It is our duty to back our Government strongly and actively in its efforts to maintain harmonious relations with Pakistan. We have in the code, which we voluntarily observe, specific provisions which impose certain obligations on us in the matter of publication of comments and news likely to inflame communal passions or disturb relations between the two Dominions.

The provisions of the Inter-Dominion Agreement of December last go further and specify a number of points to be borne in mind by newspaper editors. There is nothing in those points which in any way encroach upon our liberties and I have no hesitation in commending them all to my friends of the profession.

Consultative Committee

I would like to draw special attention to the decision to set up an Inter-Dominion Information Consultative Committee. This Committee will include representatives of the Press. I have nominated Mr. T. K. Ghosh and Mr. Durga Das to serve on it on behalf of the Press of India. This is in the nature of a vigilance committee which will meet alternately in New Delhi and in Karachi and the hope is that it will be able to deal in a spirit of friendliness and understanding with breaches of the code on either side.

Here is an effort at the opening of a new chapter in the relations between the two Dominions. The Press of India, I have no doubt, will co-operate wholeheartedly. Let us try to forget the rancour and the bitterness of the past, and while discharging the duties which are ours, let us hope for the best.

DIVISION OF RAILWAY COACHES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on March 10, 1949, stated:

The Government of India's attention has been drawn to a report that the Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Pakistan, made a statement that if Pakistan could get all the vehicles that the West Bengal Railway owes them and which they are not giving and that if Pakistan could get all the coaches that are due from the Indian Government to the West Punjab, there would be no overcrowding on Pakistan Railways. It appears that this statement has been made under a misapprehension.

Almost all the wagons are pooled and ownership plays very little part, except for accountal purposes.

At present the East Indian Railway has lent over 1,600 wagons to the East Bengal Railway.

So far as the coaching stock is concerned, there is a certain amount of delay in finalising all details of division of individual coaches by types and ages. Both N.W. and E.P. Railways are equally concerned in this delay.

It might also be mentioned here that coaches sent by the Assam Railway for repairs to Saidpur (Pakistan) are, after repairs, being used by the East Bengal Railway for their own purposes, thereby causing a serious shortage on Assam Railway.

ROLE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NATIONAL LIFE

Maulana Azad's Address at Gwalior

"A good school is a national asset of the highest value at any place or at any time. Schools are the laboratories which produce the future citizens of a State. The quality of the State, therefore, depends upon the quality of such laboratories," said Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, addressing in Hindustani the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Scindia School, Gwalior, on February 26, 1949, at Gwalior.

Here is the English translation of Maulana Azad's speech:

I am very glad of this opportunity of visiting the Scindia School at Gwalior founded 50 years ago by the late Maharaja of Gwalior, Sir Madhava Rao Scindia. The manner in which the School has developed since then and established for itself an All-India position is eloquent testimony to the interest taken by him and his successors. I am confident Your Highness will continue to take the same interest in its future growth and development.

Development of Spiritual Aspect

A good school is a national asset of the highest value at any place or at any time. Schools are the laboratories which produce the future citizens of a State. The quality of the State, therefore, depends upon the quality of such laboratories. In the context of modern India the importance of good schools is even greater. On the one hand, we have vast illiteracy and on the other almost unbounded opportunities. Achievement of independence has opened to the people new vistas and we can achieve all that we have hoped for provided the human material in the country can meet the challenge demanded of them. In spite of the vastness of our resources and opportunities it is an unfortunate fact that the number of good schools in this country is all too rare. The obligation of a school like the Scindia is, therefore, all the greater.

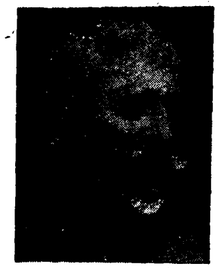
I have been very glad to learn of the manner in which the Scindia School has grown through a synthesis of Indian and British traditions. You have in this school rightly proved that there is in this country an ancient tradition of residential schools which shared many features in common with the modern Public Schools. You have, as is only right and proper, taken from the English Public School system whatever was good in it but you have grafted it on what is basically an Indian Institution. A school like yours in which equal emphasis is placed on academic work, physical and health organisation, creative activity and training in responsibility and integrated behaviour can serve a most useful purpose in the present transitional phase of Indian life.

I am particularly glad to see that, apart from the emphasis in the usual Public School activities found in British schools, you have made provision for development of the spiritual aspect of the boys in your charge.

It was perhaps inevitable that when the School started, it was meant to be exclusive and had a distinct military bias for a considerable time. I am glad that you have given up that exclusiveness and turned the School into an All-India Public School drawing boys from all parts of India and from all major social and religious groups. This is a move in the right direction and is in keeping with the spirit of the times.

Equality of Opportunity

If there is any one feature which distinguishes modern India, it is the growth of the spirit of democracy which seeks to give equality of opportunity to all its citizens. All past barriers based on birth, privilege, caste or wealth are breaking down. As a secular democratic state, we are pledged to the widening of opportunity and equality of chances for all. I am very glad to learn that Your Highness has taken a leading part in the breaking down of such barriers. I am confident that the same wise statesmanship will guide you in



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

widening still further the services which the Scindia School can offer to the rising generations of free India.

In the past, exclusive schools like yours have served two main purposes. They were established either to cater to the the needs of princely families or they were founded by Europeans and offered education according to European models. Whatever opinion we may have about their exclusive character it cannot be denied that they rendered a great service in introducing education of the British Public School type to India. This system of residential education with its emphasis on the growth of character and leadership had much to offer to India, and both the types of schools to which I have referred deserve well of the country having brought the benefits of this system to young Indians.

This is the reason why after the attainment of independence the Ministry of Education in considering the future

TRAINING IN HIGHWAY ENGINEERING

THE Government of India have decided to send to the United States of America a party of Government and State Road Engineer Officers for a course of 18 weeks of intensive and specialised training in modern methods of highway engineering.

The party will be headed by Mr. D.P. Nayar, Superintending Engineer, East Punjab, Public Works Department, Ambala, and will include eight others, mainly Executive Engineers, selected from officers in the service of Provincial and State Governments upon nominations made by those Governments.

Long term Plan

This deputation forms part of a long-term plan, which is being implemented by the Government of India, with the co-operation of the Provincial and State Governments, to increase the proficiency of Road Engineers so that they may fit themselves to tackle satisfactorily the large road development programmes which remain to be executed not only in the current five-year plans but also in subsequent plans.

This scheme for the training of our Road Engineers has been rendered possible by the kind courtesy of the United States Government who are taking great pains and are making elaborate arrangements to give the best technical training possible such as cannot be expected at the present time anywhere else in the world.

The first such party which was sent out in 1946, consisted of 22 members; and the second party sent in 1947 consisted of 19 members. No party was sent out last year. This year, the Government of India had planned to send out at least 15 road engineers but had to restrict the number to nine only in view of the present financial stringency even though there was no lack of candidates put forward by Provincial and State Governments.

The Government of India are meeting half of the expenditure involved on each Provincial delegate, the other half being met by the Provincial Government concerned. The expenditure in respect of the two delegates from the States is being met entirely by the Government of the States Union concerned.

Eight out of the nine delegates mentioned above, including the leader, had recently assembled at Ranchi during the annual session of the Indian Roads Congress which was held there early last month. The party is expected to leave India on May 3, 1949.

the States and this added to the expenditure.

Third, we had to borrow a contingent of Gurkha troops from Nepal to meet the needs of our internal security. The House knows well the important role that the subjects of Nepal have played in the Indian Army in the past. Gurkha Units still form a part of our Land forces and will continue to do so in future. Our relations with the Government of Nepal have been most cordial and I am grateful to His Highness the Maharaja for having helped us with this contingent of troops at the time of our need. Its cost, of course, had to be borne by us.

Fourth, there had to be increased provisioning of armour, equipment and stores. This item alone is responsible for a large increase in the expenditure.

Fifth, as a result of the division, a very substantial part of the permanent accommodation of the Army has been lost to us in the Frontier and the West Punjab. We have had to make improvisations, and new accommodation will cost a good deal of money.

Sixth, the rise in prices all along the line has contributed in no small measure to the increase in our expenditure. We have tried to do our best to economise; but have often found ourselves against a dead wall

Finally, I am sure the House will appreciate that the increase in expenditure is inevitable with an increase in the strength of the Forces. The strength of the Forces had to be increased considerably. Unfortunately for obvious reasons I am not in a position to disclose this strength.

All this has made the bill of expenditure formidable. The main difficulty, as I have explained, has been that ever since our Independence, the call on our Forces has increased for reasons beyond our control.

An Assurance

I would, however, like to assure the House that we are ready to take up the schemes of further improvement whenever practicable and reduction in expenditure as soon as normal conditions are in sight, because it is obvious that in normal times our expenditure on the Armed Forces must bear a much lower ratio than at present to the resources of our country.

Comparisons may be odious. But a look at the following facts may be worthwhile, without of course, in any way suggesting that thereby we justify our own expenditure. The revenue estimate of the Government of India for 1949-50 including the net contributions to the general revenues from the Posts and Telegraphs and Railway is Rs. 322.98 crores and the corresponding estimate of our neighbour i.e., the Government of Pakistan is Rs. 66.66 crores. The estimates of net Defence Expenditure (met from Revenue) of the two Governments for the year 1949-50 are Rs., 157.37 crores and Rs. 43.62 crores respectively.

The percentages of Defence Expenditure compared with the total revenues of the two Governments thus come to:

Government of India—48.7 per cent.
Government of Pakistan—65.4 per cent.

I need say no more.

Some of the Hon'ble Members referred to the new Scales of Pay and how this has hit our officers particularly the younger ones. The new scale of pay was fixed after careful consideration by a committee which had representatives from the three Services. In view, however, of the high prevailing prices some concessions have already been given. They are:

(a) Abatement of "War Excess" i.e., the difference between the emoluments drawn under the old pay code and those admissible under the new pay code, in nine instead of six half yearly instalments

(b) grant of free accommodation and allied services for the officer himself when he is posted to a station in which he cannot be provided with family accommodation;

(c) special priority for accommodation at the ports to the families of naval officers who are serving in afloat establishments;

(d) reimbursement within certain limits of excess charges for furniture hired privately with the approval of the M. E. S.;

(e) a fresh outfit allowance after every seven years of commissioned service;

(f) Qualification pay for officers of the rank of Commander, Lieut.-Colonel, Wing Commander and below who possess or acquire special qualifications which may be useful to the services;

(g) an entertainment allowance to senior officers holding certain selected command appointments such as independent command of Sub areas or Areas, Groups etc.

(h) A flying bounty to certain categories of officers of the RIAF after completion of a minimum number of flying hours in service aircrafts.

(i) Service Officers, Ratings and other Ranks of the three Services are to be eligible to join the Postal Life Insurance Fund, from which they were previously excluded, on payment of the normal rates of premia payable by civilian Government servants. The extra premia over the normal rates chargeable from such personnel on account of special risks of service will be met from the Defence Services Estimates.

(j) 40 per cent of the seats of the Schools in Lovedale and Sanawar have been reserved for children of officers and men in the Armed Forces. The question of giving scholarship to deserving students is under consideration.

I would like to assure the House that the Government has the interests of all their officers and men at heart and would try their best to minimise the difficulties and hardships within the basic principles laid down by the Pay Committee and the limited resources of the country.

One feature of some of our new activities, I would like to mention is the organisation we have set up to look after the rehabilitation of the displaced members of the family of our soldiers. A very large number of such families were among the lakhs of people who lost their homes in Pakistan. Their plight was a source of great anxiety to our men in service and affected their morale. The problem was serious. We, therefore, established a rehabilitation wing of our own under the Command of a senior officer. The relief, since this wing was started is considerable.

Now, Sir, I have done with my explanation of the expenditure side of the Defence Ministry's activities. Unfortunately, the Ministry is one that has no income to its credit so far as least as money credit is concerned. But money is not all in the sum total of life of a nation as it certainly is not in the case of an individual. We have other things of which we can justly take credit.

Role in Kashmir

Last year it was my privilege to relate to you how after literally an overnight decision, our Army, added by our Air Force had been rushed to the assistance of the people of Kashmir and how in spite of almost impossible conditions of communications, terrain and weather, we cleared the beautiful valley of marauding bands of looters who had entered Kashmir from across the borders. Since then, as the House knows, and particularly after the arrival in India of the United Nations Kashmir Commission, it could no longer be denied that in addition to Tribesmen and others, the regular forces of Pakistan were also operating on a large scale on every front wherever our troops were detailed.

But, now, there is a lull on that front. A cease-fire has been agreed to and ordered. I will not, therefore, say more for we long with all our hearts not only that the present cease-fire may lead to a truce but that circumstances may lead to a final solution of the problem we are confronted with in that part of our territory. We sincerely hope for and desire peace in Kashmir and with our sister Dominion of Pakistan.

This, however, does not prevent me from bearing witness to the magnificent manner in which our Army and our airmen fulfilled the mission assigned to them. They had a tradition to keep, a tradition of valour, grit and resolute will in action. In my judgment they have surpassed this tradition. They have literally broken all records.

Fighting in Kashmir was a novel experience particularly for our youthful Officers holding Command Ranks. I feel proud when I say that almost everyone of them, Officers and Men alike, has proved true to the trust their Commanders placed in them. Rarely, even in the last great World War, was warfare conducted in terrain and weather conditions that our Forces had to face.

They carried heavy armour on altitudes as high as 16,000 feet and more and on roads so called, sometimes improvised within the space of a few hours. Our engineers and sappers cleared jungles and hills and built roads and bridges in all manner of conditions often under heavy enemy fire, in places where no armies had ever ventured before. They faced unheard of difficulties, beat time, and then—and then—they beat the enemy wherever they could find him. The campaign will make an epic in the annals of the deeds of our Forces.

The part played by the Air Force was equally praiseworthy. The young pilots and Ground Officers and Men carried out duties that bear comparison with the most arduous and complicated tasks known in the history of aerial warfare. Their exploits, particularly the daring landings they made at high altitudes, in narrow river-beds unknown to them, except for a spot on maps, and on short shell ridden strips under gun-fire—both during day and night—were some of the deeds of which they and we all will ever be proud. All this was accomplished by our young pilots without much experience or any help by outsiders or foreigners.

Tribute to Officers and Men

We have lost valuable lives—Brig. Usman, Col. Rai and many other Officers and Men—valiant, noble and true sons of India. Their memory is for ever enshrined in the hearts of their brothers in arms as in ours. I am sure the House will join in paying homage to them.

Before I close my remarks I would like to say a word about the part played by the State Forces. They have fought side by side with our troops and everywhere have shown courage and comradeship of a high order. For the future it is our plan to see that State Forces are trained and equipped on the same standards as our own Army. We are aiming at uniformity—particularly as the States are being reorientated and realigned and cast into new and bigger units.

And finally, I would, by your leave, Sir, like to express here in the House our sentiments of joy and pride that our Armed Forces have proved true and loyal to their Government, their people and their country. They have kept out of politics: caste or creed barriers have not influenced them. I have not the least doubt that these Forces will continue to serve our Motherland loyally, magnificently, and faithfully at all times.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHILE

In order to promote and strengthen the friendly relations already existing between their two peoples, the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Chile have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at Legation level, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations on March 1, 1949.

NEED FOR DISCIPLINE AND TEAM SPIRIT

Gen. Shrinagesh's Appeal to Cadets

THE third batch of 143 Cadets passed out on March 5, of the Officers' Training School, Poona, after an intensive 12 weeks' training to join different branches of the Army for further specialised training, before they join the Indian Commissioned Ranks. At an Impressive Passing Out Parade held on the occasion Lt.-Gen. S. N. Shrinagesh, G. O. C.-in-C., Western Command, took the Salute and inspected Guard of Honour presented by the Cadets.

Of the Cadets, who passed out, 30 have decided to receive further training before they can join the Infantry, 33 Artillery, 28 Engineers, 12 Signals, 12 RIASC, 4 IEME (Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering) 11 Ordnance and 13 Armoured Corps.

Congratulating the Cadets on their fine turn out and the high standard of drill, Lt.-Gen. Shrinagesh said, "Smartness of carriage and dress is indicative of self-respect, but do not confuse smartness with cheap swagger, which is so destructive of self-respect and comradeship."

Lt.-Gen. Shrinagesh said that comradeship, was one of the greatest characteristics of the Indian Army and asked them to maintain it by tolerance and goodwill not only between the officers themselves, but between the Officers and the men they commanded, as the best friend of the soldier was his Officer. But if officers were to mix freely with their men and still maintain their position, they must see to it that they were superior to their men in all moral qualities as they were in Rank.

Speaking on discipline, Lt.-Gen. Shrinagesh said that discipline and team work made one feel strong. Without discipline a body of men was a rabble and with discipline that same body was powerful co-ordinated fighting machine.

Lt.-Gen. Shrinagesh said, "Commonsense is a most desirable quality. I am convinced that whatever natural aptitude we may possess, we will never have commonsense or indeed any other moral quality of a useful sort, until we have assiduously cultivated it. Therefore, I believe in hard work at our profession. I believe also in hard thinking on each particular problem before it arises. But please do learn to think quickly and carry out resolutely what you will do or may have to do next."

In the end Lt.-Gen. Shrinagesh reminded the Cadets of the greatest of all virtues, namely "Sense of duty" and said, "Let each one of us resolve that at the end of every day each one of us can honestly say 'Thank God, I have done my duty'."

Situated in picturesque surroundings the Officers Training School was started on September 15, 1948, to make good the shortage of Officers in the Indian Army. The School is housed in the Deccan

CHIEF OF PERSONNEL, RIN

One of the key positions in Naval Headquarters, that of the Chief of Personnel of the Royal Indian Navy, has recently been taken over by Capt. R. D. Katari RIN. The efficiency of the Navy is very closely connected with the satisfactory solution of various personnel problems.

Capt. Katari will be responsible for the recruitment, training, welfare and discipline of all the personnel in the R.I.N. as well as for appointments of officers and for general manning of the fleet.

He is an ex Dufferin cadet and in fact has the unique distinction of being the first cadet to join the Dufferin when this institution was founded in 1927. He is also the first cadet to win the Viceroy's Gold Medal.

During the war he held many important sea-commands. He was Senior Officer of the 37th Mine-sweeping flotilla which was responsible for clearing the mines that had been laid in the Andaman-Nicobar area.

During the difficult days after partition, when the Navy was called upon to carry out landings on the Kathiawar coast as part of Kathiawar defence operations, the command of the Naval Forces devolved upon Captain Katari. It will be recalled that the efficiency



with which these operations were carried out earned praise from the highest quarters.

Prior to his present appointment, he was second in command of India's first cruiser, HMIS DELHI.

soft currencies, and to increase supplies of consumer goods in the country so as to counteract inflation that has been menacing the economic stability of the State.

The measures taken to liberalise imports were to issue Open General Licences for the more essential consumer goods and industrial raw materials, and to permit imports, in limited quantities, of certain luxury and semi-luxury goods which had till then been banned. The liberalisation could be made only in respect of imports from soft currency countries as well as from Sweden, Switzerland and Japan.

The foreign exchange position of these countries, although they were not regarded as soft currencies, was not difficult for the time being. In order to take advantage of the payment agreements with these countries, they were placed on the soft currency list for a limited period.

Open General Licence

You are aware that the Open General Licence for Switzerland has expired and has since been withdrawn, and that Sweden is now regarded as a soft currency country. The position of trade with Japan is under examination, and Government hope to be shortly in a position to decide whether the Open General Licence for certain categories of Japanese imports could be continued after March 31, 1949, and, if so, to what extent and in what form.

The actual selection of commodities for Open General Licences was made by the Commerce Ministry after close consultation with, and with the full concurrence of other Ministries of Government, particularly the Ministry of Industry and Supply. In fact, on occasions the discussions were long and protracted. I would request you to take particular note of the procedure adopted in determining the commmodities placed on the Open General Licences, as there is an impression current in some quarters that the Open General Licences and the liberalised import policy were introduced by the Commerce Ministry without adequate and integrated consideration.

The main basis on which the selection was made was our appreciation of the essential needs of the country both for increased industrial production, and the general economic needs for consumer goods. If you go through the list of articles placed on the Open General Licences, you will find that nearly all goods needed by industry are included in them. Their inclusion should aid increased industrial production in the country. The Open General Licences also include a number of consumer goods; but these are mostly essential requirements of the general public.

With the exception of certain items placed on the Open General Licence in November 1948, luxury or semi-luxury goods are excluded from the Open General Licences, their import being either restricted or in a few cases even banned. The addition of luxury goods made in November was purely for anti-inflationary purposes. Customs duties on all these commodities were also increased at the same time.

The liberalised import policy introduced since July has come in for a good deal of criticism, especially from the manufacturing interests in the country. It is but natural that there should be a certain amount of resentment at the re-appearance of competition of foreign goods imported under the Open General Licences. The inflationary conditions in the country required a large supply of goods to be made available so as to reduce scarcity in the country. The experience of our restrictive import policies till June 1948, and the large unspent balance of foreign exchange at the end of that period, clearly showed that Government were imposing on consumers a measure of austerity which was not warranted by the limitations of our foreign exchange balances with soft currency countries.

The mere fact of control over imports, even when liberally used, tends to restrict trade and unnecessarily to inflate consumer prices and the profit margins in imported goods. These high prices are a legitimate cause for discontent among consumers, while the high profit margins resulting from restricted imports lead to a disorganization and demoralisation of trade. Removal of import restrictions should lead to a stability in trade and healthy trade practices and tend to expedite a return to normal trade conditions.

Import Restrictions

I have stated on several occasions that import restrictions are not the appropriate method of affording protection to Industry. Under the International Trade Agreements to which we have subscribed, quantitative restrictions on imports can be imposed normally for balance of payment reasons, and their operation as protective measures is not contemplated except in certain special circumstances. I should like to point out that if India were to restrict imports to protect her industries, it would be open to other countries to retaliate and restrict imports from India. This danger was fully realised by India's representatives at International Conferences. All such measures and counter-measures ultimately lead to a general shrinkage of international trade.

Besides, it has been our experience during our recent trade negotiations with various countries, that they are unwilling to supply essential goods to us unless we are prepared to take some of the less essential and even luxury imports from these countries. So long as our industrial and general economy has to depend on foreign trade, and on the export of our surpluses to other countries, it would not be appropriate or safe to seek to shut out or impose quantitative restrictions on imports with a view to protecting our industries.

I fully realise that Indian industries have to surmount several difficulties. They have to face consumer prejudice, the existence of which cannot be denied, and some of them are not yet adequately organised to be able to meet competition of the products of long-established and better organised foreign industries. There are occasions where foreign exporters resort to unfair methods of competition, such as reduction of prices where competition is keen, and increase in the prices of other commodities, hidden discounts, pressure tactics, etc. These difficulties should, however, be resolved in a straightforward manner.

There are other means, equally, if not more effective, less objectionable, and of lasting advantage to the industries, such as protective tariffs, assistance in the supply of raw materials, better technical advice, and improvements in standards and marketing facilities, which could aid and stimulate industrial production in the country.

Economic Aspect

In the economic aspect, as other aspects, of our national life, honesty is the best policy. We should grant production, wherever needed, in a straightforward manner and as a result of proper investigation by the Tariff Board. Any protection sought to be given by quantitative restrictions is bound to be short-lived and in the nature of spoon feeding and it can give only the shadow and not the substance of protection from a long range point of view. Our industries must ultimately be able to thrive in the open field of competition both in prices and quality and we shall not be doing them a lasting service by creating artificial scarcity as a condition of their survival.

I have dealt with this aspect of our current import policy in some detail as it has evoked considerable criticism and led to some misunderstanding. I notice that some of you have raised several points in this connection and mentioned the cases of certain industries affected by the liberalised import policy. Details of particular cases will be examined when we discuss these points; but I would request you to remember this general background of the liberalised import policy when discussing these particular cases.

Foreign Exchange Position

I would like to explain briefly the results of the recent changes in the import policy and the foreign exchange position as it exists today. Partly as a result of the import policy and partly because of increased availabilities from other countries, the rate of imports of capital goods and machinery has gone up from Rs. 4 crores per month in 1947, to Rs. 5½ crores per month in 1948.

These imports now account for nearly 15 per cent of our total import trade. Industrial goods, comprising raw materials and semi-manufactured goods, account for 40 per cent of the total trade. The percentages of imports of plant and machinery and industrial goods from dollar areas are 16 per cent and 46 per cent respectively of the total imports from these areas. Essential consumer goods, of which foodgrains are the most notable, account for 37 per cent of the dollar imports and 44 per cent of the total import trade. Imports of what may be termed luxuries or semi-luxuries are negligible, being only 2 per cent of the total imports. These figures are based on an analysis of the import statistics of four months from July to October 1948, and roughly reflect the present pattern of our import trade.

An important development in recent months is the fall in our exports to dollar and hard currency countries and consequent reduction in hard currency earnings. In spite of this, the foodgrain position during this year has made it necessary to import increased quantities from abroad. Even when every effort is made to obtain foodgrain supplies from soft currency countries, increased imports from dollar and hard currency areas will be necessary.

Efforts are being made to facilitate larger exports to hard currency countries so as partially to meet the threatened gap in our hard currency account. Further, as a precautionary measure, it has been decided to curtail other imports still further from dollar and hard currency countries. The import licensing policy for the current half year for these areas has been influenced by these considerations, and some of the commodities hitherto licensed for dollar and hard currency sources have been placed in prohibited categories, and for others licences will issue on a more restricted scale.

Soft Currency Areas

As regards the soft currency countries, no material changes are being made in the import licensing policy. The issue of Open General Licences and more liberal import licences has naturally led to a sudden rush of orders in response to a long pent up demand, and the deficits in our trade during the last two or three months are somewhat larger than the rate of transfers from our sterling balances.

There are indications, however, that the volume of orders is now tapering off, and future imports are likely to be on a lower level as the trade gets stabilised Any alteration in our present policy is likely to disturb these healthy tendencies. It is proposed, therefore, to watch the trends closely during the next few months, and if the present high level of imports continues, it may be necessary to make a few adjustments in the Open General Licence and the liberal import policy, especially in regard to the non-essential commodities.

I have confined myself in these opening remarks to the policy of Import Control. I should, however, say a few words as regards the actual mechanism of import control and the action taken by us to allay public criticisms as regards delays, corruption and other undesirable practices. You all know how the administrative machinery was disorganised as a result of partition and it has taken Government a full year to restore normal working.

Even now, the import organisation works on a temporary basis, and the quality of recruits to a temporary organisation cannot be expected to be the same as that of a recruit to a permanent organisation. Not only is the quality of such recruits comparatively poor, but there is the further possibility of corruption creeping in when the stake by way of loss of service is not considerable. Frequent changes in import policy led to accumulation of cases particularly relating to revalidation, and it took months to clear these arrears. There were many cases of delay, favouritism and even corruption; but I venture to claim that the position has improved considerably, and that the organisation is now working much more satisfactorily than before August 1947.

Special Officer for Complaints

We have appointed a Special Officer to deal with complaints from the public and he works independently of the Chief Controller of Imports. He sends for the relevant records, examines the procedure followed, ascertains whether there is any justification for the complaint and submits the report personally to me. The complaints are acknowledged and the results of examination are communicated to the parties concerned. This procedure should go a long way towards satisfying the public that Government are alive to the need of purifying the organisation as far as possible.

The nature of the work is, however, such that it would not be possible either to eliminate all complaints or to eradicate all chances of mal-practices. Disappointed persons are apt to feel that their applications have been rejected because of improper reasons. I have encouraged and invited Members of the Economy Committee as also the members of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Commerce to visit the Import Control organisation to see the working for themselves and to suggest how to improve the system. I am always ready to receive suggestions in this matter.

Judging from the declining number of complaints and criticisms received by us, I feel that the organisation is running much more satisfactorily now than in the past. Any suggestions which you may make for the improvement of the mechanism of control will be carefully examined and promptly acted upon by the Ministry.

At the same time, I would solicit your co-operation in extending help and sympathy to the control organisation in view of the difficult conditions under which it has to function, and in dispelling misunderstanding in the minds of the public in regard to the import control policy as well as the import control mechanism.

It is my intention to call meetings of the Import Advisory Council quarterly, unless you have other ideas on the subject. Our practice in regard to the Export Advisory Council is also to hold its meetings quarterly. If you so desire, the Import Advisory Council and Export Advisory Council may nominate three or four representatives from each Council to constitute a Joint Import and Export Advisory Committee to advise the Ministry in matters that may be of common interest to the two bodies.

TRANSFER OF RESERVE BANK SHARES

IN the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) on March 9, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, answered a short notice question relating to transfers of Reserve Bank shares.

Here are the question and answer:

Question: Will the Minister be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India, after it was nationalised, issued a general notice that its share register would be closed on November 30, 1948 and that all applications for transfer of its shares must be made on or before that date;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a large number of *bona fide* transferees of shares of the Bank, holding them under blank transfers, did not get any notice and applied for registration after the said date;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is refusing to recognise these transfers and is paying compensation to registered share holders in spite of these transfers?

Answer: (*a*) The Government of India issued a Press Note as early as October 19, 1948 that the Reserve Bank would close the share registers from December 1, 1948.

(*b*) The Bank cannot obviously have knowledge of the transferee until and unless he has lodged a duly completed transfer deed with the Bank. The question of notice in such cases does not therefore arise. The notice of closure, which was published in both English and Indian language newspapers by all offices of the Reserve Bank, was, however, given sufficiently early to enable any person who had acquired shares and had not registered them in his own favour to correct his position.

Share Certificate

(*c*) The Reserve Bank have necessarily to act within the provisions of the Reserve Bank (Transfer to Public Ownership) Act, 1948, and the rules framed thereunder, in terms of which compensation may be paid only to a person who was registered as a shareholder of the Reserve Bank on December 31, 1948 or his legal representative.

The register-holder does not, however, get payment unless he can produce the share certificate so that if he had sold the shares and cannot produce the share certificate, he cannot obtain compensation. In cases of genuine inconvenience, the Reserve Bank try to assist the transferee to obtain compensation though some delay is inevitable.

In some such cases which were brought to the notice of the Reserve Bank, Government understand that on the initiative of the Bank, the transferers and transferees were brought together and compensation was paid to the proper parties by mutual arrangement.

PLACE OF ASIA IN WORLD ECONOMY

Mr. B. R. Sen's Plea for Development of Backward Areas

"THE importance of Asia in the post war world economy must be fully recognised and all plans and programmes of the United Nations must adequately provide for a balanced development of the resources of Asia, and the old conception of the role of Asia as a supplier of raw materials for the west must be rejected," said Mr. B. R. Sen, Minister, Indian Embassy, Washington, in his speech on the world economic situation at the meeting of the U. N. Economic and Social Council at Lake Success on February 23, 1949.

Here is the full text of Mr. B. R. Sen's speech :—

The report of the Secretary-General on major economic changes in 1948 brings out certain important issues to which the Council must give careful consideration. The report does not purport to be a comprehensive economic survey of the world, but gives a review of the important economic developments during the year. In reading through the report one notices the almost negligible place that the Asian countries occupy in the picture of post-war development and rehabilitation. In the industrial fields apart from the United States and such relatively industrialised countries as Canada, Sweden and Switzerland which show a very highly increased output over the pre-war production, progress most marked is in Australia and a few of the Latin American countries.

Balanced Development

In Asia the only country which finds occasional mention is Japan, to show how greatly her production has suffered, while countries like China and India which between them contain nearly half the population of the world are either made to hide their identity among "other countries" or are "exluded" for lack of information. For this treatment of the Asian countries we do not attach any blame to the Secretary General, though it should have been possible for the Statistical Section of the Secretariat to be a little more enterprising and to collect some of the more important statistics, where available, relating to the Asian countries.

We hope, however, that the unimportant place which the Asian countries occupy in this review is not a reflection of the attitude that we observe among some of the advanced countries in the world, particularly in the West, who wish that the pattern of world economy should continue as before the war, that the eastern countries, should continue to play the subordinate role of being suppliers of raw materials while the Western countries would maintain their highly industrialised economy with the higher standard of living. Such an attitude, I need hardly say, is entirely out of date.

The last two devastating wars have shown that there will be no peace in the world unless the economy of all countries is developed on a more balanced basis and unless the old ideas of exploitation of undeveloped countries, by whatever name they are called, colonialism or imperialism, are completely discarded. This important fact finds recognition in the United Nations Charter. In Article 55, the Charter lays down that by promoting higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economy and social progress and development, we create conditions of stability and well-being which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations.

Since the end of the war much attention has been devoted to the rehabilitation of European countries. We do not for a moment grudge the European countries the help they are receiving in the restoration of their war-damaged economy. The reason which is advanced for concentrating practically all available resources on the rehabilitation of the European countries in priority over the rest of the world is that, if Europe returns to the pre-war level of production, particularly in the field of industry, they will be able to accelerate the rehabilitation of the rest of the world which before the war had largely depended on European production.

There is, no doubt, much force in this argument. But if it reflects any desire on the part of any of the European countries that this assistance should be taken advantage of to maintain the pre-war exploitation of colonial territories, we must clearly warn such countries that such a position is in conflict with the aspirations and plans of the Asian countries, whether they be those who have just emerged into freedom or those who are still struggling to attain it.

Basic Question

The most outstanding feature of 1948, according to the Secretary-General's report, is that in certain fields, notably certain cereals, sugar and perhaps cotton, the current level of production is tending to be in equilibrium or even in excess of current effective demand. In the past such a situation has been met by deliberate restriction of production or has ended in a disastrous slump. We are now reaching a stage when we must take decisions on which will depend the future stability of the world.

The basic question in our view is how the high level of production of agricultural and industrial goods attained in North America is to be maintained consistant with the steady recovery and expansion of output in Europe and Asia without precipitating a serious slump or depression. The national and international actions that will be taken in dealing with particular commodity situations that are arising will have a most vital bearing upon the ultimate standards of production, consumption and nutrition all the world over.

Our considered view is that it is to the interest of producers and consumers alike that production should be expanded and maintained at a high level rather than that production should be restricted to meet surplus commodity situations.

In countries where mechanisation has made rapid progress, it is hardly necessary to point out that a higher level of production, even at lower levels of prices, would secure to the producers the benefits of lower cost and higher efficiency per unit of output and a larger total income. The key to the problem of maintenance of high level of production, in our view, lies in conscious attempts to maintain and expand markets to absorb the larger volumes of production, and in this Asia can play an important part.

Urgent Problems of Asia

One of the most urgent problems to which the liberated nations of Asia are at present addressing themselves is the task of mobilising their economic resources and creating a larger volume of production, employment and trade with a view to raising the standards of living of millions of their peoples who for long centuries have existed on the bare margin of subsistence.

In raising the standard of living of these millions of people, they will have not only to increase the efficiency of their agriculture and agriculture must continue to be the basic industry of the people of this region—but also develop such industries as are necessary for the maintenance of their national security and for placing their overall economy on a more stable basis.

Such a development need not necessarily upset the economy of the more industrialised countries of the West. It is known that an increase in the levels of production, employment and trade resulting from such industrialisation creates a higher purchasing power and a greater demand for varying types of capital and consumer goods.

One major problem to which we wish to invite the attention of the Council in this context is the problem of adjustment of inflated wartime prices to levels more in accord with the long-term supply and demand position in the world. It is common experience that producers and traders get accustomed to war-time levels of prices based on scarcity of supplies and any downward adjustment of prices meets with resistance.

But failure to bring about a regulated adjustment of price levels has in the past resulted in burdensome surpluses followed by a sudden slump in prices, which in its turn has brought about depression all around.

As a major agricultural country with a large and far reaching programme of industrial development, we fully appreciate the importance of maintaining stable and remunerative minimum prices in agricultural products in the interests of the producers. This, however, does not persuade us in supporting a policy of artificially high prices at levels based on scarcity conditions. Most countries in the world today are faced with the problems of unbalanced budgets, disequilibrium in the balance of payments and shortages of foreign exchange, on the prices of basic food grains the whole superstructure of costs and prices is built.

We consider that the Council should invite the attention of Member countries and specialised agencies concerned to the importance of programmes (*a*) to provide stability at fair minimum prices for agricultural products, on the one hand, and (*b*) to devise international measures to bring down prices in a regulated way, subject to the fair minima fixed. We also wish in this connection to draw the attention of the Council to a proposal which we have been pressing for some time past before the Food and Agricultural Organisation.

If and when the current output of cereals and food grains in particular is not balanced by the current effective demand, we consider that it would be far preferable that the surplus is sold at concessional prices to areas where people suffer from undernutrition rather than that products should be restricted to keep up prices. As I have already explained, lower cost and higher efficiency per unit of output will give the producer a larger income than restriction of production.

Under-Developed Countries

While on the subject of under-developed countries, I would like to refer to the inaugural address of the President of the United States, delivered on January 20, 1949. In this address, while outlining his programme to assist the maintenance of peace and freedom in the world, the President of the United States stresses the importance of embarking on a bold programme for making the benefits of the scientific advances and industrial progress of the United States available for the improvement and growth of under-developed areas.

While this statement emphasises the importance of assistance by providing industrial and scientific techniques, it also speaks of the importance of fostering capital investment in co-operation with other nations. He observes that this should be a co-operative enterprise in which all nations should work together through the United Nations and its specialised agencies wherever practicable.

The scheme discloses breadth of vision which we deeply appreciate. We hope that the United States Delegation will be in a position to make the implications of the scheme fuller and clearer so that we can all help to place the scheme on a sound and practical basis. In the Secretary-General's report, we have a chapter on international loans and grants. In this field the agency created by the United Nations, *viz.*, the International Bank, does not appear yet to have played any conspicuous or decisive part.

The most encouraging feature however, so far as we are concerned, is the recognition by the Bank of the importance of the problem of development of large areas of the world, many of which are rich in natural resources, some of which have a population with a long tradition of skill but undeveloped in the method of modern techniques, and all of which suffer from a lack of capital and accordingly remain economically undeveloped despite their big potentialities for development.

There are also reassuring indications in the recent pronouncement of the Bank that shortage of funds is not a factor holding up a more rapid advance in this direction, but it is a shortage of eligible projects carefully planned and worked out with a full knowledge of their productive possibilities and related to the economy of the country.

If this represents the true state of affairs, we would like to suggest that one of the immediate tasks to which the Bank must address itself should be the building up of an adequate organisation of technical staff for the purpose of furnishing technical advice necessary in the preparation of development projects as well as for their efficient execution.

This important factor in dealing with the problem of the undeveloped countries has, as I have pointed out, been given due recognition in the scheme announced by the President. To what extent the activities of the Bank in providing assistance in industrial and scientific techniques should be linked up with the President's scheme is a matter which we are not in a position to discuss at this stage. All I need say is that India, particularly, will welcome such assistance in view of the many industrial projects which she has already planned and which she had been unable to carry into effect for lack of capital equipment and technical personnel.

International Investment

The primary purpose of the International Bank, however, is to encourage flow of private capital which under a system of private enterprise remains the mainspring of any large scale effort to proper economic development. While the greatest emphasis must be placed on the development of those basic public enterprises and sources of power where the scope of private enterprises and, therefore, necessarily of private international capital must be limited, a considerable part of the flow of international investment and its complement in technical skills must come through private channels.

The experiene of the private investor during the inter-war years undermined confidence in international investment and dried up the steady stream of capital which over the long course of modern economic development spread the fruits of economic advance and technical progress from one region of the world to another. If the International Bank can help to stimulate the resumption of private international investment, it will have done a signal service especially to the people of the undeveloped countries of the world.

I now summarise the points I have sought to make in my statement : The importance of Asia in the post-war world economy must be fully recognised and all plans and programmes of the United Nations must adequately provide for a balanced development of the resources of Asia. The old conception of the role of Asia as a supplier of raw materials for the West must be rejected.

The Secretary General in his future reviews should attempt a more balanced picture of major developments in world economy by collecting more comprehensive statistics, particularly relating to the Asian, Latin American and Middle Western countries; international assistance has so far been very largely concentrated on the rehabilitation of Europe.

There is much force in the argument that an early rehabilitation of the industrial capacity of Europe would accelerate the recovery of the other parts of the world, but any idea that the restoration of European economy should be utilised to perpetuate pre-war pattern of world economy is in conflict with the plan and programmes of Asian countries whether they be those who have just attained their freedom or those who are still struggling for it.

The most outstanding feature of the year is the tendency for the correct level for production in certain agricultural products to be in equilibrium or even in excess of the current effective demand. The tendency should be met not by restricting production as in the past, but by a deliberate policy of maintaining expanding markets. The rehabilitation and development of Asian economy will provide unlimited possibilities of an expanding market on the basis of mutual exchange of suitable types of capital and consumer goods and services.

The Council should recommend high priority to the allocation of finance and capital goods and equipment to Asian countries to enable them to speed up their development; the Council should invite the attention of the member Governments and the specialised agencies to the importance of fixing fair minimum prices for agricultural produce and the need for bringing down the inflated war-time prices to levels justified on long-term trends of supply and demand.

President Truman's scheme for making available industrial and scientific techniques of the West to undeveloped countries and for fostering capital investment in these areas in co-operation with other countries is warmly welcomed.

It is hoped that the U. S. Delegation will be able to explain the implications of the scheme further, so that there is no delay in giving practical effect to the scheme. The part played by the International Bank in providing financial and technical assistance is still inconspicuous, especially so far as Asian countries are concerned.

If this assistance is being held up for lack of carefully worked out projects one of the tasks to which the Bank should immediately address itself should be the provision of technical assistance to the countries needing them; there is yet much scope for stimulating resumption of private international investments for the development of the undeveloped countries of the world, and if the Bank can help in this matter it will have done a great Service.



The Italian Economic Mission arrived in New Delhi on February 25 and was received by representatives of the Government of India. (L. to R.) Mr. B. N. Banerji, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, the Hon'ble G. Schiratti, Leader of the Mission, Mr. B. Iahrani, Liaison Officer, Dr. Renzo di Carrobio, Charge d' Affaires for Italy in India. (Below) The Italian Mission paid a visit to Rajghat on February 27 when they laid a wreath at Gandhiji's samadhi



REVISED IMPORT LICENSING POLICY FOR JANUARY—JUNE 1949

THE Government of India has reviewed its foreign exchange position and revised its import licensing policy for the period January-June 1949, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on February 26, 1949.

Generally speaking, the dollar and hard currency position has become still more difficult and as a result greater restrictions will be placed on imports from those countries. Only minor adjustments have, however, been made in the import licensing policy for soft currency areas, the main lines of policy being the same as those during July-December 1948.

As before, all commodities specified in Parts II to B of the I. T. C. Schedule have been divided into the following categories:—

Articles allowed importation under the benefit of O. G. L. from soft currency areas;

Articles liberally licensed;

Articles licensed on the basis of monetary ceilings;

Articles totally prohibited.

As in July-December 1948, the continents of North, Central and South America (with the exception of Brazil, Peru, Chile and Uruguay) and the Philippine Islands are dollar areas; Belgium and Belgian Colonies, Portugal and Portuguese Colonies exculding Portuguese possessions in India and Bisonia are hard currency countries; and all other countries, except the Union of South Africa, Peru, Japan, and Switzerland, are soft currency countries.

Licences for import from Peru of all commodities covered by O. G. L. XI will be granted liberally, provided payment is made in Peruvian currency or in sterling.

Sweden has been brought into the category of soft currency countries, whereas Switzerland for the time being will be a hard currency country. Separate instructions in respect of imports from Switzerland will issue at a later date. Meanwhile, licences will issue treating it as a hard currency source.

Imports from Japan

The policy regarding imports from Japan will be reviewed shortly and an announcement made. For the present, imports of certain articles are covered under O. G. L. No. XIII, which is due to expire on March 31, 1949, and import licences have been recently granted for certain articles. Licences for articles which are liberally licensed from dollar and hard currency countries will, however, continue to be granted liberally for imports from Japan.

The form of application for import licences has been slightly revised. No time-limit has been fixed for receipt of applications from established importers and actual consumers of raw materials and accessories. The last date for applications from new comers has been fixed as April 15, 1949. For this purpose new comers are defined as other than (*i*) those who are actual consumers, and (*ii*) those who imported the commodities concerned between 1937-38 and 1947-48.

New comers should submit Bank Certificates in the prescribed form along with their applications, which will be considered only in respect of those articles for which new comer applications are invited. Applications from refugee firms who had import business at Karachi and Chittagong but who are now resident in the Dominion of India will be considered by the Chief Controller of Imports.

Applicants for import licences from dollar and hard currency countries should give full justification in support of their requests.

Established importers are required to submit quota certificates or bills of entry or auditors' certificates in support of their statement of past imports.

Some articles, such as second-hand clothing, condensed and powdered milk, camphor, Sachharine, Leather cloth, brake fluid, synthethic resins, fan belts, radiator hoses, rubber horn bulbs, electric water heaters and electric irons and other household electric appliances, which are licensed on a restricted basis will not be allowed importation during the current period from dollar and hard currency countries. Kerosene, motor spirit, mineral oils (with certain exceptions) including Diesel oils will also not be licensed.

Full details of the import licensing policy are available in the Public Notice issued in the *Gazette of India* (*Extraordinary*) dated February 22, 1949, copies of which may be had on payment from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

EXPORT OF COTTON PIECEGOODS

THE Government of India have noticed with concern the decline in the export of cotton piecegoods from India, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on March 5. The usual quota, it added, set aside for export to various destinations, besides the quantity which has under the Inter-Dominion Agreement been earmarked for Pakistan, is round about 300 million yards per annum.

During 1948 the total exports amounted to a little over half this quantity. While, as a rule, cotton piecegoods quotas are not allowed to lapse and necessary extension is given to the shippers to enable them to export their quotas even after the expiry of the quota period, the total back-log is now so large that it is clear that something more radical and definite has to be done if our export trade in this important commodity is to be kept up to the level which has been accepted and approved by Government.

The growing intensity of competition from other countries, including Japan which has now again started exporting textiles in a big way, makes it necessary that Indian exporters should show a much greater degree of enterprise and initiative if our markets are not to be irretrievably lost. Experience has shown that not all shippers are equally alive to this long-term danger, although equally there are some hopeful signs in the growing interest which many merchants as well as some manufacturers are now taking in seeking new markets for their exports.

After a careful review of the position, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that the interests of the overall export trade of the country would be best served by liberalising their export policy and giving greater room for the more enterprising exporters to expand their business than has been available to them under the rigid working of the established shippers' system. They have, therefore, decided that established shippers who complete the export of their total quotas for any destination and are anxious for a larger quota should be given such additional quotas as may be possible.

Further, those established shippers who want quotas for destinations where they have no quotas and where there are signs that the existing quotas are not fully utilised, will be given every opportunity to enter such new markets. Likewise, for countries to whom regular supplies from India have not been going in the past and for which neither quotas nor established shippers exist, it will be open to shippers to apply for quotas. Similar opportunities will be given to all textile mills who are not established shippers themselves and are now anxious to build up direct trade contacts.

Export to Hard Currency Areas

In this context Government would once again draw the attention of all exporters as well as manufacturers to the fact that a substantial quota has been earmarked for export to hard currency countries. The utilisation of this quota has been very poor. Government are aware that the hard currency markets are the more difficult ones, and it is not easy or profitable to export cloth to these countries.

Many of these hard currency countries, however, have during the war years, been used to supplies from India, *e.g.*, Portuguese and Belgian Africa. Government are confident that mills and exporters alike would do everything possible to retain and expand the hard currency markets. The grant of quotas for export to these areas is free from all restrictions as regards established shippers and newcomers, and anyone can get the quotas for the asking. As a further measure of encouragement to such exporters as are able to do business with such countries Government have decided that each exporter who ships cloth to hard currency destinations should be given a further quota of an equal amount for export to a soft currency country.

Q: Is the conference likely to take place in Delhi?

A: No conference is going to take place just yet.

Q: Will you permit a non-official delegation to go to Burma? If any body approached you, will you permit them to go to Burma?

A: Nobody has approached me. But there is no bar to anybody going.

Q: Has any Christian Association approached you?

A: I am not aware of it.

Q: At the moment, both the Karens and the Burmese Government treat the Indians as neutrals; is that a fact?

A: Yes. I am glad to say that the Indians as a whole have not got into any trouble there. Individual Indians might have got into trouble, but as a whole Indians have 'not been treated badly by anybody.

Britain's Attitude

Q: What about the attitude of His Majesty's Government in this respect?

A: I suppose primarily they are also interested in protecting their nationals and their interests there. That is the primary object. Secondarily, I suppose they wish to avoid any development in Burma which would lead to the collapse of the political and economic structure in Burma which would affect their interests.

Q: Is it true that the Burmese Government are not happy over Dr. Evatt's recent announcement in Delhi in regard to Burma's future relations with the Commonwealth?

A: What Dr. Evatt said, of course, was entirely his personal opinion. That matter was not considered by anybody here. He expressed his personal opinion. He had a right to do it, and the Burmese Government evidently did not approve of that personal opinion.

Q: If I may be allowed to put a hypothetical question, in the event of a similar situation—God forbid—arising in India, would you very much relish intervention on the part of your neighbours like Pakistan or Australia on a similar "good offices" basis?

A: No, we would not. But the question in this matter, I think, arose more in regard to certian financial transactions. That is how the question arose; and also the question of rice; with which we are concerned and other countries are also concerned. It would make a big difference if rice from Burma was not available here. And rice also involved financial consideration. So, in that sense, other countries were approached. It is not an approach in the sense of military help or of any interference.

Burmese Press Reactions

Q: No doubt you have seen certain comments in the British Press as well as comments in the Burmese Press. The British Press have said that Burma approached the British Government for a loan, and one paper went to the length of saying that it has been granted. It is also suggested that Mr. Bottomley was specially sent to this country to collaborate with the Government of India, on this matter, because, India being a neighbouring country, the Government of India would also be interested.

A section of the Burmese Press has not liked this conference, or at least any conciliation move by the British or Australians. In Karachi, in an interview to the "Dawn," the Burmese representative is reported as saying that "we naturally do not like even a sort of suggestion for conciliation or mediation between the insurgents and the Government and suggesting that no country in the world, not even India, would like that. For instance, reference was made to the situation in Kashmir. We have said in regard to "Azad Kashmir" Government, that we shall never recognise it. The Burmese press had also suggested that India was playing the British game in trying to approach Burma and putting pressure on her to accept certain conditions.

A: Yes. I can quite understand the Burmese Press or people being suspicious of any such move by any other country or power. I think their suspicions are unfounded. Certainly so far as we are concerned, we have no interests except what I have explained in the matter, except to urge the Burmese Government in regard to those interests, and for my part I think the general proposals the Burmese Government made seem to me fair.

It is not a question of our supporting any insurgents or considering ourselves a kind of arbitrator; that will be an entirely wrong attitude to adopt. We have only dealt with the Burmese Government, partly because we are intensely interested and partly because we considered desirable an approach with such advices as we thought proper, subject always of course to what I have said.

Q: Is any recognition implied of the insurgents as belligerents?

A: Of course not. I am telling you that we are only dealing with the Burmese Government, and we think that the offer they have made is very fair.

Q: What is the Government of India's attitude towards the demand of the Karens?

A: I do not know as a matter of fact precisely what the demands of the Karens are, in the sense that there are so many separate demands which may be said to have varied in the last few months. But, as far as I understand, the Burmese Government's position has been—and this was, I think, partly incorporated in their constitution and a certain commission was appointed for the purpose—that they are prepared to accept a separate Karen State within the Union of Burma, the boundaries to be established later on by a commission, etc.....

Q: Why not send Radcliffe?

A: .....And I myself do not see how the Burmese Government can go any further than that.

Q: Karens have been demanding complete separation.

A: Some people have said that; others have not. The position is not quite clear.

Q: Would you say that the action taken by the Government of India in Conferring this informal conference has meant that the chances of peace and order being restored have improved?

A: That is very difficult to say because that depends on a certain military situation and a certain psychological situation. It is somewhat difficult to judge from here, but certainly it tends to help.

Q: The communists have gone out of the picture, but could you please tell us about the relative military strength.

Communist Revolt

A: Originally there was a communist revolt against the Government. That revolt was suppressed effectively. Later there came another revolt in which some communists had played a small part but as a group the communists have been suppressed. No doubt, when there was a state of disorder in parts of the country, some communists took advantage of that and are probably taking advantage of that.

Q: In Hindi.

A: The question is what areas of Burma have been occupied by the insurgents and what are the areas under the Burmese Government. That, again, is very difficult to answer. We know that in the Insein area the major struggle took place between the Karens and the Burmese Government, and ultimately the Karens there have been driven into a part of Insein where they have entrenched themselves and they are gradually being pulled in and probably, I imagine, that Burmese Government will take possession of the whole Insein area fairly soon. Then there are large groups in North Burma functioning. It is not a very organised force occupying a territory—large groups here and there. It is very difficult to say where is a particular large group and what the strength is.

Q: British imperialism has expressed sympathy with Karens—don't you think we are playing in the hands of British imperialism by offering to mediate? It gives a status to the Karens.

A: I do not think it is correct to say, as you said, that the British have declared their sympathy with Karens. Please remember also that a considerable number of Karens are functioning with the Burmese Government today. They are a very important part and the rest of Burma which is with the Burmese Government. Karens themselves are divided on the issue, and I think while many people may like the Karens as individuals, as groups, I do not think any Government wants to encourage the Karens in their revolt for the simple reasons that it will lead to a collapse of the political and economic structure. I am quite sure that the U. K. Government is as anxious as any other Government to see the present Burmese Government becoming stronger and controlling the situation.

Q: It is not the question of the U. K. Government, it is the question of the imperialists.

A: If you are referring to a few ex-British officers—I do not know how many but three or four of them were mentioned as having supported the Karens; it is true but the U. K. Government themselves are very much annoyed at the activities of some individuals like these, adventurer type of individuals who made money by supplying arms etc. It has nothing to do with any Government or any group—just individual activities.

Q: Has the Burmese Government made any suggestion that Indian or any other Commonwealth country give her military aid or supply arms?

A: Well, suggestions for supply of certain equipment etc., have often come. Certain things which can be bought in the open market have been allowed to be bought.

Q: If the Burmese Government have been successful in putting down the communists, what makes us think that they cannot be successful in dealing with the Karens?

A: You seem to forget that the initiative comes from Burma, not from us.

Q: Do you think that this is an attempt on the part of the British Government to bring Burma back into the Commonwealth?

A: I think it will be entirely wrong to imagine that the British Government wants Burma to come back into the Commonwealth through these devious methods for the simple reason that it will be an exceedingly foolish policy to adopt. But this is a fear, I imagine on the part of the British and other Governments that if this kind of thing continues, other elements, neither the Karens nor the Burmese, may begin to play an important role which they do not want them to play.

Repayment of loan to India

Q: What is the position of the repayment of the loan of Rs. 48 crores to which the Government of Burma owes to the Government of India; whether there has been any change?

A: The position is entirely static.

The Government of India have decided, in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission, to recognise a pass in the Entrance Examination of the Shreemati Nathibai Damodher Thackersey Indian Women's University, Bombay as equivalent to a pass in the Matriculation or equivalent examination of a recognised Indian University or Board for purposes of appointment to services and posts under the Government of India, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on March 3, 1949.

PRIME MINISTER ON ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNIST PARTY

REPLYING to a short notice question by Shri Deshbandhu Gupta who asked for particulars regarding the arrests of Communists in the country and what action the Government proposed to take to ensure that no obstruction was placed in the way of railway workers who were opposed to a strike, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, made the following statement in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) on February 28, 1949:

The total number of persons arrested during the last ten days, in connection with the proposed railway strike, is 870. This figure is accurate up till yesterday.

The policy of Government has been not to interfere, in any way, with the functioning of trade unions and other labour organisations. Government are of opinion that the formation and the legitimate functioning of trade unions should be encouraged, so that labour may play its proper part in industry and in the promotion of its own interests. Government have attempted to give the widest latitude to all peaceful propaganda of any policy or doctrine, even though they were opposed to that doctrine. Government have refrained from taking any action against the Communist Party of India as such, inspite of a virulent propaganda and incitement to violence which the Communist Party members have indulged in. Where violence has been actually attempted or encouraged, Government have taken action. Such action has been limited to individuals who were connected with this violence or encouragement of violence.

Open Hostility

The Communist Party of India has, during the past year, adopted an attitude not only of open hostility to Government but one which can be described as bordering on open revolt. This policy has been given effect to intensively in certain limited areas of India and has resulted in violence including murders, arson, and looting as well as acts of sabotage. The House is well aware of the communist revolts that have taken place in countries bordering on India. It was presumably in furtherance of the same policy that attempts were made in India to incite people to active revolt. Fortunately, these attempts failed because of the strength of popular opinion against them and the action taken by Government. Nevertheless a great deal of misery and damage was caused by them in certain parts of India.

The House is fully aware that for the last several months we have been greatly preoccupied with meeting the serious economic situation which has been causing distress to millions of our people. It was implicit in our programme that there should be rapid movement of commodities throughout the country.

Towards the end of November, the Working Committee of the All India Railwaymen's Federation met in Nagpur and decided on taking a strike ballot among the members affiliated to it. At this time we had additional confirmation of information which had been coming to us from time to time, that communist elements working in the railway unions were bent on exploiting the proposed strike for political purposes and, in particular, on using violence and sabotage to gain their ends.

Negotiations then took place between my colleague, the Transport Minister, and Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, the President of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, with a view to devising means form averting the strike. It was clear to Government that a strike in the railways would, particularly at the present juncture, be an unmitigated disaster to the country. Apart from the fact that dislocation of transportation would nullify the steps that Government have been taking to meet the serious economic situation facing the country, a famine was developing in Gujarat and Kutch and a strike would be disastrous to millions of human beings and cattle in these areas. These discussions were conducted in a friendly atmosphere and certain arrangements were agreed to. As a result, the Railwaymen's Federation decided not to proceed with the strike.

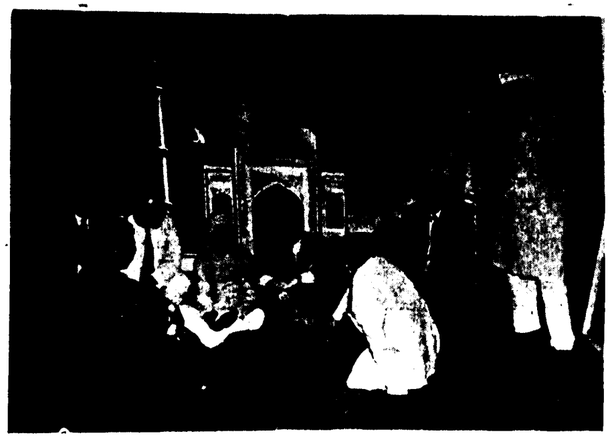
Planned Sabotage

In spite of this decision of the Railwaymen's Federation, certain communist elements in the Federation proceeded with their programme for a strike. Reports continue to reach Government, through reliable sources, that a widespread programme of sabotage had been planned and that it was decided to enforce a strike by means of violence. Indeed, many such instances of sabotage have already occurred. Recently there were unfortunate clashes between some students and others and the police in Calcutta and, during these clashes, hand-grenades and bombs were used against the police and public property, such as buses and tramcars were destroyed. We have evidence that the same agencies which provided these weapons to the students are exploiting them for similar purposes during the railway strike.

The Communist Party of India has recenly concentrated on the issue of a general strike on the railways as well as in other essential services of paramount importance to the community. It has looked upon these strikes not from the trade union or economic point of view, meant to better the lot of the workers, but as a weapon designed to create a chaotic state in the country which, it is thought, would help the Party to gain its other objectives, whatever they might be. It is deliberately seeking to create famine conditions by paralysing the railway system, so that foodstuffs should not be transported, the object being to create a general background of chaos, a breakdown of the administration and mass uprisings.







EGYPTIAN PRESS DELEGATION IN INDIA

The Egyptian Press Delegation consisting of six prominent Egyptian journalists, arrived in New Delhi by air on March 5, on a tour of places of historical, cultural and industrial importance in the country. The Delegation visited Agra, Aligarh, Jamshedpur, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Wardha, and Kashmir.

(Above) Pandit Nehru with the Egyptian journalists at a reception given by him in their honour on March 6.

(Left) The Jamia Millia Islamia was one of the places visited by the Delegation during their stay in Delhi.

(Page 352, bottom) A group photograph of the Delegation taken at the reception given by the Jamiat-l-Ulema at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi.

(Above) Members of the Delegation photographed with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, who entertained them to tea.

(Right) The Egyptian journalists studying village industry products made by trainees of the Teachers' Training Institute of the Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.

(Below) The Egyptian Press Delegation at Mahatma Gandhi's samadhi at Rajghat.







A large number of prominent communist party members have gone underground and Government have a mass of evidence in their possession to indicate that organised attempts are being made to conduct campaigns of sabotage more especially on the railway system. The permanent way was to be damaged, locomotives interfered with, and general sabotage of vital installations, telephones telegraphs and power stations was aimed at. Honourable Members will remember the destruction of the Calcutta Telephone Exchange some time ago.

Technique of Terrorising

Fortunately, the great majority of railwaymen and other workers have declared themselves opposed to the general strike and to such methods. The Communist Party of India, however, appears to be bent on flouting the opinion of this majority of workers and has pursued a technique of terrorising those who do not agree with its policy. While interfering with the freedom of action of others, it demands full freedom for itself to carry on its own anti-social and disruptive activities. If any action is taken by Government to check activities, protests are raised on the ground of civil liberties being interfered with. As a part of this technique, organisations for the ostensible object of protecting civil liberties are started, their real object being to encourage these anti-social activities.

Government are anxious that the civil liberties of the people should be fully maintained. But it is not Government's conception of civil liberty to permit methods of coercion and terrorism to be practised against the general community. It is the paramount duty of Government to give security to the people and to prevent the normal life of the community from being interfered with by such methods of violence. No Government and no social life would be possible, if these methods were tolerated. Hence Government have been compelled to take all necessary measures to meet this situation.

Government Policy

If any strike takes place on the railways by a fraction of the railwaymen, or elsewhere, they are determined to deal with it firmly. Such a strike at this juncture, it must always be remembered, has nothing to do with economic questions or the normal activities of trade unions and the like. Government have already shown their earnest desire to meet all legitimate demands of their employees and other workers. They will always be prepared to consider any difficulties that their employees have to face and to remove them as far as possible. They are determined to maintain the well-established rights of labour. But they cannot submit to threats of violence and incitement to active revolt from any quarter.

In furtherance of this policy, Government have arrested a number of members of the Communist Party of India and have taken such other precautionary measures as they deem necessary. They have advised provincial Governments to do likewise so as to ensure that vital installations are protected against sabotage. They have no doubt that in doing so they have the full support of the country and of this House, which is wedded to democratic procedure and is entirely opposed to methods of violence.

The nature of the activities and objectives of certain groups in the country can be judged by the events which took place at Dum Dum and other places in Calcutta two days ago. A meeting was held in the maidan under the auspices of the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, which is a body dominated by the Communist Party of India. Speakers urged the seizure of power by violent means. A student of the Bengal Provincial Students Federation, which is also dominated by the Communist Party of India, stated that a saboteur gang of students was ready for action.

Three groups had gone about on taxis, motorcars and buses and did considerable damage. Fourteen of these terrorists were captured on the night of February 26 and a quantity of hand grenades, sten guns and bombs were recovered from them. The arrested men belong to what is known as the Revolutionary Communist Party of India which broke away from the Communist Party of India but collaborates with it on occasions. This group of R. C. P. I. men was responsible for the incident at the water works at Talla a few months ago, when an attempt was made to blow up the water works machinery.

This recent incident in Calcutta gives some indication of the kind of action that is intended by those people who are working for general strikes.

I have also just heard of three cases of attempts to derail trains during the last two days. It is against such action that every precaution has to be taken. Government are satisfied that the vast number of railway employees and other workers in the country do not want such general strikes and are opposed to such methods. It is Government's duty not only to protect the general community but also these large numbers of workers. In any action that Government may have to take, they will always remember that the working classes are the backbone of the country and that their general interests must not suffer.

DEATH OF DR. SYUD HOSSAIN

In a Gazette extraordinary issued on February 25, the Government of India in the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations said:

"The Government of India have learnt with deep regret, of the death from heart failure on February 25, of Dr. Syud Hossain, Indian Ambassador to Egypt.

"Dr. Hossain was a staunch nationalist who, over a period of thirty years, dedicated his unusual gifts as a speaker and writer, to unfaltering service of India's struggle for freedom.

"In January 1948, he was appointed India's first Ambassador to Egypt where his broad and comprehensive culture won him many friends and helped materially to promote friendship between India and Egypt.

"By his sudden and premature demise, India had lost a tried patriot and distinguished public servant who will be mourned not only by his countrymen but by a wide circle of friends in many lands, for Dr. Hossain's patriotism and culture were enriched by a rare capacity for friendship."

Tributes

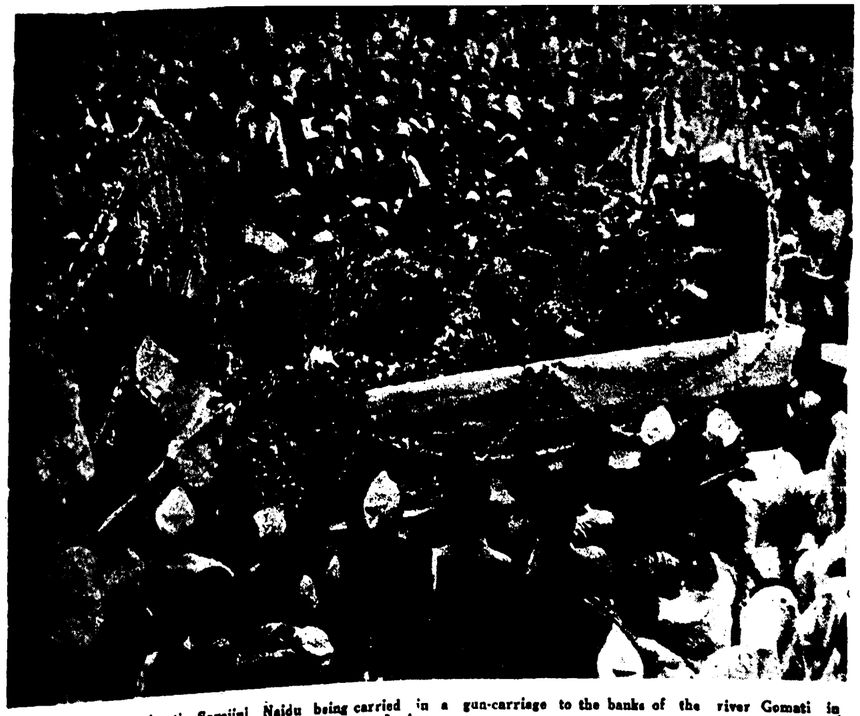
Dr. Syud Hossain's death was given great prominence on front pages, in Cairo's newspapers. Tributes were paid to his vast culture and his desire to carry on working to the end in spite of doctor's advice. He was described as one of the most active diplomats. Condolences were received from the representatives of the King, Egyptian Government, Wafdist leader Nahas Pasha and the Diplomatic Corps. Pakistan's Ambassador was among the first visitors to the hospital and he issued a special statement to the Press expressing profound sorrow



Dr. Syud Hossain

at the death of a friend and colleague. The Pakistan Embassy was closed and the flag lowered. Dr. Syud Hossain is particularly missed by journalists, who described him as a brother journalist whose advice was invariably helpful.

Although Dr. Syud Hossain was in Cairo only for a little over a year, he personally as an individual did a great deal to break down the misunderstanding of India in the Middle East. His versatility, friendliness and obvious sincerity greatly impressed everyone, making them very willing to hear India's point of view. The last year of his life as an eminently successful interpreter of India to the Middle East was a fitting end to a life spent in devoted service of the country.



The body of Shrimati Saroj'ni Naidu being carried in a gun-carriage to the banks of the river Gomati in Lucknow

INDIA GOVERNMENT'S TRIBUTE TO SHRIMATI SAROJINI NAIDU

The following Gazette Extraordinary was issued by the Government of India on the demise of Her Excellency Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces, on March 2, 1949:

"The Governor-General has to record with the most profound regret the death in the early hours of this morning at Lucknow of Her Excellency Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces.

"It is very difficult, in cold print, to do justice to her record of service in the social and political life of this country. A brilliant orator, a great poetess, a person endowed with unusual charm and sense of honour, she could have spent her life in great material comfort and in the pursuit of literature which she so greatly loved.

"But when the call came from Mahatma Gandhi for the struggle for freedom, she decided, without a moment's hesitation, to dedicate her gifts to the cause he served, and she has been in the vanguard of this struggle ever since. 25 years ago, she was elected President of the Indian National Congress, the greatest honour the country could bestow on her.

"For a long time now her health has been poor and would have justified her retirement from the hardships of political struggle, but she utterly disregarded the advice of her physicians and her friends and carried on with superb courage.

"In the great political movement of 1942, although ill and in considerable physical pain, she was among the first to be arrested and she asked and was allowed to spend her imprisonment with Mahatmaji. Her vitality, her courage and her wit were never in greater evidence than during those difficult days.

"In elevating Shrimati Sarojini to great positions, no one ever thought that any particular favour was being shown to her on account of her being a woman; honours were showered on her because of her personality, her talents and her sacrifice for the country. It was fitting that when the Asian Conference was held in Delhi, she was made President by universal acclaim. And when freedom was achieved, she was made Governor of a large and difficult province; and it was characteristic of her whole life that in this post, the last she held in the service of her country, she displayed in full her qualities of courage, dignity and great human affection."

PARLIAMENT'S HOMAGE

Making a reference in the Dominion Parliament on March 3 on the passing away of Her Excellency Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, said:—

It has become my painful duty, Sir, as Leader of this House, to refer from time to time to the passing away of the illustrious sons and daughters of India. Recently I referred to the passing away of a very eminent son of India, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. Then the Governor of a Province suddenly died. He was a very distinguished servant of the State.

When we refer to those distinguished sons or daughters of the country, we say often enough that it will be difficult to replace them, that they are irreplaceable, which may be true enough in a partial manner. But, today, I, with your leave, would like to refer to the passing away early yesterday morning



The Conference on Burma was held at Government House, New Delhi, on Feb. 28, 1949—(L. to R.) Mr Gollan, Australian High Commissioner in India, Dr. Herbert Evatt, Australian Foreign Minister and President, United Nations General Assembly, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. G. S. Bajpai, Secretary-General, External Affairs Ministry, and Dr. Rajkrishna Kesker, Deputy Minister for External Affairs. The Conference was also attended by Mr M. W. H. de Silva, Ceylon's High Commissioner in India, Mr. Arthur Bottomley, U. K. Minister for Overseas Trade, and Mr. Malcolm McDonald, U. K. High Commissioner-General in South-East Asia.

(Below-left) Dr. Evatt and Pandit Nehru. (Below-right) Dr. Evatt paying his homage at Gandhiji's samadhi at Rajghat.





PANDIT NEHRU ON SITUATION IN BURMA

Statement at New Delhi Press Conference

THE hope that peace and order would be established in Burma as a result of the effort of the Burmese Premier, Thakin Nu, was expressed by Pandit Nehru at a Press Conference held in New Delhi on March 6, 1949.

Refuting any suggestions of interference in Burmese affairs, the Prime Minister declared, "It is always a delicate matter for any country however friendly, to intervene in any way. So we have expressed our desire and friendly sentiment to them that we can help them whenever they think the time is fit and suitable in bringing about more amicable relations there. But it is ultimately for the Burmese Government themselves to decide what step and when they will take."

Elucidating the point further he stated, "One thing is perfectly clear, that we did not improve ourselves anywhere. Except for our desire there should be peace and order, that there should be orderly Government established there, we are not concerned. So far as we are concerned, we are naturally interested in the safety of a large number of Indians there—a very large number, about 700,000, spread out all over Burma."

Answering a question relating to affairs in Burma, the Prime Minister said: "You know that we took advantage of the presence here in Delhi of Mr. Bottomley, the U. K. Trade Minister, and Dr. Evatt, Foreign Minister of Australia, to invite some other representatives of Dominion Governments and to have a talk. As a result of the talk, we got into communication with the Burmese Government—of course we have been in communication with them all the time—and we expressed our earnest desire that peace might be established in Burma, and we are still in communication with them.

It is very difficult for me to say very much more about it except that all of us feel that the Prime Minister of Burma, Thakin Nu, is considering the whole question with a great deal of, shall I say, wisdom and vision. He is the outstanding figure in Burma and we feel that with his lead and under his guidance peace will be established there. Conditions are difficult there, no doubt, but ultimately it is a question for the Burmese themselves to solve.

It is always a delicate matter for any country, however friendly, to intervene in any way. So we have expressed our desire and friendly sentiments to them that we can help them whenever they think the time is fit and suitable in bringing about more amicable relations there. But it is ultimately for the Burmese Government themselves to decide what step and when they will take."

Question: Help in the military sense?

Answer: The question of help in the military sense has not arisen at all.

Q: May I know between whom is mediation sought in Burma?

A: You are talking about mediation. I do not know if it is the correct word to be used. What happens is this generally. Sometimes when passions are roused a third party has a soothing effect. The third party has no desire to intervene as such or do anything of the kind.

Q: Then, what is the word you would use in place of 'mediation'?

A: It is not a question of using this word or that. May be we may use the term "conciliation." But the use of the word does not make anything. Well, the point is, in Burma it is the Burmese Government with which we deal; we have nothing to do with others. It is to the Burmese Government that we offer our good services to help them to bring about a better atmosphere.

Q: Have the so-called "Rebels" approached you in this matter? The Karens or other parties?

A: Nobody has approached us and nobody can easily approach. Only Governments approach Governments.

Q: May I know between whom is the conciliation sought to be made? Between the Karens and the Burmese Government or the Communists and the Burmese Government?

A: We have nothing to do with the Communists in Burma obviously. As a matter of fact the Communists went rather out of the picture some time back as any recognisable force. The Burmese Government had sufficiently dealt with them. The present conflict is largely between certain Karen insurgents—may be they are supported by others.

Q: What kind of help do you visualise? You said that when the time came you might be able to help.

A: That kind of help which a third party can render. The party that is not really concerned with the conflict sometimes helps in merely paving the way for the persons concerned to deal with each other.

South-East Asian Problem

Q: I presume that the trouble in Burma interests the entire South-East Asia. What is the explanation for only the Commonwealth countries being interested in it?

A: There is no question of the Commonwealth countries only being interested in it. Other countries are also bound to be interested. But what other countries are there? They are Indonesia, Siam and Indo-China. What other countries could you bring into the group? Obviously, Siam, Indo-China and Indonesia are at present having difficulties of their own.

Q: What has been the reaction of Burma? Has any specific question been submitted to Burma? I would like to know what questions were raised and what answers were received.

A: There was no list of questions at all. As I said before we expressed our desire that peace should be established in Burma and we addressed the Burmese Government if we could be helpful and that our good offices were always available subject always to the Burmese Government agreeing to it. It is for them to decide and take such steps as they desire.

Q: Has the Burmese Government sent any reply in answer to these suggestions?

A: Yes, they have thanked us for this and they made various suggestions about the way the matter, they think, should be dealt with.

Q: Is this offer a purely officious offer, unlike that in the case of China, where they wanted the Powers to intervene? Did we impose ourselves on Burma, or did they want our intervention?

Safety of Indians in Burma

A: One thing is perfectly clear, that we did not impose ourselves anywhere. Except for our desire that there should be peace and order, that there should be orderly Government established there we are not concerned. So far as we are concerned, we are naturally interested in the safety of a large number of Indians there—a very large number, about 700,000, spread out all over Burma. We are anxious about them. We cannot, we do not want to, evacuate them. Any attempt to evacuate them would lead to enormous problems and difficulties for them.

In spite of the trouble in Burma, we still think they are far safer in Burma than if we attempted to evacuate such a large number of Indians. We did evacuate them from certain danger zones like Insein. We evacuated 4,000 Indians from Insein, when fighting was taking place in that city, with the consent of the parties concerned.

So, we are naturally interested, first of all, in the freedom of Burma. And that freedom can only continue with peace and orderly Government. Otherwise the structure might collapse. Secondly, we are interested in general peace and order in South-East Asia. Thirdly, we are interested in the safety of the Indian residents there. These are our interests, and by these we stand. We have no other intention or desire to interfere in the slightest there.

Q: Is the Burmese Government' reply likely to lead to the despatch of a commission or delegation from India?

A: No. I do not think any delegation or commission is going out yet. We may confer or carry on talks, but there is no question of any delegation or commission yet.

of one about whom it can be said with absolute truth that it is impossible to replace her or to find her like.

She was for the last year and a half or a little more the Governor of a great Province with many problems and she functioned as Governor with exceeding ability and exceeding success as can be judged from the fact that every one in that Province, from the Premier and his Ministers and Government to the various groups and classes and religious, communities down to the worker and the peasant in the field, had been drawn to her and had found a welcome in her heart.

She had succeeded very greatly as a Governor and as a great servant of the State in an exalted position But it is not as a Governor that I should speak much of her, for she was a much greater person than Governors are normally supposed to be. What exactly she was, it is a little difficult for me to say, because she had become almost a part of us, a part of our National heritage of today and a part of us individuals who had the great privilege to be associated with her for a multitude of years in our struggle for freedom and in our work.

Indomitable Spirit

Sir, it is a little difficult to see persons with whom you have been so closely associated in proper perspective, and yet one can feel that to some extent. And thinking of her one sees a person to whom any number of epithets and adjectives might be applied. Here was a person of great brilliance. Here was a person, vital and vivid. Here was person with so many gifts, but above all with some gifts which made her perfectly unique.

She began life as a poetess. In later years, when the compulsion of events drew her into the national struggle and she threw herself into it with all the zest and fire that she possessed, she did not write much poetry with pen and paper, but her whole life became a poem and a song. And she did that amazing thing; she infused artistry and poetry to our National Struggle.

Just as the Father of the Nation had infused moral grandeur and greatness to the Struggle, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu gave it artistry and poetry and that zest for life and indomitable spirit which not only faced disaster and catastrophe, but faced them with a light heart and with a song on her lips and smile on her face. Now I do not think, being myself a politician which most of us are, that hardly any other gift was more valuable to our National life than this lifting it, out of the plane of pure politics to a higher artistic sphere, which she succeeded in doing in some measure.

Looking back upon her life, one sees an astonishing combination of gifts. One, here is a life full of vitality; one, here is 50 years of existence—not merely existence but a vital, dynamic existence—touching many aspects of our life, cultural and political. And whatever she touched, she infused with something of her fire. She was indeed a pillar of fire. And then again, she was like cool running water, soothing and uplifting and bringing down the passion of our politics to the cooler levels of human beings. So it is difficult for one to speak about her except that one realises that here was a magnificence of spirit and it is gone.

We shall, no doubt, for generations to come remember her, but perhaps those who come after us and those who have not been associated with her so closely will not realise fully the richness of that personality which could not easily be translated into spoken words or records. So she worked for India. She knew how to work and she knew how to play. And that was a wonderful combination. She knew how to sacrifice herself for great causes. She knew also to do that so gracefully and so graciously that it appeared an easy thing to do and not anything entailing travail of spirit. If a sensitive person like her must suffer from tremendous travail of spirit, no doubt she did, but she did it so graciously that it appeared that that too was easy for her. So she lifted our struggle into a higher plane and gave it a certain touch which I cannot think anybody else can give or is likely to give in future.

Richness of Personality

Sir, I said she was a curious combination of so many things; she represented in herself a rich culture into which flowed various currents which have made Indian culture so great as it is. She herself was a composite both of various currents of culture in India as well as various currents of culture both in the East and the West. And so she was, while being a very great national figure, also truly an internationalist, and wherever she might go in the wide world she was recognised as such and as one of the great ones of the earth. It is well to remember that, specially today, when through stress of circumstances we may occasionally drift into a narrow nationalism and forget the larger objectives that inspired the great ones who laid down the foundations of our National Movement.

The Great Father of the Nation and this great woman have shaped our national movement so powerfully, not so much on the direct political plane, although she functioned there and adequately functioned, but in those invisible planes, which are so very important, because they shape the nation's character; because they mould ultimately its mental and aesthetic and artistic outlook; and without that mental, moral, aesthetic and artistic outlook, any success that we may gain may well be an empty success; because, after all, we seek freedom to gain which is good in itself, but we seek freedom to achieve something else.

We seek freedom to achieve a good life for our people. What is good life? Can you imagine any good life which does not have an artistic and an aesthetic element in it, and a moral element in it? That will not be a good life; it will be some temporary phase of existence which is rather dry and harsh, and unfortunately, the world grows drier and harsher and more cruel. In our own experience of the last two years, political life has become a little harsh, cruel, intolerant and suspicious and in the world today we see suspicion and fear all round, fear of each other.

How are we to get over this? It is only through some experience of moral heights that we might overcome it, and that was the way shown to us by the Father of the Nation, or else the other way is to approach it from the human point of view, from the artistic and aesthetic point of view and the human point of view is the forgiving point of view, it is the point of view full of compassion and understanding of humanity and its failings as well as its virtues. And so Sarojini brought that human point of view, full of understanding, full of compassion for all who are in India or outside.

The House knows that she stood more than any single human being in India for the unity of India in all its phases, for the unity of its cultural content, the unity of its geographical areas. It was a passion for her. It was the very texture of her life. It is well to remember that when we sometimes fall into narrower grooves, because greatness has never come from narrowness of mind, or again, greatness for a nation as for an individual comes from a wide vision, a wide perspective, an inclusive outlook and a human approach to life.

Interpreter of Indian Culture

So, she became an interpreter in India of the various phases of our rich cultural inheritance. She became an interpreter in India of the many great things that the West has produced, and she became an interpreter in other parts of India of India's rich culture. She became the ideal ambassador and the ideal link between the East and the West and between various parts and groups in India. I do not myself see how we are to find the like of her now or in the future.

We shall have no doubt great men and women in the future, because India, even when she was low in the political scale, has never failed to produce greatness in her children. And now, that India is free, I have no doubt that India will produce great men and women in the future, as she has done in the past and in the present; before our very eyes, we have seen these great figures, and yet, that while India produces great men and women, whether she will or can produce just another like Sarojini.

So we think of her as a brightness, as a certain vitality and vividness, as a poetry infused into life and activity, as something tremendously important and rich, and yet something which in terms of the material world is rather insubstantial, difficult to grip and difficult to describe, as something which you can only feel, as you can feel beauty, as you can feel the other higher things of life. May be some memory of this may go to other generations who have not seen her and inspire them. I think it will, but I do not think we can ever feel that as we poor mortals who had the privilege of being associated with her have felt.

So, in making this reference to this House, I can only recount various ideas that come into my mind, and perhaps I recount them in a somewhat confused way, because my mind feels afflicted and confused as if an intimate part of it was cut off from it and because it is difficult



The body of Shrimati Sarojini Naidu lying in State at Government House, Lucknow

to speak or to judge people for whom one has a great deal of affection.

It was the affection of unity. It was the affection of one who even in his younger days was tremendously inspired by her speech and action and who during the succeeding decades grew more and more to love her and to admire her and to think of her as a rich and rare being. That rich and precious being is no more and that is sorrow for us, inevitably, and yet, it is something more than sorrow. It is, if we view it in another light a joy and triumph for us, that India of our generation has produced such rare spirits which have inspired us and which will inspire us in the future.

Sir, it is customary when making such a reference to say that the sympathy and condolence of this House might be conveyed to the relatives of the person who has passed away. I say so and yet, really the bond that held Sarojini to all of us here and to thousands and tens of thousands in this country was as close and great as the bond that held her to her own children or to her other relatives and so we send this message of condolence, on behalf of this House. All of us really require that [illegible] our hearts.

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

The following messages of condolence on the death of Her Excellency Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces, were received by His Excellency the Governor-General:—

From His Excellency the Governor-General of Ceylon, Colombo:

"I have learnt with deep regret of the death of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces. Please accept Ceylon's sincere sympathy in India's grievous loss."

From the High Commissioner for Pakistan in India:

"I have been shocked to receive the sad news of the sudden demise of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces. India has been deprived in her death of one of her foremost figures. As an orator, a great poet and an ardent worker in the struggle for Indian independence she occupied a unique position. The disappearance of her personality has caused a permanent void in the political and cultural life of India, but her inspiring utterances and songs will continue to move the hearts of men. With all of you, I mourn the loss of a dear friend."

From Field Marshal Earl Wavell, former Governor-General of India:

"Lady Wavell and I send Your Excellency deep sympathy on India's great loss in death of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. Her work as poetess and patriot will long be remembered and her wisdom and wit will be sadly missed. Please convey to her family our heartfelt condolences."

From Khwaja Nizamuddin, Governor-General of Pakistan:

"I am grieved to learn of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's sad demise. The world will be poorer for the loss of such a gifted and versatile personality. I shall be grateful if you convey my sincere condolences to your Government, the Government of United Provinces, and members of the bereaved family."

The following messages of condolence on the death of Her Excellency Shrimati Sarojini Naidu were received by the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:

From the Prime Minister of Pakistan:

"I am deeply shocked to hear of the death of Mrs. Naidu. In her death India has lost one of her most outstanding personalities and a very respected friend. Please convey my deepest sympathies to the United Provinces Government and to the bereaved family."

From the Foreign Minister of Pakistan:

"I have been much distressed to hear of Mrs. Naidu's sudden death. I had the honour of having been privileged to enjoy her friendship during the last 35 years and had always found her full of cheer and goodwill towards everybody. Her sympathies were deep and universal and were not confined to any particular people or class.

"She had a humorous appreciation of every situation and nothing ever served to depress her soaring spirits. She had been associated with the movement of Indian liberty for more than a generation and was able to make a very valuable contribution towards it which was peculiarly her own. Her death will create not only a void in the public life of India but also in the world of letters in which she occupied a highly respected place. The news of her death has come to me as a personal shock and I feel a deep sense of personal loss."

From the Prime Minister of Ceylon:

"The Government and people of Ceylon are shocked to hear of the untimely death of Her Excellency Sarojini Naidu, Governor of the United Provinces. Sarojini Naidu's clarion call for the freedom of India has had its salutory repercussions in this island and her visit is remembered by many with inspiration and affection. Her death is a personal loss to me of a revered friend. We fully realise the great loss India has suffered by her disappearance from the scene of her varied activities towards the promotion of the glory of India. But her memory will live in the hearts of the people."

From the Hon'ble Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of Burma:

"Burma mourns passing away of Her Excellency Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, one of world's most outstanding personalities. On behalf of Government and people of Burma I render heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of India in their great loss. Please convey my personal sympathy to bereaved family."

From the Maharaja of Nepal:

"On behalf of my Government and myself I desire to express to the Government and people of India our heartfelt sympathy on their great and sudden loss in the passing away of Her Excellency Shrimati Sarojini Naidu."

From H.E. Hadji Agus Salim at Pangkal Penang:

"President Soekarno, Vice-President Hatta and other Republican leaders in Bangka beg to convey to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru personally and as Head of the Government and Leader of the nation their sincerest condolences at the demise of India's great daughter in art and statecraft—the deeply lamented Sarojini Naidu. May her work live on and her eminent example encourage India's daughters to stand forth in the service of their country as she has done."

From the Imam of the London Mosque:

"The news of passing away of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has come as a sad shock. The late leader, the Nightingale of India, belonged to Hindus and Muslims all alike. She was above communalism and class prejudices and was held in great esteem by all classes of people of the sub-continent of India.

"I myself had the pleasure of hearing her speeches and melodious recitation of her poems and have always possessed admiration and respect for her. In this national loss, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the Ahmadiyya community in Great Britain I want to express our condolence and sympathy to you, Sir, and the family of the late leader, and the people of India."

ACTING GOVERNOR OF U.P.

The Governor General has appointed the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muhammad Waliullah, a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, to act as Chief Justice of that High Court in the vacancy of the Hon'ble Justice Bidhubhusan Malik, appointed to act temporarily as Governor of the United Provinces, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on March 2.

From the Chairman of the UNCIP:

"On behalf of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan, I beg you to be good enough to convey to the Government of India its deepest sympathy on the occasion of the loss of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. The Commission is well aware not only of her prominent place in Indian and English literature, but realises as well her outstanding contribution to the achievement of Indian independence."

From Mr. Phillip Noel-Baker:

"My personal sympathy in the very great loss India has suffered by the death of Mrs. Naidu. Please convey my sympathies to the Hon'ble Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant and his colleagues in the United Provinces Government and also to Dr. Naidu."

The Prime Minister also received condolence messages from Ambassadors and other representatives of Foreign Governments in India.

From the American Ambassador in India:

"I have been profoundly shocked to learn of the sudden death of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu at Lucknow. I know well what a terrific blow this is to you and others who for so many years worked so closely with her and shared so many experiences in which her counsel and personality were of unfailing assistance. Please accept this as a token of the regret with which my Government will learn of her passing."

From the Iranian Ambassador:

"It was with deep regret that I learnt of the sad and sudden demise of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. We participate in this great loss of the Indian nation and on this occasion I convey the sincere condolences of my Government and myself to Your Excellency."

From the Royal Netherlands Ambassador:

"It is with sincere grief that I learned of the distressing news of the death of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu in whom India loses one of its greatest and most remarkably outstanding talents. To us, Mrs. Naidu was a representative of the very best Indian womanhood has ever given to the nation. I am convinced that her memory will in the history of India remain as an example of true human ideals for the generations to come."

From the Belgian Ambassador:

"May I convey to Your Excellency the feelings of deep sympathy of my Government and the people of Belgium with the great loss suffered by India in the death of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. Far above the limits of her country, the soul of a poet has woven close cultural ties between all the peace-loving peoples of the world—this cannot be destroyed by death."

From the Hon'ble Minister of Sweden:

"I have just heard with deepest regret the tragic news of the death of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. I beg in this way to be allowed to express my most heartfelt sympathy to Your Excellency and to the Government of India in the irreparable loss which your country has sustained."

From the Hon'ble Minister of Switzerland:

"I would ask Your Excellency to convey to the Government of India my fullest sympathy in this sad bereavement, knowing that, if there is any consolation, it will be the ever shining light her inspiring personal gifts will throw on the Nation's future path. I feel certain that the Swiss people will highly venerate her memory in the same way as that of India's great spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi."

From the Charge d'Affaires of Siam in India:

"Upon the grievous circumstance of the death of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, may I tender to Your Excellency the heartfelt condolences and sympathy of my Government, to which I join my own."

From the Charge d' Affaires of the Czechoslovak Republic:

"I am writing to express to Your Excellency and to the whole Indian people how grieved I am by the distressing news of the death of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. By the passing away of this great patriot and brilliant poetess, the world has lost one of the foremost woman fighters for the freedom of all nations."

From the Hon'ble Minister of Portugal:

"May I convey to Your Excellency the deep condolences of the Portuguese Government, and of myself, for the passing away of Her Excellency Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. I sincerely regret India's great loss of such an outstanding personality in the world of culture and statesmanship, who had deserved the admiration of all nations."

Other Messages

Messages of condolence were also received by the Prime Minister from the Ambassadors of the United States of America, Iran, Netherlands, Egypt, from the Minister for Sweden and Charge d'Affaires for Siam and Italy.

FINANCE MINISTER'S BUDGET SPEECH

(*Continued from Page 304*)

savings likely to be realised. But I may assure the House that this does not mean that I do not expect any economies to result from the Committee's recommendations. On the contrary is is my intention to secure the utmost economy possible in public expenditure and the House may rest assured that the recommendations of the Committee will be most carefully and earnestly considered by Government and the resulting economies enforced during the course of the year.

Income-tax Commission

Before I pass on to deal with the estimates for the coming year I should like to mention the progress made in the work of the Income-tax Investigation Commission. Honourable Members will remember that the Act constituting the Commission assigned two duties to it, namely, to investigate and report on all matters relating to taxation on income, with particular reference to the extent to which the existing law relating to and procedure for the assessment and collection of such taxation is adequate to prevent evasion and to investigate specific cases referred to the Commission by the Central Government.

On a study of the working of the Income-tax law and its administration during recent years, the Commission came to the conclusion that on a long-term view the first task was no less important than the second, and as work on the second had for various reasons necessarily to be slow, the Commission devoted a great part of its time till recently to the first task. This involved the examination of voluminous evidence tendered in reply to a comprehensive questionnaire which was issued, and the Commission has recently submitted a long report in which it has made recommendations on many points of law and of administration. These recommendations are now being examined with a view to the necessary legislation being introduced, and it is hoped that it will be possible to place a bill before the House at its next session.

As regards the investigation of specific cases referred to it by Government, the Commission has completed a few cases. Greater progress was not possible for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it was only in April 1948 that the necessary staff for investigation work could be placed at the disposal of the Commission. This was because it was not possible for the Income-tax Department to spare their more experienced officers for this work before April, 1948, in view of the shortage of officers in the Department and the large amount of arrears that had to be cleared.

However, this difficulty has now been overcome to some extent, and the officers authorised by the Commission are working in different cities carrying on investigation under instructions and directions given by the Commission. It is the material gathered by them that will form the basis of the Commission's further work.

Another factor which has delayed the disposal of specific cases taken up for enquiry is that it has been found that a good deal of general enquiry and collection of facts and figures is a necessary preliminary to the investigation of the specific cases. These general enquiries and the collation of the materials collected have taken a considerable time, and the work is proceeding apace. Once this is completed, it may be hoped that the disposal of specific cases will be expedited.

In this connection I may add that the possibility of disposing of the referred cases by agreed settlement is being explored, and a bill will shortly be placed before the House for vesting the necessary powers for making such settlements in the hands of the Commission.

Financial Year 1949-50

I now turn to the estimates for the next financial year. At the existing level of taxation, I place the total revenue at Rs. 307.74 crores and the expenditure charged to revenue at Rs. 322.53 crores leaving a deficit of Rs. 14.79 crores.

The total receipts from customs is estimated at Rs. 107.25 crores. This provides for a full year's effect of the changes in the tariff in the course of this year as part of the campaign against inflation. Central excises are expected to bring in Rs. 57.75 crores, including Rs. 7 crores from the recently imposed excise duty on cotton cloth. Receipts from income-tax which include Rs. 11.22 crores on account of Excess Profits Tax and Rs. 12.01 crores on account of Business Profits Tax have been placed at Rs. 155 crores.

Hon'ble members will remember that it was decided last year that advance payments of tax should be taken direct to revenue instead of being treated initially as a deposit and, as a first step in the process of changing the accounting procedure, advance payments of Corporation Tax were taken direct to revenue in the budget for the current year. Next year, as a further step in the process, I have taken credit in the revenue estimates for Rs. 12.5 crores for a part of these advance payments that will be received during the year. I hope that the change will be completed over the next three years. The divisible pool of income-tax is estimated at Rs. 90.7 crores of which the Centre will retain Rs. 46.85 crores leaving Rs. 43.85 crores as the Provincial share. The profits from Currency and Mint, after allowing for the share of Pakistan are estimated at Rs. 9.7 crores.

The revenue from the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to amount to Rs. 30.26 crores and working expenses and interests to Rs. 28.63 crores, leaving a surplus of Rs. 1.63 crores. As in the current year this surplus will be shared equally by general revenues and the department which will get a rebate of interest on its share of the accumulated profits, expected to amount to about Rs. 10 crores at the end of the budget year.

The contribution from the Railways for next year has been taken at Rs. 4.72 crores, the amount provided in the Railway Budget.

The total expenditure in the coming year is estimated at Rs. 322.53 crores of which Defence Services will account for Rs. 187.37 crores and civil expenditure for Rs. 135.16 crores.

Defence Services:—Following the customary procedure I shall first deal

NATIONAL SAVINGS FORTNIGHT

Delhi Province's national savings fortnight began on March 1, this year. In a statement on the need for the growth of "a regular habit of saving" on the part of as many people as possible, the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, said:—

The small Savings Scheme was introduced in this country at the end of 1943, mainly to encourage persons with limited incomes to save whatever they can, and to combat inflation. The movement has now been in existence for five years, and while the results so far achieved are encouraging, there is still very considerable scope for further progress.

To invest in this scheme is good, both from the National point of view and from the point of view of the individual concerned. The success of the scheme lies in inculcating the habit of thrift and saving in as large a number of people as possible. Greater attention should, therefore, be paid by the organisers of the scheme to increasing the number of small savers than to increasing the amount of investments.

I am glad that Delhi Province is holding its National Savings Fortnight for the fifth successive year, with effect from March 1, 1949. It is hoped that during this fortnight a great effort will be made to stimulate investment in the National Savings Scheme. What is really needed is not spasmodic effort on the part of individuals, but the growth of a regular habit of saving among as large a number of people as possible. This is bound to bear fruit to both national and individual advantage.

All those who are engaged in the furtherance of the National Savings Scheme are rendering a valuable social and public service, and I wish them all success. I have every hope that the public will co-operate with the Government in this national investment, and I trust that the people of Delhi will invest at least twice as much as they did last year.

adverse and it has had the effect of hampering the free movement of stocks and shares, without which it is hardly possible to maintain a high level of industrial development. In present circumstances, I consider the retention of this tax ill-advised. The loss of revenue is estimated at Rs. 1 crore.

My second proposal relates to income-tax. Here I propose to give some relief to income-tax payers in the lowest and medium income groups. The tax on incomes up to Rs. 10,000 will be reduced by a quarter of an anna from one anna to nine pies in the second slab. This class has been severely hit by the rise in prices and a certain degree of relief in their case is amply justified. The loss is estimated at Rs. 3 crores.

Reliefs in Super-tax

My third proposal relates to super-tax. Here I propose two reliefs designed to meet the criticism that the existing level of taxation leaves little incentive for saving and investment and that it is illogical to ignore the differentiation between earned and unearned income above Rs. 1½ lakhs. In respect of earned income I propose a reduction of an anna and a half in the rates charged on incomes above Rs. 1½ lakhs, leaving the maximum rate of tax for income-tax and super-tax together at 14 annas. For unearned income, I propose a reduction of 6 pies in the maximum rate of super-tax. The cost of the two concessions will be Rs. 2.1 crores.

Of the total loss of Rs. 6.1 crores involved in these concessions, Rs. 3 crores will fall on the Provinces by reducing the divisible pool of income-tax and the balance on the Centre.

Before I leave the subject of direct taxation I would like to mention two changes which I propose to make. The House will remember that in the budget for the current year my predecessor gave a concession to companies with an income of Rs. 25,000 and below by reducing their income-tax to half the usual rates. This concession was meant to encourage the growth of smaller companies but the reduction, which was allowed in income-tax, has given rise to considerable administrative difficulties, wholly out of proportion to the amount involved or the benefit accruing to the companies. I have carefully reviewed the position and come to the conclusion that while the concession should be maintained it should take the form of a rebate of half the Corporation Tax, and should be limited to public controlled small companies which are not branches or subsidiaries of bigger companies. The result of this change will be that the entire cost of the concession will fall upon the Centre, and the Provinces will not have to share it. The amount involved is likely to be small and I have therefore made no specific provision on this account in the estimates for next year.

The second change relates to the taxation of incomes of privately controlled companies which do not declare their dividends in India. It may be recalled that there was a serious anomaly in the administration of income-tax law relating to the recovery of super-tax from shareholders, in respect of the dividends paid out of Indian profits, by companies incorporated outside this country. It was difficult to obtain from these companies information concerning the names of their shareholders and the amounts of dividends paid out of Indian profits and there was consequently a considerable loss of revenue. The problem of plugging this leakage was considered last year and my predecessor introduced a scheme whereby an extra tax of one anna was imposed on all such companies with a view partially to recouping the loss. As part of the scheme, an amendment was made to the Income-Tax Act so as to confer personal immunity from further taxation upon the shareholders of such companies. The amendment however had the effect of conferring immunity from super-tax not only upon the dividends actually received, but also upon the dividends which under the operation of section 23-A of the Income-Tax Act could be deemed to have been received from privately-controlled companies. Therefore, if the matter had been left there, the profits of these companies would have escaped with an overall impost much lighter than that to which they were subject under the previous law. This point was met by applying to this category of companies the rates of income-tax and super-tax prescribed for individuals or associations and the definition of "company" was altered to permit of this being done by executive action.

The arrangement has, however, not been satisfactory, and after a careful review of the matter I have decided that instead of attempting to tax each such privately-controlled company as an individual, the principle of applying an average rate should be adopted. I accordingly propose that all corporations, whether Indian or non-Indian, should continue to be treated as companies but a further supertax of one anna should be paid by those privately-controlled companies that do not distribute their profits in India. I propose to apply this method commencing with the current year. It will not involve any change in the revenue estimates.

Depreciation Allowance

There is one aspect of the complaint about the high taxation in relation to industry to which I would like to make a passing reference. Owing to the steep rise in the level of prices of raw materials, wages and working costs, larger amounts of working capital are needed to maintain production. Replacement costs are also higher, and there have been complaints that the calculation of depreciation allowance for purposes of taxation on the original cost of the asset involves great hardship. It has been suggested that industries should be allowed to revalue their existing fixed assets at the present day prices so that future depreciation allowance may be given on the basis of the revaluation.

The Government of India considered this problem in all its aspects last October and came to the conclusion that while the difficulty complained of was real the solution proposed was not practicable. It would give no assistance to those who have immediately to replace their worn-out assets and there was no point in giving a concession to others who, at some future date, may not be required to pay the high prices now prevailing. It was however realised that some relief should be given to those who were prepared to renew and re-equip their capital assets immediately, in spite of the prevailing high costs. It was decided that for all new plant and machinery installed during the five years from April 1, 1948, depreciation allowance at double the ordinary rate will be allowed. It has also been decided that if by April 1, 1953, there is a drop in the general level of prices, the difference between the written down value of the assets and the corresponding value at the reduced price will be allowed as an additional depreciation allowance. For existing plant and machinery, it has been decided to grant extra depreciation allowance for increased wear and tear if triple shifts are worked.

I trust that these concessions will go a long way in meeting the complaints of industry in this matter. In addition, the concession given last year of a reduced rate of income-tax to companies which do not distribute a part of their profits as dividends, and the recent limitation, for a temporary period, of the amount that may be distributed as dividends will also enable industrial concerns to accumulate reserves for meeting the increased cost of replacement.

Reliefs in Indirect Taxation

I now turn to the reliefs in indirect taxation.

The House will remember that in the budget for the current year an export duty was levied on oil seeds and vegetable oils. This was justified at the time by the wide disparity between the internal prices of these commodities and their export prices and it was then felt that the levy of this duty will not affect our export market. The effect of this duty has since been carefully reviewed and it is now clear that its continuance hampers the maintenance of our exports, particularly to the dollar countries, where we have to meet severe competition. In the interests of the export trade I propose to withdraw this duty. The loss in revenue is estimated at Rs. 1.5 crores.

As a measure of assistance to civil aviation and to foster the development of flying clubs and the training of Indian pilots, it is proposed to give a rebate of half the duty on aviation spirit used by air companies, flying clubs and others. This concession is estimated to cost Rs. 40 lakhs.

Hon'ble Members are aware that it has been the policy of Government to give relief in respect of customs duty on raw materials imported for industry. In pursuance of this policy it is proposed to give relief next year in the case of a number of imported articles, the total cost of such remissions being estimated at Rs. 35 lakhs.

The net effect of all the reliefs mentioned so far is a reduction in revenue of Rs. 5.35 crores, raising the prospective deficit to Rs. 20.14 crores.

Before I deal with proposals for new taxation I would mention certain changes proposed in the postal rates. With the rapid development of a net work of air services over the whole country, it has been decided to utilise this facility for accelerating the delivery of mails and transmit all first class mails, namely, letter and post cards as far as possible by air. The existing surcharge on air mails will accordingly be abolished and as all mails will be carried over as much of the distance as possible by air, it is proposed to revise the existing rates for letters and post cards. The rate for letters will be raised from 1½ annas to 2 annas for the first tola or fraction thereof, the rate for each subsequent tola or fraction thereof remaining unchanged at 1 anna. For post cards the present charge of six pies will be raised to nine pies, the rate which was in force prior to July 1, 1946. The net additional revenue from the revision of these rates and the abolition of the surcharge on air mails is estimated at Rs. 2.84 crores.

I now come to the problem of covering the remaining deficit of Rs. 17.3 crores. It is obvious that at the present level of taxation there is now no scope for raising additional revenue by an increase of direct taxes. As regards customs duties, the level of our import duties is, in my poinion, so high that no substantial increase in revenue is likely to result from enhancing them. The levy of export duties has to be carefully regulated with reference, not so much to our revenue needs, as to the need for maintaining and developing the country's export trade which earns the foreign exchange necessary for financing essential imports. While some adjustments may be found possible in respect of import duties, and export duties could be utilised to some extent, we can no longer rely on customs duties for raising substantial additional revenue and we shall have to depend largely on developing excise duties.

Customs Duties

I shall first deal with customs duties. I propose to retain on the tariff next year the changes made by ordinance in November last as part of the campaign against inflation and complete the process of raising the duties on luxury items, which was then begun, by a number of further minor changes in the tariff. To this effect I propose to levy a surcharge on liquor equivalent to the basic duty, to raise the surcharge from one-fifth to one-half on fabrics containing silk, art silk, woollens and their mixtures and cotton knitted apparel, to double the surcharge on artificial silk yarn and thread, earthenware and china, and to raise the duty on paper (other than newsprint), stationery articles, glass and glassware including sheet and plate glass, cutlery, metal furniture, flashlights, photographic appliances and clocks and watches. The additional revenue from all these changes is estimated at Rs. 2.4 crores.

I also propose to raise the import duty on motor spirit from 12 annas a gallon to 15 annas a gallon. The excise duty will also be similarly raised. This will bring the duty on motor spirit to the level in 1945-46, when consumption of this article was regulated by more service austerity standards, and bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 2.55 crores, taking Customs and Central Excises together. I have carefully considered the implications of this course on transport and am satisfied that it will not retard the development of transport or add materially to the cost of road transport.

My next proposal is to raise the import duty on betelnuts from 5 annas a lb. to 7½ annas a lb., with the present preference of 6 pies a lb. for imports from British colonies. This will bring in additional revenue and will also be in the interests of the indigenous grower. The yield is estimated at Rs. 1 crore.

In the sphere of export duties I propose a new duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem* on exports of cigarettes, cigars and cheroots. I am satisfied that this will not affect the export market for these goods. The estimated yield is Rs. 60 lakhs.

Increase in Central Excise Duties

I now turn to changes in Central Excise Duties. I have already referred to the increase in the excise duty on motor spirit as complementary to the increase in the import duty. I propose further changes in respect of sugar, tyres for motor vehicles and cotton cloth. I propose to increase the duty on sugar from Rs. 3 per cwt. to Rs. 3-12-0 per cwt., to yield Rs. 1.5 crores. The duty on tyres used for motor vehicles will be raised from 15 per cent. *ad valorem* to 30 per cent. *ad valorem*, to bring an additional revenue of Rs. 70 lakhs As regards cotton cloth, as the House is aware, a duty of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* was levied on superfine cloth with effect from January 1, 1949, as one of the measures against inflation. This duty will be continued next year and in addition, it is proposed to levy a duty of 6¼ per cent. *ad valorem* on fine cloth and a quarter anna per yard on coarse and medium cloth. The duty will be confined to mill-made cloth and will not be applicable to cloth woven on handlooms. The revenue from this additional duty on cotton cloth is estimated at Rs. 9 crores.

The excise duty on cloth has a long and bitter history behind it and I must explain to the House my reasons for introducing it. In the first place, the circumstances in which we are levying the duty today are different from those in which it was levied by a foreign Government in the interests of a foreign industry. In the second place, it is necessary to replace the heavy loss in revenue resulting from the abolition of the salt duty by developing some other equally stable source of revenue. Cloth, with a large internal production and as an article of universal consumption, offers itself as the most obvious choice for a tax on consumption. Thirdly, in the present conditions, as the price of imported cloth remains high and the import duties thereon have been enhanced considerably, the proposed excise duty is not likely to affect the indigenous industry.

I would also mention that this duty is likely to assist the handloom industry. During the war years when there was no control on handloom cloth and supplies for civilian use were restricted the handloom industry had an assured market for its products. With the Indian mills steadily expanding their production and imports from overseas also tending to increase, the advantages which the handloom industry had during the war years will gradually disappear. The excise duty now proposed, which adds slightly to the cost of the mill product, will, in some measure, help the handloom industry to retain its market. From the point of view of the consumer the incidence of this duty, particularly on the middle and lower middle classes using coarse and medium cloth, will be negligible and in view of the substantial revenue that is expected from it I trust the House will accord its approval to it.

While on the subject of Central excises, I may mention the question of rationalising the duty on matches, which I have had under consideration for some time. The ideal arrangement will be to have one standard size of matches but owing to practical difficulties in production it is not possible to achieve this. I have therefore decided that two sizes, namely, 40s and 60s should continue in production for the home market and I have made some slight readjustment in the rate of the duty. Factories whose annual output is less than 5 lakhs gross boxes will now benefit by the levy of a somewhat lower rate of duty. Necessary amendments to the tariff will be made through the Finance Bill but this will not involve any change in the revenue estimates. With the provision of the two sizes I hope that the retail prices will not exceed 6 pies and 9 pies per box and that the consumer will get the benefit of the partial standardisation without any loss of revenue to the exchequer.

Net Result of Proposals

I may now summarise the net effect of all the proposals that I have placed before the House. The various measures of relief which I have suggested in direct taxes will result in a loss of revenue of Rs. 3.1 crores; the abolition of the export duty on oil seeds and vegetable oils will involve a loss of Rs. 1.5 crores; and the rebate of duty on aviation spirit and industrial raw materials will cost a further sum of Rs. 75 lakhs. As I have already stated, this will bring the total loss of revenue to Rs. 5.35 crores, raising the prospective deficit from Rs. 14.79 crores to Rs. 20.14 crores. The increases in customs duties and the new export duty on cigarettes and cigars will yield Rs. 6.23 crores, the net increase in Postal rates Rs. 2.84 crores, and the increases in Central Excise Duties Rs. 11.52 crores. The final effect of these proposals is to convert the prospective deficit into a small surplus of Rs. 45 lakhs.

Sir, I have come to the end of my story. It is not pleasant for a Finance

Minister to appear before the House with a record of deficits and proposals for additional taxation but a Finance Minister is as much the creature of circumstances as any one else. Part of the heavy expenditure which Government have now to meet is due to extraordinary circumstances and but for these special demands, the budget would have shown a substantial surplus.

As I have mentioned earlier, the present economic conditions in the country make it an imperative necessity to balance the budget. In laying fresh burdens of taxation the House will accept my assurance that I have done my best to secure that they are equitable and that no section of the community is made to pay more than its fair share.

Hopeful View

On a survey of world conditions today, I feel that we have good reason for taking a hopeful view of our financial position. We are not alone in having to fight scarcities and inflation. These problems confront most countries in the post-war world. We can, however, take comfort from the fact that, unlike some other countries, our financial position is intrinsically sound. We have only a moderate public debt in relation to our national income and we have considerable external reserves with practically no external debt.

We have weathered the storm and stress of the partition and its terrible aftermath. In spite of the heavy demands on our resources for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees, the import of food on an unprecedented scale from overseas and the defence of Kashmir against aggression, we are in a position to balance our budget, without sacrificing any of our essential schemes of development. We have made some headway in the fight against inflation. The curve of production is slowly rising and we have plans in hand for increasing the food production of the country.

Need for Co-operation

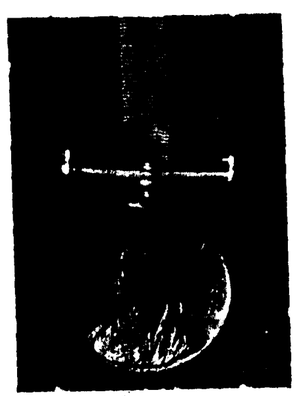
I do not wish in any way to minimise our difficulties or suggest that we can take a complacent view of the situation. A balanced national budget may, and often does, cover a multitude of ill-balanced family budgets. In this respect, we have still a formidable task ahead of us, the task of fighting want, sickness and poverty and raising the living standards of the millions to whom the emancipation of the country will be a mockery unless it is translated in terms of opportunities for a fuller, freer and better life. This task is not beyond our resources but it requires the co-operation of all classes and sections of the community in a spirit of partnership in a high adventure. I have no doubt that this co-operation will be forthcoming and I pray that my stewardship of the finances of the country may contribute in some degree to the accomplishment of this task.

SOUTH AFRICAN MEDALS WHICH WERE AWARDED TO GANDHIJI

TWO medals awarded to Mahatma Gandhi, apparently by the British War Office on the recommendation of the South African Government, for meritorious services in the Boer and Zulu Wars were put on view at the Gandhi Mandap Exhibition held recently at Rajghat, Delhi.

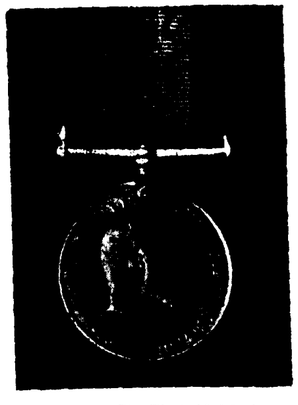
The correct nomenclatures of the two medals are (1) Queen's South African Medal (1899-1902) and (2) King's Medal of Zulu Rising in Natal (1906). The inscriptions on the edges of the medals respectively are "Mr. M. K. Gandhi, Natal Volunteer Indian Ambulance Corps," and "Sergeant-Major M. K. Gandhi, Indian Stretcher-Bearer Corps."

It is found from available records that the two medals, which were in the possession of the Medal Section of the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India, were returned by the Mahatma towards the end of 1920 in pursuance of his non-co-operation movement. There is also a mention about the surrender earlier by the Mahatma of the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the First Class and the consequent removal of his name from the list of recipients of that decoration.





The Queen's South African Medal, 1899—1902





The King's Medal of the Zulu Rising in Natal, 1906





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At its first Convocation held at Ambala on March 5, the East Punjab University conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's Deputy Prime Minister. (Above) H. E. Shri Chandulal Trivedi, Vice-Chancellor of the University, presenting the degree to the Deputy Prime Minister; (left) Sardar Patel studies records in the Thumb Impression Bureau of the Police Training Institute at Phillaur Fort which he visited recently

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With the Defence estimates. The Defence Budget for the coming year shows an increase of Rs. 1.94 crores over the revised estimate for the current year, the excess in which I largely ascribed to the operations in Kashmir. The House may well ask why with the cease-fire in Kashmir there is no decrease in the Defence Budget. The main reason for this is that the reduction in the strength of the armed forces cannot be made over night and the process of demobilisation has necessarily to be spread over a period similar to the recruitment and training of the forces.

The current year's revised estimates reflect the expenditure on the gradual building up of our strength while the budget for next year would reflect the gradual reduction in that strength. Since both the processes take time the average strength of the troops during the budget year is unlikely to differ materially from time in the current year.

In framing the budget for next year we have taken into account the improvement in the Kashmir situation following the cease-fire and our hope that the cease-fire will eventually lead to a peaceful solution of the problem. The House will naturally not expect me to go into greater detail in this matter but I must utter a warning that if for any unforeseen reason these hopes on which we have based our estimates are not realised, it may be necessary to exceed the provision now proposed. It has also to be remembered that the recent grant of an *ad hoc* dearness allowance to employees of the Central Government has added Rs. 4 crores to the Defence Budget next year.

Expansion Schemes

The budget for next year also includes additional provision for the expansion of the Navy and the Air Force. As the House is aware, our Navy till recently consisted of only a few sloops and frigates designed primarily for port defence but with the achievement of independence the Navy has been called upon to shoulder greater responsibilities than before, for which it is necessary to have a balanced force complete with aircraft, carriers, cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

With this end in view, Government have recently approved the first phase of a 10-year plan for the Navy, confined mainly to the recruitment and training of the personnel in the various branches of the Navy. The last war proved conclusively the overwhelming importance of the fleet air arm and the House will be glad to know that a beginning has already been made in this respect and that the budget includes provision for the establishment of a fleet air arm. With regard to the Air Forces also, plans for their expansion and development are going forward. It is hoped to train sufficient technical man-power to make it a more balanced and effective force.

Before I pass on to civil estimates I would like to refer to a change in the preparation of the Defence Demands for next year. The provision for supplies and stores which was previously pooled together and included under one Demand for all the three Services, except for certain Naval and Air Force stores, has now been split among the three Services—Army, Navy and Air Force. This change will make the Demand for each Service self-contained to a greater extent than before and enable the Defence authorities to exercise a closer and more efficient control over the expenditure in their repective services.

Civil Estimates :—I now come to the Civil Estimates. Details of the estimates under individual heads are, as usual, given in the Explanatory Memorandum circulated with the budget papers and it is unnecessary for me to deal with them at any considerable length here. I should like, however, to refer briefly to certain special items for which provision is included in these estimates. The budget next year includes Rs. 9.85 crores for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees.

In addition a provision of Rs. 23.27 crores has been made in the capital budget, Rs. 21.34 crores for loans for rehabilitation including loans to Provincial Governments and the Rehabilitation Finance Administration and Rs. 1.93 crores for buildings. The expenditure on food subsidies and the payment of bonus on procurement under the revised policy is estimated at Rs. 33.97 crores next year. The estimates also include Rs. 10 crores for the meeting of prepartition claims and Rs. 12.83 crores under the various heads of expenditure for developments schemes.

Of the total expenditure of Rs. 165.16 crores provided in the budget for next year, Rs. 52.82 crores are accounted for by the expenditure on refugees, the payment for food subsidies and pre-partition payments, leaving Rs. 112.34 crores for normal expenditure. This includes Rs. 10.66 crores for tax collection, Rs. 41.97 crores for obligatory expenditure on payment of interest and pensions and provision for debt redemption, Rs. 2.04 crores for planning and resettlement, Rs. 2.23 crores for expenditure on Currency and Mint, Rs. 2.95 crores for grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments and Rs. 24.20 crores for expenditure in the nation building spheres such as Education, Medical and Public Health, Broadcasting, Aviation and on Scientific Surveys and institutions in which the Central Government largely supplement the work of Provincial Governments. The balance of Rs. 28.89 crores represents the provision for administration, Civil Works etc. and represents only 17.5 per cent. of the total civil expenditure. In addition to Rs. 24.20 crores in the nation building spheres mentioned above, provision has also been made for the grant of Rs. 26.81 crores to Provincial Governments for development and Rs. 49.25 crores for loans.

Merged States

Hon'ble Members are aware that in recent months a large number of Indian States have been merged in the neighbouring Indian Provinces or taken over for administration direct by the Centre as part of the policy of unifying the country under the guidance of my distinguished colleague the Deputy Prime Minister. Ultimately the revenue and expenditure of these States have to merge in those of the Provinces or the Centre depending on the subject to which they pertain. But the process of integration is still incomplete and for the present the transactions of these States have been kept separate in a deposit account and not included in the revenue and expenditure of India. If, as may be hoped, the integration is completed in the course of the coming year, these transactions will be included in the revised estimates for the year.

On the basis of the estimates of revenue and expenditure that I have explained so far, the anticipated deficit for next year is Rs. 14.79 crores. I shall return to the question of how I propose to deal with this deficit in a later part of my speech.

Post-War Planning

I mentioned earlier that as part of the campaign against inflation, Government had to review their whole programme of expenditure and reduce the outlay both in the capital and in the revenue budgets. Even so, substantial amounts have been included in the budget for grants to Provincial Governments and for Central schemes of development.

So far as the Provinces are concerned it is not the intention that the scale of assistance promised to them by the Centre for their development schemes and on which they have formulated their plans should in any way be reduced. All that is happening is that the pace of this assistance is being temporarily slowed down in view of the urgent need for economy and in so doing special care has been taken to see that the progress of productive schemes and schemes of long range importance essential for national development is not held up.

The House will remember that last year we laid down the policy that the grant each year from the Centre should be limited to half the amount spent on the approved schemes. Some of the smaller Provinces whose resources are limited asked for the waiver of this condition and in spite of our own difficulties we have agreed for this year and next year to allow them grants up to the total amount they may spend on approved schemes. The budget for next year includes a provision of Rs. 26.81 crores for grants and Rs. 49.25 crores for loans to Provinces for development.

Central Development Schemes

For Central schemes of development including resettlement a provision of Rs. 12.83 crores has been made in the revenue budget and Rs. 24.97 crores in the capital budget. Details of the provision are given in the Explanatory Memorandum and among the important schemes I would mention the expansion of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, the development of the forest estate in the Andamans, the preliminary work on a number of river projects like the Kosi, the Assam Valley, the Narbada, Tapti, and Sabarmati schemes, Investigations in Coorg, Central Provinces and Berar, the reorganisation of the Central Waterways Navigation and Irrigation Research Station, the expansion of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the development of basic education.

The budget also provides Rs. 2.19 crores for the Central Government's share of the expenditure on the Damodar Valley Scheme. Rs. 90 lakhs for buildings for development schemes, Rs. 4.93 crores for the Fertiliser Factory under construction at Sindri, Rs. 2.92 crores for the expansion of civil aviation and Rs. 96 lakhs for the expansion of Broadcasting.

In the sphere of industrial development a beginning is also being made in the starting of basic industries essential for national development. Among these I would mention the Government Telephone Factory for the manufacture of telephone equipment, the setting up of a shipping Corporation in which a total sum of Rs. 6.98 crores is expected to be invested this year and next year, the setting up of new steel works and factories for the manufacture of wireless equipment, synthetic oil, machine tools, cables, Diesel engines and heavy electrical equipment. A beginning will be made in the establishment of these industries which will be developed in subsequent years.

Capital Expenditure

With regard to capital expenditure I have just mentioned the provision included in the budget for development schemes. The House will doubtless be interested in the provision made in the budget for normal capital expenditure. But before I describe this, I must mention certain special transactions which have been entered in the capital budget this year. The first is the payment to the U. K. Government for the purchase of annuities for meeting the sterling pensions which accounts for a net debit of Rs. 215.68 crores this year and a recovery of Rs. 7.42 crores next year for which credit has been taken. The second is the payment, again to the U. K. Government, as part of the Sterling Balance Agreement of Rs. 133.33 crores for the Defence stores and installations taken over from them against which Rs. 51.57 crores will be recovered this year and Rs. 11.8 crores next year from Pakistan and from the sale of surpluses. The third is the outlay of Rs. 5.93 crores on the acquisition of the shares of the Reserve Bank of India this year. Lastly, there is a provision of Rs. 5.08 crores this year and Rs. 92 lakhs next year for payment to Pakistan for setting up Ordnance factories and other unique institutions.

As part of the partition arrangements it was agreed that as most Ordnance factories and institutions like the Security Printing Press and the Currency Note Press were located in India and it was not desirable to break up these institutions, a sum of Rs. 6 crores should be made available to Pakistan for setting up similar institutions in Pakistan. This payment will be added to Pakistan's partition debt to India.

Excluding these special items and the provision for development schemes and grants to Provinces the provision for normal capital expenditure amounts to Rs. 44[illegible] this year and Rs. 62.42 crores [illegible]. Of the provision this year, [illegible]ways account for Rs. 27.15 crores and the Posts and Telegraphs Department for Rs. 2.91 crores. Next year's budget provides Rs. 28.49 crores for the Railways, Rs. 3.82 crores for Posts and Telegraphs and Rs. 7.9 crores for schemes of State Trading mainly for purchase of foodgrains the cost of which will be recovered in the following year.

The House will remember that a provision of Rs. 14.99 crores was made in the budget for the current year for capital outlay on Defence. The actual expenditure is now estimated at Rs. 9.91 crores, the decrease being mainly due to the delay in the completion of certain plans for major works and the procurement of aircraft. For next year a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been included of which, Rs. 7.24 crores will be spent on the Army, Rs. 2.79 crores on the Navy and Rs. 4.97 crores on the Air Force.

Ways and Means

I now turn to a brief consideration of the ways and means position. The current year's budget provided for a total borrowing of Rs. 150 crores from the market and to a net receipt of Rs. 31.25 crores from small savings. For a variety of reasons to which I have referred in another part of my speech the gilt edged market remained inactive throughout the year with very little investment demand. It was not, therefore, possible to borrow on the scale originally contemplated. For next year I have made a modest provision of Rs. 85 crores for market loans. But if, as I hope, conditions improve the scale of borrowing will be raised.

Next year Government have the option of repaying 3 per cent. loan 1949-52 with an outstanding balance of Rs. 67 crores. I have assumed that this amount will be repaid and in my estimate of borrowing next year I have taken this return of money to the market also into account.

Small Savings

In the present inflationary conditions, it is of the utmost importance for the economy of the country that the community should save as much as possible and lend its savings to the State. I trust that the recent measures taken by Government to meet the inflationary situation would restore public confidence and that this time next year I shall be in a position to give a more heartening picture of public co-operation in the Government's borrowing operations.

As regards small savings, there has been in recent months some improvement in the net receipts from Savings Banks and in the sale of National Savings Certificates. The House will remember that last April Government issued two new series of certificates with a currency of five and seven years to cater to the smaller investor and also raised the maximum limit of investment in both Postal Savings Bank and National Savings Certificates in order to stimulate further investment.

It is too early to assess the results of these measures but Government are doing all in their power, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments, to stimulate and sustain the small savings movement. It is hoped that the budget anticipations in regard to receipt from this source will be exceeded this year by Rs. 1.6 crores. For next year I have allowed for some further improvement and taken credit for a net receipt of Rs. 37.56 crores.

I now pass on to my proposals for dealing with the deficit of Rs. 14.79 crores anticipated in the coming year.

NEW TAXATION PROPOSALS

The prospective deficit for next year is substantial and I am sure that the House will agree with me that in the present inflationary conditions it should not be left uncovered.

The problem before me is not merely that of raising the additional revenue to cover this deficit. I have also to consider the adjustments in taxation necessary in the light of the experince of the working of the tax system in the period since the House passed the budget for the current year. Fiscal policy is not an end in itself but has to subserve the ends of national policy and in a transitional period like this it is essential to keep the working of the taxation system under constant review and readjust it in the light of changing circumstances.

Apart from inflation, to which I have referred in detail elsewhere, the most disconcerting element in the economic life of the country today is a deep, underlying fear of the future, of which the stagnation in the capital market is an index. In my view one of the most urgent tasks before a Finance Minister today is to concert measures designed to remove this fear and to secure a revival of confidence.

It is clear from recent experience that the formation of capital in this country has been seriously affected, with the result that investments in Government loans and industry have been falling off. Unless this stagnation is checked and conditions are created in which the incentive to save and to invest is revived, the industrial expansion of the country and the execution of the plans for raising the living standards of the people are bound to be delayed. In formulating the proposals which I shall place before the House, I have kept this requirement prominently in mind.

Reliefs in Taxation

I shall now deal with the various measures of relief which I propose to give.

In the field of direct taxation, my first proposal is to abolish the Capital Gains Tax. At the time this tax was introduced it was expected to yield a large revenue, but it synchronised with a period of falling values and the yield from this tax has, in consequence, been small. Its psychological effect on investment, has, however, been markedly

Pandit Nehru's Message

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's Prime Minister, sent the following message to the Forestry and Timber Utilisation Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which opened in Mysore on March 28, 1949 :

"It is with great regret that owing to the need of my presence in the Parliament I have been unable to accept the invitation of the Director-General, F.A.O., to inaugurate the Forestry and Timber Utilisation Conference for Asia and the Pacific. I am greatly interested in the problems of forestry and attach great importance to the conservation of forests.

"To the people in the East, as indeed in the whole world, the numerous problems of forestry hold out a great challenge. It must be met if world is to be made a better place to live in. Fundamentally, problems are same in all countries, and I am sure that the Conference will provide not only means of pooling world's knowledge and experiences of forestry, but will also, by bringing together foresters of countries of the East, strengthen the brotherhood of forestry and bonds of friendship which already exist among the nations participating.

"I send my best wishes for the success of the Conference."

lands which have lost so much top soil and plant nutrients cannot produce as bountifully as they did before they were slashed and impoverished by erosion.

"In that fact lies the significance of America's erosion problem for America's citizens. We do not have too much good cropland available for production of our essential food and fibre crops in the future. If we do not protect what we have and rebuild the land which can still be restored for productive use the time inevitably will come—as it already has come to some areas of the world—when the United States farm lands cannot produce enough for us and our descendants to eat and to wear."

Integrated Forest Policy

Our Conference has a large agenda before it. Many of these items are of a technical character: none of these is unimportant. And yet the overshadowing character of the basic problem of soil conservation and its integral relationship to a sound forest policy gives challenge to us which we cannot afford to ignore. That a country so advanced in agricultural science, equipment and methods should have before it such anxious future is a call to the thickly populated nations of the East to think, plan and act with prudence and promptness and reorient the national forest policy to meet the urgent needs of the situation.

In our own country the problem is no less grave than anywhere else and it needs to be handled on a rational basis and with maximum co-ordination with provinces and States. I realise that in India as elsewhere this cannot be a short-term programme. Our country has resolved to achieve freedom from imports of foodgrains by the end of 1951. The Provinces and States are being approached to join in attaining this objective of supreme national importance urgently. Though we are planning to concentrate on intensive cultivation with better use of water, manure and seed it would be unwise not to design a national programme of soil conservation for simultaneous implementation.

You who are gathered together here are men of experience and learning and I would welcome it as a matter of fruitful result of the Conference if your decisions laid full emphasis on the framing of urgent plans for a rational integration of forest and agricultural policy so as to save our soil from progressive impoverishment.

Guiding Consideration

Many of the other aspects of forestry are to receive your consideration during the days your conference would be in session. Problems relating to industrial use of forest resources and the many special problems arising out of this are to be tackled by you; also, the great and the basic problem of protection and development of forest resources. Other immediate problems relating to fuel, wood, lumber and building material are also facing you. You are best able to decide how to deal with them.

As a layman, I can only place before you a guiding consideration which in my humble view should inspire your deliberations and shape your decisions. Forests can serve the cities and should serve, but it may be a proper and wise policy to let the forests serve primarily the vast rural area in which nature has set them. The vast masses of Asia and the Pacific live predominantly in the villages. Nowhere is the slogan of freedom from want more potent than in the villages and the limitless potentialities of our forest wealth should be tapped to raise the standard of living of our rural masses.

This needs to be done not only by developing rural industries based on forests but even in other ways which will link this up with the daily economic life of the agriculturist. No instance can be more striking from this point of view than the present position of fuel wood for the villagers' home. Denied of proper facilities in this respect he encroaches upon the food which the land badly needs and uses the manure as fuel. He forces himself into the vicious circle of less manure and less yield.

An effective programme for rapid increase in fuel wood for the rural masses which can be reconsidered with a rational policy of forest development would be a blessing for the agriculturists in most Asiatic countries. Representatives at the Conference can be pooled to discover all useful varieties of quick growing trees which can be used for fuel wood and save billions of tons of rich farmyard manure for the hungry underfed fields. This is but one instance. You know better than me by what other variety of measures your work can subserve the welfare of the rural people. A positive passion for improving the lot of these masses would be the growing qualifications of those who have devoted their life to the study in laboratory and in sylvan wilds and have sought out the secrets which for man's benefit nature has embedded in the great forests of the East.

Industrial Use

While I am laying this stress on the ruralisation of forest research I would not wish the conference to ignore the urgent calls of industry on the forest resources. These too have their places in the national economy and have to receive a response and I have no doubt that you will chalk out a suitable line of action to meet the demands of industry which is finding that iron and steel and other requisites are none too easily available.

But while deliberating upon the measures of services to the rural masses or city industries, the experts and specialists in forestry from the countries of Asia and the Pacific can only be coming closer to each other forgetting for the moment their distinct nationalities and bound together by the strong ties which common research for nature's secrets naturally create.

The bonds of science and the brotherhood in service bridge all international gulfs and create a sense of fellowship, a spirit of human kinship and a feeling of cultural identity which I feel is at the present moment even a greater contribution of such international conferences than even the concrete economic result which must inevitably result from your deliberations. India is only too anxious to help in forging such cultural links. It was our Great Teacher and Leader, Mahatma Gandhi, who preached the identity of man, whatever be his colour or creed and it is in that spirit that India should and would participate in conferences like yours of today.

It is probably true that in the particular field of forest research India has some advantage over some other countries in Asia. The results of about a century's research are available in its institutes and in its programmes of work which have been in operation for many decades. All these are at the service of our sister nations of Asia and the Pacific. We all welcome to our institutes and museums the scholars from our sister countries and give to them the benefit of all that Nature or man's endeavour has made available to us. Treat our scientific possessions as your own. Knowledge can really be the possession of none.

INDIAN DELEGATION

The Indian delegation to the Conference consisted of the following members :—

Representative : Mr. T Vijiaraghavachariar.

Alternate Representatives : Mr. A.P.F. Hamilton, Inspector-General of Forests, Government of India; Mr. C.R. Ranganathan, President Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and the Chief Conservators of Forests of U. P., Madras, Bombay, C.P. and Berar, East Punjab, Orissa, Mysore, Himachal Pradesh, Madhyabharat Union, Rajasthan, the Director of Forests, West Bengal, and Dr. S. Kamesam, Timber Constructional Engineer, Bangalore.

Advisers : Mr. T. K. Mirchandani, Forest Engineer, Bombay; Mr. J. Banerji, Project Officer, Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission; Mr. C.A.R. Bhadran, Director Forest Education, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and Mr. A. R. Vyas, Deputy Principal Information Officer, Press Information Bureau, Government of India (Press Liaison Officer).

INDIA'S TIMBER SUPPLY INADEQUATE

Speaking at the session of the International Forestry Conference in Mysore held on March 31, Mr. C. Purkayastha, Member, Indian Delegation, observed that India's total timber supply fell considerably short of her requirements and that whatever was produced could not reach consumers within a reasonable time owing to difficulties in transport. Production figures of only State-managed forests were available which indicated that the total production averaged 12,00,000 tons. During the War, production had increased by about 33⅓ per cent. but, it had come down to the pre-war level in 1946-47. Forests under private ownership covered about 50,000 sq. miles which were not worked systematically. The total output of all sources, including Nepal, was estimated at 30,00,000 tons of timber.

Continuing Mr. Purkayastha said: The total import of timber in 1940 was about 1,70,000 tons and the export figure was 50,000 tons. At present imports have decreased to a figure which barely offsets exports. Railways and Defence require about 6,00,000 tons and industries like match, plywood, tea chests and bobbins need about 2,60,000 tons. With the contemplated expansion in industry, plywood alone would consume 1,50,000 tons annually. After meeting the requirements of Central and Provincial Governments, a few industries, and of public bodies, only a small fraction is left for public consumption.

Exploitable Forest Wealth

The estimated forest resources of India are about 1,30,000 sq. miles of which only a little over half the total is considered exploitable. Others are considered uneconomical to work because of the difficult terrain and lack of communications. An obvious solution was to fall back upon this reserve by opening it up and resorting to mechanised logging and extraction to make working economic. This was a longtime proposition, but needed immediate planning.

The solution principally depends on increased production from exploitation of forests, by utilization of secondary species and development of new areas hitherto considered uneconomical. Efforts should also be made to explore the possibility of imports. Some of the immediate difficulties could be met by preventing waste in consumption and rational use of available supplies. If demands of timber were considered on regional basis and selection of species were confined to locally available timber, transport difficulties could be minimized.

In conclusion, Mr. Purkayastha remarked that distribution was as important as production and procurement, when the commodity was in short supply. Proper screening of demand ensured equitable distribution. He felt that an administrative machinery like the Board of Timber Control in the United Kingdom might be useful. It would help to coordinate indigenous production, import, export and distribution.

PLANNED CONSERVATION OF SOIL FERTILITY

Speaking on April 1, Mr. J. Banerji, Indian Delegate, referred to the "fundamentally global" problem of soil erosion. He quoted the French proverb "Forests precede civilisation but deserts succeed them" and referred to conditions in India where lands do not yield sufficient crops to sustain the community, cattle graze far and wide for grass and men roam mile after mile to find a small pole for their agricultural implements and house construction and to collect scattered cowdung for fuel. People are continuously on the verge of starvation and standards of living are extremely low. The present Government of India, he stated, were determined to secure freedom from hunger and poverty. It was, therefore, necessary to fight the menace of soil erosion by all effective means.

World-Wide Problem

Erosion, as a world wide phenomenon, could be directly ascribed to the misuse of land. Problems that wait solution were those of extensive sheet and gully erosion in large river valleys, *e.g.*, Jumna, Ganga, Chambal, Damodar, Nurbada and Mahanadi, upper slopes of the Nilgiris in India, yellow river basin of China, wheat lands in Australia and denuded hill slopes of Ceylon.

Erosion was not a serious problem in

HELPING TO SOLVE THE FOOD PROBLEM

Food Minister on Intensive Cultivation

PRIOR to his departure from Mysore on March 28, the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food and Agriculture Minister, addressing a meeting stressed the importance of closer liaison between intellect and land to help solve the country's food problem.

He said: We have after great deliberation, hesitation and calculation determined that this country, which has achieved political freedom must not allow itself to depend upon other countries for a thing so basic and fundamental as our daily food. A nation so vast as ours, whose resources are so great, has no reason or justification for importing a single grain from outside. It is a mistake to think that our country has greater population than it can bear or support. We have a population of 35 crores at present, but our production can be doubled if we made efforts in proper direction and utilise the knowledge of specialists and experts available outside and within our country.

The Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture instanced the case of Japan where a man with a small plot of four acres felt as if he belonged to the middle class. From those four acres a Japanese cultivator produced all the food needed by a family of five persons and cloth. Most of the Japanese wore silk. By growing a few trees which attracted silk worms he produced silk yarn which was woven into silk cloth. He also had his house as well equipped as any upper middle class family in Mysore. He had a radio set, carriage and horse and was sending two sons to college—from four acres. All this was due to close application of intellect to land.

By 1951 we must somehow be self-sufficient in matter of food. This goal is impossible of achievement unless intellect is wedded to problems of land. We must guide agriculturists in the proper way and manner. Rational cultivation will solve problems of the country. After all our shortage in matter of food grains is only 10 per cent. There are countries which have been able to produce 20 per cent. more crops in a single year and 40 per cent increase for a particular crop in a single year.

An Appeal

India, which was able to organise non-violently against a mighty empire, was able to achieve political unity through organization and discipline. After all, it is human will which will achieve targets of this nature. What we have achieved in political freedom we should be able to achieve economically also. Therefore, I request those who have their own lands in Mysore to give more time and energy and realise that they have as much duty to perform at present as the actual cultivator. It is only if educated leadership realises that responsibility, we will be able to become economically free by 1951.

I hope no international complication will arise before 1951. But if this happens and no ships can go across seas what will be our fate? Therefore, I appeal to Mysore citizens at this time to regard food production programme not for the villages alone but as important as political freedom and play full part in achieving the target by 1951.



Shrimati Vijayalakshmi, India's Ambassador-designate to U. S., photographed with Pandit Nehru and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, U. P. Premier, on her arrival at Palam aerodrome, New Delhi, on March 5, 1949

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Cover Picture : Pinnacle of a temple in Banaras.



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food and Agriculture Minister, inaugurating the International Forestry and Timber Utilisation Conference at Mysore. On the extreme left is H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore

FOREST PROBLEMS OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram's Address to Mysore Conference

"THE bonds of science and brotherhood in service bridge all international gulfs and create a sense of fellowship, a spirit of human kinship and feeling of cultural identity which I feel, is at the present moment even a greater contribution of such conferences than the concrete economic results which must inevitably result from them," stated Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food and Agriculture Minister, inaugurating the International Forestry and Timber Utilisation Conference in Mysore on March 28, 1949.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said :

The F.A.O. deserves our appreciation for organizing this Regional Conference to deal with certain basic problems affecting the economic life of so many nations. Through these conferences F.A.O. endeavours to play its part in raising the standard of living of the common man. It is in a way in the fitness of things that the first Regional Conference on Forestry for Asia and the Pacific should be held in India.

Forests have played a part in the social and spiritual life of our country which they may not have played elsewhere. Wise men in India did not look upon forests simply as an unwanted waste land which man can put to better use or as the abode of wild untamed lives hostile to human peace and welfare. In the eyes of India's sages forests had a great place in the life of man. They could serve his physical needs and they could serve his spiritual needs also.

It is in the forests more than on the field that man is brought closer to nature. Out of that close contact emerges a balanced judgment on the varieties of human life and one is better able to fix man's place in nature and the place of forests in the evolution and progress of human society.

And so it was in the retirement of forests that the great seekers of Truth found the Truth and sang and spoke about it till it has come down to India's present generation through the sacred books of the country.

Today, however, forests have ceased to have any spiritual inspiration or messages. They are the means of our physical welfare through their effect on climate, agriculture and industry. But even in that role man has not permitted forests to play their part. Almost in every country and more so in the countries of the East there has been a progressive denudation of forests and to that extent our soil has lost its natural guardian. The erosion of top soil has become a grave danger to agricultural production to meet the ends of a growing population. Half the population of the world crowds upon the fields of Asia and more and more of the forest area is encroached upon to enable man to feed himself.

The soil thus becomes more and more subject to erosion. To nations of Asia and the Pacific even a country like the United States holds up the finger of warning. I feel justified in taking a minute or two more of your time in repeating to you the verdict of that country's own Government on the menacing situation which confronts it. The United States has a billion acres under crops and pasture. An official report indicates that considerably more than one quarter of that billion acres have now been ruined or severely impoverished and that the remainder are damaged in varying degrees.

Here are the very words of the report:

"The loss we sustain by this continuing erosion is staggering. Careful estimates based on actual measurements indicate that soil losses by erosion from all lands in the United States total 54,00,000,000 tons annually. From farm lands alone annual loss is about 3 billion tons, enough to fill a freight train which would girdle the globe 18 times. If these losses were to go on unchecked, results would be tragic for Amereica and for the world.

"The results would not only be disastrous, they already are far too costly for the country to continue to bear For example, in a normal production year erosion by wind and water removes 21 times as much plant food from the soil as is removed in the crops sold of this land. It is plain that farm

reserve forests under control and management of Government. But the intensity of grazing in some Reserve Forests had induced erosion along outer belts. Because of over exploitation, intense and unregulated grazing, want of fire protection and lack of scientific management, extensive private forests of India showed signs of extensive erosion. Thousands of tons of fertile top soil were lost every year because of absence of soil conserving agricultural practices. Marginal lands situated between forests and fields suffered from maximum intensity of grazing and continuous denudation.

Speaking of the remedies to the problems Mr. Banerji suggested a planned utilisation programme in which every acre of land would have an assigned duty to perform consistent with the needs of economy of river valley community. In such valley, land may either be forest land, agricultural plot, pastoral plot, township, river bed or combination of all. For this, the following measures were necessary; (1) Location of focal points of erosion in river valleys and estimate of their extent and magnitude; (2) Experiments and research and widespread dissemination of knowledge of soil conservation methods; (3) Training of experts and large scale demonstration areas for conservation; (4) Requisite administrative machinery for planning large scale conservation measures and their execution; and (5) necessary enabling legislation by various legislatures.

Erosion Research Stations

Mr. Banerji suggested the establishment of a number of Erosion Research Stations on a small scale to begin with, but judiciously distributed in every province in India and other countries of Asia. The results could then be coordinated for different climates and soil and under different conditions. These could be pooled and disseminated through a central clearing house which would be in constant touch with development procedure, instruments and technique.

Mr. Banerjee suggested the constitution of central boards of land utilisation and corresponding branch boards in the provinces which would be responsible for execution of large soil conservation schemes. Functions of these boards would be : best utilisation of land to ensure sustained production; rational distribution of that area among the various uses of land: prevention of misuse of lands in forests and their exploitation to obtain quick and large returns.

FOREST DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL

The main features of forest development schemes in West Bengal envisage the conservation and improvement of existing private forests and the extension of forest areas by afforesting wastelands. At present only about 15 per cent. of the 28,000 square miles of the province is covered by forests.

The West Bengal Private Forests Act, 1948, provides for the conservation of private forests and afforestation of wasteland. As long as private owners manage their forests according to the working plans approved by the Regional Forest Officer, there is no interference by the Government, but failure to do so, enables the Government to take over the management of the forests as Vested forests. At the controlled stage, the Government demands no profit and technical service is provided free for the first 10 years. In the Vested stage the Government's share of the profit is 50 percent. Afforestation by the State is undertaken by agreement with private owners or by acquisition.

So far 700 sq. miles of privately owned forests have been brought under the control of the State, and provision has been made to extend the Act over the entire Province during the current year.

The Provincial Forest Advisory Board aims to utilise all available areas not suitable for the production of food crops, for afforestation and the Provincial Government has earmarked nearly the entire forest revenue for the conservation, development and expansion of provincial forests. State nurseries are being opened in every Police Station within the Province to offer facilities for tree-planting by the villagers and the afforestation of roadside and wastelands.

An expansion of the existing coastal belt of tidal forests along the entire sea coast of the Province has been taken up and afforestation on an extensive scale has been planned for the current year. For this 19 ranges and 70 beats have been opened.

It is stated that with Bengal's high density of population and acute shortage of land for growing food crops, it is not possible to make the Province self-sufficient in her forest requirements. Therefore unless timber and other forest produce are available from neighbouring Provinces and the Andamans, established industries depending on forest produce would have to face difficulties.

SALE AND EXCHANGE OF EVACUEE PROPERTY

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on April 14, said :

According to the Government of India's decision announced in their Press Communique dated March 16, 1949, to introduce a system of "recognising" private agencies engaged in the work of exchange or sale of urban immoveable property in either Dominion, a Board has been constituted to examine applications for recognition received from different private agencies.

The following are the members of the Board : Pandit K. Santhanam of Lakshmi Insurance Co., Ltd., New Delhi, Bhai Pratap Dialdas of Sindhu Resettlement Corporation, Bombay, Mr. D. Framji, Agent, Central Bank of India, Ltd., New Delhi; Mr. V. D. Dantyagi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, New Delhi; and Shri Ram Chand Gulati, Deputy Custodian of Evacuee Property, New Delhi

INDIAN FOREST STATISTICS

A COMPREHENSIVE brochure containing a large mass of statistical information regarding forest area in India, its out-turn, imports and exports of various forest products, employment of labour in forestry and forestry industry etc., during the period 1936-37 to 1947-48 has recently been published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The position in regard to new India after partition has been taken into consideration and separate figures for the partitioned provinces of East Punjab, West Bengal and Assam are available. In the case of Assam, the total forest area lost to the Indian Union has been comparatively small but in the case of West Bengal and East Punjab, the area lost is substantial.

The data presented in the pamphlet mainly relate to Indian provinces though some data in respect of a few states have been included, where available. The classification adopted in the brochure is different from that prescribed by the F. A. O. in connection with the inventory of forest resources. The pamphlet says that it is proposed to collect information in the form suggested by the F. A. O. in future, in addition to the normal forms now employed.

Among the items on which statistical information is available in the brochure are :—

(1) Forest areas according to various classifications, *e.g.*, ownership, reserved, protected, merchantable, unprofitable, timber producing etc.

(2) Areas showing progress in regeneration and afforestation;

(3) Areas under fire protection and the areas burnt;

(4) Areas open and closed to grazing animals;

(5) Out-turn of timber and fuel according to different categories namely, timber, roundwood, fire wood and charcoal; and

(6) Foreign trade in respect of wood and timber, wood products and minor forest produce, sources of imports and destinations of export have been given for the last three years.

The Government of India have, it is understood, allocated an additional 5,000 tons (or about 1,35,000 maunds) of rice to Jammu and Kashmir State. Kashmir is normally surplus in rice but the crop last year was damaged by floods. Besides, more rice is needed for rehabilitating the refugee population in the liberated areas of Mendhar, Poonch and Rajaori.

As against the declared total deficit of 35,000 tons for 1949, the Central Government's allocations to the Jammu and Kashmir State now total 18,000 tons of wheat, 10,000 tons of rice and 3,500 tons of maize.

PRIME MINISTER VISITS FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, visited the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, on March 24 to address the annual convocation of the Institute. (Above) Mr. C. R. Ranganathan, President, Forest Research Institute, reading his address of welcome. (Below) Pandit Nehru examining the cross section of a 704-year-old Deodar tree





MR. B. RAMA RAU'S FAREWELL PARTY: Washington's Diplomatic Corps was fully represented at a farewell party given by Mr. B. Rama Rau, till lately India's Ambassador in U. S., and Mrs. Rama Rau on the eve of their departure for India. (L. to R.) Mrs. Rama Rau, Mr. B. Rama Rau, General Omar Bradley, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, and Mrs. Bradley

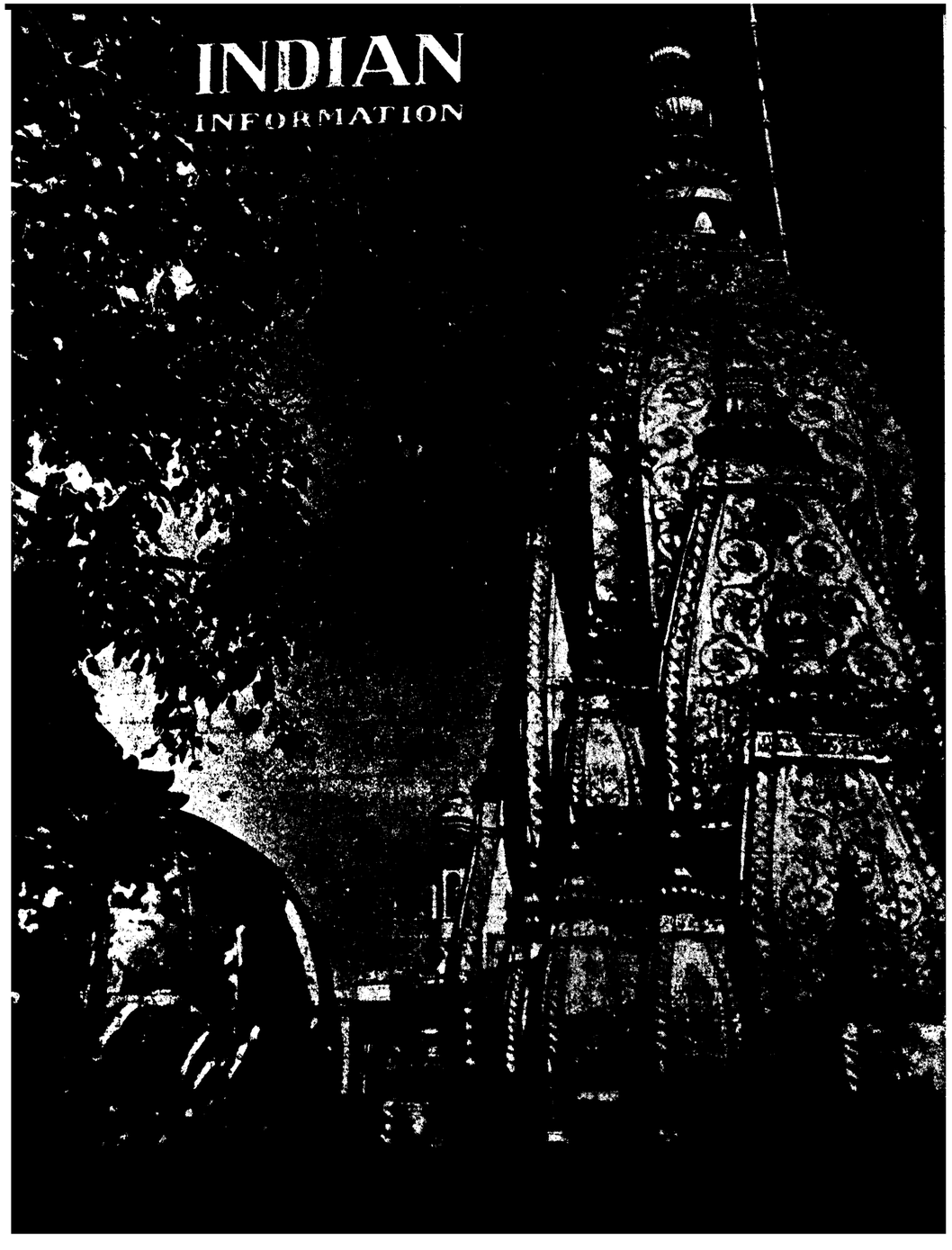


Mrs. Rama Rau greeting Mrs. Wellington Koo, wife of the Chinese Ambassador



Sir Oliver Shewell Franks, British Ambassador, and Lady Franks were among those who attended the party

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UTILISATION OF TOWN AND VILLAGE REFUSE

Drive for Increased Compost Production

IN a radio discussion on April 7, 1949, Sardar Datar Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, said that by proper utilisation of refuse material available in about 4,000 towns in India, nearly 10 million tons of good quality compost could be prepared which would substantially increase the foodgrains production in the country.

He said : In the villages, in addition to cow-dung, cattle urine, crop residues, like jowar, wheat, paddy stalks, household wastes, kitchen ash, etc., can be converted into organic manure. In the towns there are large quantities of katchra, night soil, slaughter house wastes etc. which, by a simple process, can be fermented and converted into what is called "Compost." The urban population in India has now increased to about 100 millions. By a proper utilisation of the refuse materials available in nearly 4,223 tons in India, it would be possible to prepare nearly 1o0 lakh tons of good quality compost which can go to increase our food production by about 150-200 lakhs maunds per year.

City Sewage

In addition to town refuse, plenty of sewage, sullage and sludge at present goes to waste in our cities. The total quantity of sewage produced in towns which are fitted with underground drainage system is estimated at about 500 million gallons per day. The sewage is rich in nitrogen and other plant nutrients and the loss under this head alone amounts to an equivalent of about 1,82,000 tons of ammonium sulphate valued at Rs. 5½ crores per year. The above 500 million gallons of sewage per day can bring under irrigation an additional 3,60,000 acres of land and increase the production by 36 lakh maunds per year.

Experiments conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have evolved satisfactory methods whereby town refuse could be converted into useful compost resembling farmyard manure in appearance and properties. Sewage can also be used for irrigating land, and increasing food production, in a manner that it does not endanger public health. For this purpose, root-vegetables and lowlying crops, especially those eaten raw should be avoided, but other crops which are processed and cooked *e.g.*, cereals, fruits, sugarcane etc., may be grown with safety.

By introducing properly worked out Schemes of Compost preparation and Sewage irrigation, not only can food production be increased appreciably, but the municipalities can recoup in full the heavy expenditure that they have to incur at present for the disposal of the refuse. There is, however, a general apathy, evident among the municipalities to take up this work and legislations are necessary in order to empower Governments to compel municipalities to convert their refuse into compost manure. The Government of Central Provinces and Berar have already had a suitable Act passed. Similar measures are under consideration in Bombay, East Punjab, Bihar and West Bengal.

At present nearly 700 municipalities out of a total of 4,000 are preparing compost at the rate of about 7,50,000 tons per year, but it is expected that during the year 1949-50, the production rate would be nearly doubled. Big cities like Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi alone can, from their several years' accumulated stocks, supply nearly one million tons of manure, if proper arrangements for the transport and distribution of the manure by motor trucks and by railway wagons be made.

In order to accelerate the production of Compost manure in the country, the Government of India appointed in March 1948, a special committee known as the Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee with powers to review the progress of compost work in different areas, to prepare fresh schemes for expanding the work and to carry out intensive propaganda to achieve the objects of the Committee. A drive for preparation of compost has been launched throughout the country.

Asked about the method of preparing compost from urban and village waste, Sardar Datar Singh said :

The compost manure is preferably prepared in pits of a suitable size, say 25 feet long, 5 feet broad and 2½ feet deep. The pit is first filled with about 1 foot layer of town or village katchra. Over this is spread a 2-inch layer of night-soil or dung. This layer is again covered with Katchra and the process is repeated with alternate layers of refuse and dung or night soil, until the pit is full with a layer of refuse on the top. This is then covered up with loose earth dug out from the pits to prevent any foul smell and fly breeding. The materials decompose, and at the end of 3-4 months, the ripened manur can be dug out and used for manuring.

MYSORE PLANS FOR FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

THE Mysore Government's efforts to step up food production in the State so as to reach food self-sufficiency as early as possible were explained to Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food and Agriculture Minister, during his one-day visit to the State recently.

Steps were taken during the last weeks of January and early in February to grow summer ragi and paddy in areas where water was available. The State Government has sanctioned about Rs. 6 lakhs for this purpose and concessions are being given to ryots in the form of manure and free seeds for growing food crops. A small percentage of this production will be sold to the Government at controlled rates. It is expected that these measures will bring under summer paddy a little more than 36,000 acres and approximately 19,000 acres under summer ragi.

Next Season's Plans

Plans for increasing food production during the next agriculture season, include supplying the cultivator manure and food seeds to increase his yield per acre, as well as agricultural implements at reasonable rates. A subsidy of Rs. 1,000, per well will be granted if he undertakes to grow food crops, and steps are being taken in municipalities and village panchayats to prepare compost for meeting the manure requirements of the cultivators.

In selected areas, the State Government is itself undertaking the production of foodgrains. Wherever power and water are available, plans have been made for lift irrigation to irrigate small areas of land. Schemes are under preparation to divert water from small streams for irrigation purposes.

The State Government is approaching the Central Government for more supplies of groundnut cakes, ammonium sulphate, superphosphate, fuel oil and agricultural implements. About 150 tractors will be in operation, and it is hoped to cultivate about 50,000 acres for which petrol, high speed diesel oil and power kerosene are required.

To intensify the efforts to grow more food, a permanent committee consisting of the Revenue Commissioner as chairman and the Director of Agriculture, Chief Engineers for irrigation and electricity, the Commissioner for rural development and the Director of Agriculture has been constituted. This body will co-ordinate the efforts of all development departments at the taluq and district level and at the Centre.

In the near future rural development multi-purpose co-operative societies for every group of 25 to 30 villages will be established throughout the State. They will distribute cloth, yarn, cement, kerosene, manure, seeds, agricultural implements and foodgrains to the rural population. After some time these co-operative societies are expected to devote greater attention to food production and other economic improvements of the cultivators.

The Central Ministry of Food has allotted to Mysore 100,000 tons of foodgrains for this year, to meet part of its grains deficit. As a result of an intense procurement drive launched during the week beginning March 6, 3,700 tons of rice and 2,000 tons of millets were procured, the total quantities of these grains procured so far, being 67,000 and 21,000 tons respectively.

PRESERVATION OF QUALITY IN RATIONED FOODGRAINS

Centre's Directive to Provinces and States

COMPREHENSIVE measures to eliminate causes of consumers' complaints against the quality of foodgrains supplied from the ration shops have been suggested in a recent communication addressed by the Government of India to all Provincial and State Governments. The communication urges upon the Provincial Governments to pay special attention to the quality of foodgrains supplied and advises that under no circumstances should sub-quality grains be mixed with normal grains.

Food grains suffer in quality due to the following causes:

(1) Initial procurement of grains of a doubtful quality (2) Deterioration during storage; and (3) Deterioration or admixture while grain is held in ration shops.

The communication emphasises that Provincial Governments should take special care to see that common acceptable varieties of grains are procured as far as possible.

As regards imported grains, it is stated that most of them are of a fair average quality, although a certain percentage may have some admixture or weevilling. This cannot be avoided as, in any contract of purchase of foodgrains the grains offered cannot be rejected merely because there is some admixture or weevilling.

In such cases, the purchaser has to accept the grains, subject to allowances for defects in quality, unless the defects are such as to render the grains unfit for human consumption. The best method of disposing of such subquality grains is to isolate them completely and offer it to the public at cheaper rates with clear indications about their qualities.

Protection During Storage

Most important, however, is protection during storage, and the Provincial Governments have been advised to take utmost precaution against deterioration at this stage. Blue prints of standard designs for a grains storage and detailed instructions regarding the machines suitable for cleaning grains have been given.

Each Provincial Government has been asked to maintain adequate technical staff and sufficient reserve of chemicals to fumigate grains the moment they show signs of deterioration and they have been assured of Centre's help by way of technical assistance, equipment and fumigant.

In spite of the best efforts to preserve foodgrains during storage, the communication says, a certain quantity of foodgrains may deteriorate. Although the quantity of such sub-quality grains will be small if adequate precautions are taken during storage, the communication advises that under no circumstances should sub-quality grains be mixed with normal grains. Such grains—if the deterioration is not harmful to health—may be issued to consumers at cheaper rates and separately, after a clear declaration of their quality.

Inspection Arrangements

The necessity of cleaning the grains before delivery to the ration shops has also been stressed. The grains should be carefully graded, samples of normal quality grains should be exhibited prominently by all ration shops along with a list of prices. Effective and frequent inspections of ration shops should be arranged and offenders severely punished. Consumers societies, with a view to avail of public co-operation in maintaining the quality of rationed foodgrains, should also be encouraged.

PAYMENT TO BRITAIN FOR DEFENCE STORES

In reply to a question in the Dominion Parliament on April 6, regarding the settlement reached last year between the United Kingdom Government and the Government of India on payment for Defence stores and installations left behind in India by H. M. G. the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, said that the total amount due from India was Rs. 133.33 crores or £100 million.

He added that under the Inter-Dominion Agreement of May 1948, India was to find the rupee finance for the initial payment to the U. K. and Pakistan was to reimburse India with the value of H. M. G's installations and stores located in Pakistan on August 15, 1947 and for H. M. G.'s stores sent to her after that date.

Asked what was Pakistan's share of the liability agreed upon, the Minister replied : "Rs. 13.73 crores for H. M. G. stores and installations in Pakistan on August 15, 1947 and Rs. 3.26 crores for H.M.G. stores sent to her between August 15, 1947 and June 30, 1948."

Balance of Payments with U. S. A.

During the period January to November 1948, India had a deficit in her balance of payments with the U. S. A. of the order of Rs. 60.63 crores or $ 181.89 million. Announcing this in reply to another question in the Dominion Parliament the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Finance, said that subsequent figures were not at present available but the balance continued to be unfavourable.

He added that in the past the deficit had been met by borrowing from the International Monetary Fund and by spending the multilaterally convertible sterling placed at India's disposal under the Sterling balances agreement. "In future we hope also to borrow from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development."

Continuing, the Minister said that Indian exports to dollar areas in the calendar year 1948 amounted to Rs. 106.92 crores or $ 320.76 million.

REHABILITATION LOAN TO EAST PUNJAB

The Government of India have sanctioned a further loan of Rs. two crores to the East Punjab Government during the year 1949-50 to help them carry out the housing schemes for displaced persons. This brings the total financial assistance given for rehabilitation by the Centre to the East Punjab Government and the Patiala and East Punjab States Union Government to Rs. 10.7 crores.

These latest schemes include plans for the development of 12,950 sites for houses and grant of building loans to displaced persons. A part of the work, it is understood, is already under execution. The East Punjab Government, it is learnt, propose to acquire more land for development in the near future.

It is estimated that there are in all about 13 lakh urban displaced persons in the East Punjab. Out of these about nine lakhs have already found accommodation in evacuee houses in East Punjab and about two lakhs are accommodated or could be accommodated in evacuee houses in East Punjab States. Another one lakh are soon to be accommodated in Rajpura and Faridabad townships, the construction of which has already been sanctioned.

It is to house the remaining one lakh that the Government of India have accepted in principle the necessity of the execution of the following schemes for which a sum of Rs. 2 crores has been sanctioned in the first instance ; (1) schemes for developing sites for 6,800 houses and grant of building loans to allottees, where necessary, and (2) scheme for acquisition of land and development of additional 6,150 sites and for grant of building loans.

To Saurashtra Union

The Government of India have sanctioned a rehabilitation loan of Rs. 87.5 lakhs to the Saurashtra Government.

Out of this amount Rs. 25 lakhs is meant for advancing loans to urban displaced persons with a view to resettling them in pretty trades, small and cottage industries, professions, etc. The remaining Rs. 62.5 lakhs is to be spent on the execution of the housing programme of displaced persons. This programme includes the construction of 3,000 houses and 2,000 shops.



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food Minister, inaugurated the Conference of Agricultural Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, on April 6

HARNESSING SCIENCE FOR FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Agriculture Minister's Address to Scientists

"YOUR efforts should aid Governments to dispel the scepticism of those who may be feeling that overcoming of food shortage of only 10 per cent is too ambitious a programme for completion in six cultivation seasons. Normal difficulties in such a programme have to be met by abnormal effort. Out of the wealth of your experience, you should select and suggest for simultaneous application of all those measures and methods which would make the target of 1951 an easy reality", said the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, inaugurating the Conference of Agricultural Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, on April 6, 1949.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said: "The Indian Agricultural Research Institute is a central research institute under the Ministry of Agriculture. It is intended to cover the whole field of agriculture in its activities of advanced training and research. In recent years Government have expanded these activities. You will have an opportunity to understand the lines of research in which the workers of this Institute are engaged, their objectives and the techniques they are following. Your criticisms and suggestions born out of your own experiments and experience will stimulate them. I also believe that what you will see here, and your discussions with the workers here may in turn stimulate you. Through such Conferences I hope you will be able to formulate a scientific policy of agricultural research which will not only accelerate the promotion of scientific knowledge of agriculture but also enable you to ensure an effective contact between scientific research and the actual problems of agriculture confronting our nation.

"Yours is a noble task for you have opportunities through your science to serve the common man in India. As you are aware, it is the basic policy of our National Government that the standard of living of the masses should be raised effectively and rapidly. We have many problems whose urgency and magnitude are known to you. The Government have made up their mind that our food shortage must be made up by 1951. It is for you to play your part in reaching this goal. It is true that scientific knowledge has to be pursued for its own sake and research being a creative faculty of the human mind must be allowed to function untrammeled by considerations of immediate practical results.

Practical Utilisation

"I know that in the long run full scope to creative effort pays fully in the way of return of practical value, for all knowledge and especially scientific knowledge is capable of practical utilisation. One of the best illustrations is the discovery of atomic fission. Otto Van Hahn, the great German chemist, was one of the great builders of the chemistry of radio-active elements. When he first broke the nucleus of the uranium atom into pieces even the specialists in this branch did not have a full grasp of the possibilities opened by his discovery. But we are now thinking that it may be possible to utilise the energy released by atomic fission not for the destruction of but for service to mankind.

"I would, however, also remind you of a well known dictum that it is not enough to make a scientific discovery but the scientists and the public should see to its early application for human betterment. Then only do these discoveries serve a no less important moral purpose, namely, the service of man. As you are aware, we are now confronted not only with the low standard of living of our masses, but also with the more immediate problem of giving them enough food, clothes, and shelter which can maintain even the standard to which they are accustomed. "We must find ways and means of bringing effectively and promptly within the reach of the masses the fruits of scientific discoveries. You have, therefore, a two fold task, not only to gain knowledge of nature for its own sake but also to see how best it could be put into the service of our country. I realise that your direct concern is scientific research but it has to be linked with the problems which confront our agriculture to-day.

The Immediate Aspect

"While considering the agenda of our Conference nearly three months ago, I suggested to Dr. Mukerjee that it may be of great national benefit if the discussions at the Conference are concentrated on the single topic of the methods to be employed for a rapid increase in food production. Some of the methods which can contribute to increased food production not only for man but also for our huge cattle population are indicated in the programme of the Conference. Any concrete proposals you can make as a result of your deliberations for strengthening the efforts being made by the Central, Provincial and State Governments will be of great help.

"The immediate aspect of research is most pressing and I hope it will receive due emphasis in the Conference. It is for you to examine to what extent existing knowledge is being made use of and to what extent there is further scope for doing so.

"The land and water resources of a country form its greatest material heritage. The problem before us is to utilize them to the fullest extent consistent with their conservation so that not only do we derive maximum benefit from them but also hand them down to succeeding generations in a better state of preservation and usefulness. An integrated approach is, therefore, necessary to the problems of agriculture, forestry, irrigation, development of hydro-electric power, fisheries, and national parks and preservation of wild life. I hope, while pursuing your special fields, you will also keep in view the composite pattern of land and water resources and their inter-relationships.

Target of 1951

"You must also discuss how speedily the accumulated knowledge can reach the tiller of the soil for until it reaches him and until he is assisted to use it, your efforts can only lead to a blind alley. The extension of the scientific knowledge to the farmer's field must also be a programme of action for a centre of research. I am glad to be able to inform you that this Central Institute of Agricultural Research has decided to make a beginning in this direction and I hope that every research centre, big or small, in the country will spread out its hand to the farmers within its reach and in co-operation with them fulfil the mission of agricultural science.

"Your efforts should aid Government to dispel the scepticism of those who may be feeling that overcoming of food shortage of only 10 per cent is too ambitious a programme for completion in six cultivation seasons. Normal difficulties in such a programme have to be met by abnormal effort. Out of the wealth of your experience you should select and suggest for simultaneous application of all those measures and methods which would make the target of 1951 an easy reality.

"For a free India that would be your greatest contribution and the country will count you as its valiant fighters on our economic front. I hope you will go back from your four days' deliberations inspired by a determination, despite such handicaps as may face you, to play your legitimate role in the programme of self-sufficiency in food by the end of 1951."

The Agenda

The Conference which continued till April 9, had a large agenda before it including discussions on the bringing of additional land under food crops, intensive cultivation, improvement, multiplication and distribution of pure seeds, improvement in soil fertility, soil research, irrigation, mechanization of agriculture, insect pests and plant diseases, etc.

Among the scientists who came from the Provinces and States were Dr. S. P. Agharkar, Mr. K. Ramiah, Dr. S. Ramanujam, Dr. B. K. Mukherjee, Dr. R. J. Kalamkar, Dr. J. K. Basu, Dr. R. D. Rege, Dr. K. C. Mehta, and Prof. S. R. Bose. Scientists and experts of the Central Ministry of Agriculture, including Dr. J. N. Mukherjee, Sardar Datar Singh, Mr. D. R. Sethi, Mr. R. L. Sethi, Mr. Maya Das and Dr. P. J. Mirchandani were also present.

Dr. J. N. Mukherjee, Director of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and Chairman of the Conference, in requesting the Hon'ble Minister to inaugurate the conference said that the object of the conference was, besides exchange of ideas on various research problems, to facilitate deliberations as to how science could contribute to the solution of our immediate problem of food production. He said: "In doing so I feel that we must use a quantitative approach to estimate what each possible method can contribute towards increased production, the time it will take and the effort in terms of men and money it involves. Our resources in men and money are limited and in order to make the best use of these and to ensure quick results such a quantitative approach is necessary."

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS

How the combined resources of land, water and manpower, aided by scientific knowledge, can contribute substantially towards the Government of India's food self-sufficiency plan was the underlying theme of all discussions in the Conference of Agricultural Scientists. The Conference which is a representative all-India gathering includes prominent agricultural scientists from all over India, including specialists of the Central and Provincial Governments.

Among the special subjects discussed at the Conference on the first day, April 6, were: the place of land reclamation in the general set-up of the new food self-sufficiency plan; the possibilities of transferring some acreage from cash crops to food crops; and cultural experiments with a view to increasing production.

The Objective

In his introductory speech, the Chairman of the Conference, Dr. J. N. Mukherjee, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, dealt with the various aspects of research work which has been undertaken in the Institute and discussed the line on which future progress in agricultural research should be undertaken with a view to achieve an overall increase both in the quality and quantity of foodgrains produced in the country.

"Although considerable progress has been made in India in the promotion of agricultural research during the last few decades," he said, "there are many gaps in the structure of agricultural research in our country. In order to effect rapid improvement in agriculture it is obviously desirable to put the structure of agricultural research on a sound footing." Soil conservation, development of water resources, plant introduction and exploration for crop improvement, soil fertility, use of indicator plants for examining soil texture, rotation of crops, cultural experiments, etc., were some of the many items that he discussed in his introductory speech.

Reclamation of Land

Reclamation of culturable waste or fallow land was the subject of two papers read by Mr. D. R. Sethi, Agricultural Development Commissioner, Government of India, and by Dr. S. P. Roy Chaudhury, Soil Conservation Officer of the Government of India.

Mr. Sethi in his paper said that of the 87 million acres of culturable waste land available in India not more than 25 million acres were reclamable as the rest constituted denuded forests, eroded areas, river beds and other tracts of a similar nature. Reclamation of old fallow lands which were once cultivated but have now gone out of cultivation because of various reasons, particularly, prevalence of malaria, lack of communications, etc., would be a profitable venture, he said, and if these areas—estimated at about 10 million acres—were reclaimed, an increase by about 3 million tons of foodgrains was expected.

Dr. S. P. Roy Chaudhuri, in his paper, dealt with the problem of reclamation in general and indicated the efforts which were being made by the Central and Provincial Governments for bringing more lands in cultivation. Observing that reclamation of waste and fallow lands was a very important means of stepping up food production, he emphasised the need for detailed surveys of waste lands and for adopting soil conservation measures on the reclaimed lands. Describing the methods employed in other countries for land reclamation work, he suggested that India could profit by their experience in this respect.

Diversion from Cash Crops

The question of diverting some area at present under cash crops to foodgrains with a view to increase food grains production, a proposal which is a part of the Government of India's new plan of food self-sufficiency, was the subject of two papers read by Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Dr. N. L. Dutt.

Sardar Datar Singh in his paper expressed doubt about the possibility of transferring any area at present under jute and cotton to foodgrains without adversely affecting their production but felt that possibly some portion from the existing sugarcane area could be transferred.

He, however, thought that even without reducing the present area under cash crops, foodgrains production could be substantially increased by the following means. Land reclamation, major and minor irrigation projects, increased production and import of fertilisers; increased production of compost; full utilisation of sewage; green manuring; and increased cultivation of improved varieties and high yielding crops.

Dr. N. L. Dutt, however, felt that some of the area at present under sugarcane could be transferred to foodgrains without affecting in any way the present production of sugarcane in India. This area, he said, lies in parts of U. P. and Bihar where the production is low and therefore, uneconomical. "It is such land that should be diverted to food crops compulsorily, if necessary, and cane cultivation should on no account be encouraged in such fields," he said. According to him, about half a million acres could thus be diverted to foodgrains.

Cultural experiments, in other words, cultivation methods with a view to secure maximum production under certain conditions, were the subject of two other papers by Dr. P. C. Raheja and Mr. J. J. Chandani. Dr. Raheja discussed in his paper the question of deep *versus* shallow cultivation, time of application of fertilizers, depth of seeding, cultural

PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL IN INDUSTRIES

Pandit Nehru's Statement in Parliament

IN a statement on the Government's policy in regard to participation of foreign capital in India in the Dominion Parliament on April 6, Pandit Nehru said that the Government of India would gladly welcome the contribution of foreign investments "in a constructive and co-operative role in the development of India's economy."

The Prime Minister said:

Hon'ble Members will have noticed that no specific provision relating to participation of foreign capital in industries has been made in the Bill. We had thought at first that it would be necessary to make some specific provision, but we find on further examination that such regulation as is necessary can be secured through existing laws. The policy as regards participation of foreign capital has already been announced in broad terms in Government's resolution of the 6th April 1948.

The stress on the need to regulate, in the national interest, the scope and manner of foreign capital arose from past association of foreign capital and control with foreign domination of the economy of the country. But circumstances today are quite different.

The object of our regulation should therefore, be the utilization of foreign capital in a manner most advantageous to the country. Indian capital needs to be supplemented by foreign capital not only because our national savings will not be enough for the rapid development of the country on the scale we wish, but also because in many cases scientific, technical and industrial knowledge and capital equipment can best be secured along with foreign capital.

In this context, foreign investors would no doubt wish to have some clear indication of our policy on certain matters, like the repatriation of capital, the remittance of profits, and the treatment of foreign enterprise *vis-a-vis* Indian enterprise. I propose to make the policy of Government quite clear in this matter.

No Restrictions

In the first place, I would like to state that Government would expect all undertakings, Indian or foreign, to conform to the general requirements of their industrial policy. As regards existing foreign interests, Government do not intend to place any restrictions or impose any conditions which are not applicable to similar Indian enterprise. Government would also so frame their policy as to enable further foreign capital to be invested in India on terms and conditions that are mutually advantageous.

Secondly, foreign interests would be permitted to earn profits, subject only to regulations common to all. We do not foresee any difficulty in continuing the existing facilities for remittance of profits, and Government have no intention to place any restriction on withdrawal of foreign capital investments, but remittance facilities would naturally depend on foreign exchange considerations. If, however, any foreign concerns come to be compulsorily acquired, Government would provide reasonable facilities for the remittance of proceeds.

Thirdly, if and when foreign enterprises are compulsorily acquired, compensation will be paid on a fair and equitable basis as already announced in Government's statement of policy.

Effective Control in Indian Hands

Government have stated before that, as a rule, the major interest in ownership and effective control of an undertaking should be in Indian hands. They have also stated that power will be taken to deal with exceptional cases in a manner calculated to serve the national interest. Obviously there can be no hard and fast rule in this matter.

Government will not object to foreign capital having control of a concern for a limited period, if it is found to be in the national interest and each individual case will be dealt with on its merits. In the matter of employment of personnel, Government would not object to the employment of non-Indians in posts requiring technical skill and experience, when Indians of requisite qualifications are not available, but they attach vital importance to the training and employment of Indians even for such posts in the quickest possible manner.

I should like to add a few words about British interests in India which naturally form the largest part of foreign investments in India. Although it is the policy of the Government of India to encourage the growth of Indian industry and commerce (including such services like Banking, Shipping and Insurance) to the best of their ability, there is and will still be considerable scope for the investment of British capital in India. These considerations will apply equally to other existing non-Indian interests.

The Government of India have no desire to injure in any way British or other non-Indian interests in India and would gladly welcome their contribution in a constructive and co-operative role in the development of India's economy.

PROTECTION TO BICYCLE INDUSTRY

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 2, said:

On the recommendation of the Indian Tariff Board, the Government of India has decided to increase the rates of import duty on bicycles and bicycle spare parts and accessories from 24 per cent *ad valorem* (if of British manufactures) and 36 per cent *ad valorem* (if not of British manufacture) to 60 per cent and 70 per cent respectively.

The period of protection, which was due to expire on March 31, 1949, has been extended by three years under the Protective Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1949.



Members of the Polish Trade delegation who have come to India for trade negotiations with the Government of India photographed on arrival at Palam aerodrome, New Delhi, on April 5

BILL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIES

Dr. Mookerjee's Speech in Parliament

MOVING in Parliament on April 6, 1949, that the Bill to provide for the development, regulation and control of certain industries be referred to a Select Committee, the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, described the Bill as a landmark in the industrial legislation of India. He said it marked the beginning of planning for the industrial development of the country.

Here is the full text of Dr. Mookerjee's speech:—

Exactly this day last year, on the 6th of April, I had the honour of presenting before the House a statement of Industrial Policy of the Government of India. The House may well ask why it has taken just one year for the Government to come up before the House with its proposal to enact legislation for the purpose of implementing some of the important provisions of that statement. One of the main reasons was that we had not the constitutional power to legislate for some of the important matters which came within the purview of our statement of policy. The House will recall that in January last the Constitution Act was amended and we are now in a position to pass laws in relation to our new industrial policy as envisaged by the statement as approved by the House.

Object of Bill

Sir, the object of this Bill is to create a suitable legislative framework by virtue of which the industrial policy can be implemented. We have also proposed that the Industrial Disputes Act should be amended for the purpose of bringing within the purview of the Central Government the control of a centralised policy labour so far as the centralised industries are concerned.

This Bill, I would say, constitutes a landmark in the industrial legislation of India. It marks the beginning of planning for the industrial development of this country. No doubt it is somewhat imperfect in its approach for there cannot be any planning for the whole country unless we take into account the needs of agriculture, education, health and sanitation. I believe in the near future it will be possible for the Government of India to come before the House with proposals for a comprehensive planning which will add to the peace, prosperity and happiness of the people of this country. So far as industrial planning is concerned we have been proceeding with a certain amount of caution during the last few months. We have taken certain steps. They may appear as steps taken individually, but I would submit that we have tried to move as carefully as possible for the purpose of securing the largest good to the benefit of the people of this country.

There are some people who sometimes feel nervous when the word planning is uttered. But planning is nothing new even so far as this country is concerned. Previous to the war it was no doubt left to private industries to develop in such a way as they chose; there was no overall policy of the Government of the day. But the Indian National Congress appointed a National Planning Commission years ago, before Government contemplated the need for a systematic planning of the industrial and economic development of this country. Even apart from the valuable work which was done under the aegis of the Congres, the Government of India itself, when Sir Ardeshir Dalal was Member in charge of Development placed an industrial policy before the Legislative Assembly of the day and indicated that some sort of planning was essential if India is really to emerge as an economically strong nation in this world.

Advisory Planning Board's Report

We have also a valuable Report from the Advisory Planning Board which made certain suggestions in this direction. Soon after we came into office on August 15, 1947, we summoned an Industries Conference in Delhi which was attended by Provinces, States, representatives of industry and labour, and we evolved our national policy which was duly placed before Parliament on April 6, last. I would therefore submit that we are not doing anything revolutionary today, we are not doing anything new today which need make anybody feel nervous. The policy of Government has already been decided and accepted by the House. What we propose to do is to implement that policy and to take certain powers which would make it possible for Government to discharge the obligations which must obviously fall upon any national Government.

You will see from the Bill that the object is to select certain industries which we consider to be of all-India importance, and to provide a machinery for the purpose of securing their regulation and development.

So far as the list of industries is concerned, I do not wish to take the House through the details; an opportunity will come before the Select Committee as also at a later stage, when the justification for including those industries will obviously be debated upon. But you will notice, Sir, that there is one fundamental feature behind the preparation of that list. Whether you look at it from the point of view of the defence requirements of the country or from the point of view of utilisation of the vast raw materials that this country possesses, or from the point of view of the development of other industries for which certain basic industries must develop, the list of industries that we have included in the schedule is certainly capable of being fully justified. We do not, however, propose that it will be feasible for Government to give effect to all the industries that have been mentioned there. As you will see, we have provided for an exemption clause and if it appears to Government at any stage that exemption for a certain period may have to be given with regard to certain industries, no doubt necessary action will be taken.

One other important feature which the House will no doubt notice is that we have not included small industries. These industries do not touch the cottages the small and the medium-size industries which, according to the present policy of the Government, must develop in this country on a regional basis and in accordance with an all-India planning. We have emphasized over and over again that while it is essential that India must have a number of heavy industries for the purpose of securing national development, at the same time the prosperity of the country will lie in the development of smaller and medium-sized industries which, on an economic basis, may be developed in various parts of the country adding to the wealth and prosperity of the common man.

So far as the powers that we propose to take are concerned, there have been some criticisms in some sections of the Press and among some sections of the industrialists that the powers are too wide and sweeping in character. I may very briefly indicate here the procedure that we have followed in preparing this Bill.

How Bill was Prepared

We placed the outlines of this measure before the last meeting of the Industries Advisory Council which met in Delhi in January. At that meeting there were representatives of Provinces and States as also of industry and labour. Later on, we circulated a copy of this outline to all the Provinces in India and requested the Premiers to communicate to us the considered views of their Governments.

We also selected a small team of industrialists and labour representatives including men like Mr. Homi Mody, Mr. Birla, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. Khandubhai Desai Mr. Ashok Mehta. We discussed with and them the provisions of the Bill as also the proposals underlying the Bill. I am not suggesting that all these persons and bodies that we consulted were a hundred per cent in agreement with the proposals that I have the honour of bringing forward before the House today, but in any case there was a concensus of opinion that there must be some legislative enactment providing for development and regulation of important industries which from an all-India point of view had to be developed throughout the country.

There were some differences with regard to details into which I need not enter here, but at the time that the Bill is considered by the Select Committee, and later on by the House, I may assure

every section or interest represented here as also outside that any reasonable proposals which may be made by anybody will receive the most serious consideration of Government.

The question arises: what sort of machinery should be set up for the purpose of ensuring that the industries to develop in a way that we like them to develop, at the same time the Government do not interfere in the day-to-day working and create dislocation by such interference.

Another important point which arises is what should be the role of Provinces in respect of the development of such industries. If you refer to the statement of policy which I placed before you on April 6, 1948, you will find that that statement refers to certain classifications of the important industries. We first indicated that there would be some industries which would be under State control, State ownership and State management—100 per cent nationalised. There would be certain industries where, so far as their present undertakings are concerned, we will not interfere for a stated period, but so far as future development was concerned we would certainly prefer that they should develop under State ownership and management.

Then we have a series of about 15 industries in respect of which we declared that we will allow private enterprise a claim so far as that sphere was concerned, but it would be open to the State to establish any new industrial undertakings in respect of that sphere. That is a sphere which would be centrally regulated and controlled. Then we had the other undefined larger sphere of industrial activity which we left free to private enterprise altogether.

A Flexible Scheme

The House will find that we have made a very important change with regard to the structure of this Bill in the sense that we have not mentioned those categories separately. This was a matter which we considered very carefully amongst ourselves, the Ministers, as also the interests of the Provinces and the interests of industry, and we felt that it would be much better to have a flexible scheme whereby it would be open to Government to take over any industry if it so chooses, where it would be open to Government to start any new industrial undertaking if it is so advised, and at the same time it would be possible for private enterprise to come and develop industry in this country in accordance with a Centrally regulated policy.

The whole structure of the scheme is that all industries which are at present functioning will be registered within a certain date. This fact of registration means that it will give us complete information as regards the existence of the present industrial undertakings. This registration will apply to all industrial undertakings which may be in private hands or which may be in the hands of the Government.

With regard to new undertakings, we have laid down that there will be a system of licensing. Before any new industrial undertaking comes into existence, a licence will have to be taken out. Obviously it will not be necessary for the Central Government to take out a licence in respect of an industrial undertaking that it may itself establish, but at the same time I would like to assure the House and also people outside, that there is no intention whatsoever on the part of Government that there should be two different standards of approach with regard to industries which are in private hands and industries which may be in the hands of the Government. In other words, whatever policy that may be approved by Government, will apply equally to all industrial undertakings whether they are under private control or under State control. That, obviously, is the condition which many people will insist on Government accepting.

No Favoured Treatment

We do not want any favoured treatment to industrial undertakings which Government may bring into existence; rather, we would like that the full floodlight of public opinion should fall on such industrial undertakings for, after all, Government will be handling public funds and it will be open to Government to justify the successful working of such undertakings before the House as also before the public outside. This scheme of licensing will be done in accordance with the rules which will have to be framed under the Act.

Obviously, it is not possible that the entire framework should be decided here and now and embodied in the Bill. For this reason, rules have to be framed. But these rules should be framed in a manner which will secure that the opinion of provincial governments, the opinion of industries and the opinion of the House will also be reflected in the final preparation of these rules.

We have suggested that while the rules will be framed after consultation with the Advisory Council, to which I shall presently refer, the rules should be placed before the House and within a certain period during the session following the placing of such rules, it will be open to the House to make any changes that the House may choose to make in such rules and such changes will be binding on Government. We have deliberately made this flexible in this way. If we decide that every rule ought to come before this House and secure previous approval, it would become unworkable. On the other hand, if we said that the rules will never come before the House for discussion, that also would have taken away from the House its legitimate power to demand satisfaction in respect of matters of policy and even of administrative detail with regard to the industrial development of this country.

Now, so far as the Advisory Council is concerned, we have not indicated here what its composition will be, We are not prepared to accept a Council which will become more or less autonomous, a body sitting over the Government. The responsibility for giving effect to this Act must belong to the Government and the only authority which can change that Government will be the legislature to which the Government is responsible. But Government cannot and should not act arbitrarily.

We have therefore thought it desirable that this Advisory Council should come into existence. It should be a small business-like body including representatives of industries, labour and perhaps consumers, who may be in a position to speak with authority on questions which will come before the House.

We have indicated in the Bill itself that with regard to the major questions falling within the purview of the Bill, consultation with the Advisory Council will be compulsory. It is not possible for me to indicate in the Bill definitely that the advice given by the Advisory Council shall be acceptable, but I take it that if any Minister in charge of this Department overlooks the recommendation of an Advisory Council, obviously he may then be called upon to explain why he did so, and should be able to do so on grounds which can be justified not only before the Advisory Council but before the public at large.

So far as the powers that we have mentioned in the rules are concerned, you will see that we have taken the widest possible powers. We thought that these powers were necessary for the purpose of enabling Government to determine what the national industrial policy should be. If industrial undertakings are run properly and efficiently, there is no reason to suspect that any Government which is responsible to the House and to the country for the increasing betterment of the conditions of the people will act in an arbitrary way.

Essential Supplies Act

At the same time, so far as the present powers of Government are concerned, the powers which we are now exercising under the Essential Supplies Act or under some other emergency legislations are of a sweeping character. We have not taken very large powers. If necessary, amendment of the Act may be made later on, but we have simply indicated at this stage the sort of general powers that Government should take under the rules for the purpose of functioning properly with regard to the operation of this Bill.

There is one clause here to which I would make a special reference. If you refer to clause 7, we have said there that under some circumstances it may be open to the Government to take over the control and management of a particular industrial undertaking. There is some misgiving in the minds of industrialists lest this power should be exercised arbitrarily.

I may give this assurance that this power can only be exercised in an emergency or in circumstances where Government feel convinced that an industrial undertaking which is dealing with a vital industry, in order to be protected, has got to be taken over by Government for the time being. Government will not act in respect of this matter without previous consultation with the Advisory Council. In other words, the facts leading to such taking over will be placed before the Council which will include industrialists themselves.

You will see from the wording of clause 7 that we have indicated that previous notice should be given calling upon the industrial undertaking to do certain things or not to do certain things. It is only on its failure to carry out the instructions of Government, where Government feels that interference becomes urgently called for, that Government will proceed in the manner indicated in clause 7.

I would also refer to the power which Government proposes to take under the clause dealing with delegation. You may rightly ask: Are all these powers to be over-centralised at Delhi? That is not the intention of Government. It would be necessary to decentralise the power which will be now vested under this law in the Central Government, and those powers may be delegated either to provincial Governments or such authority or authorities as the Government may consider it fit and proper to constitute. But the power of delegation we have expressly made extremely wide in character for the purpose of the smooth working of the Act.

Penal Clauses

You will see next the provision with regard to penalty. There is none in the Government today, and I believe there is none in the House also, who would for a moment feel that we can either run an industrial undertaking or control and develop industry through police methods. That cannot be the intention of the policy of any Government. At the same time, there must be some penal clauses if there are breaches of the provisions of the law. We have indicated there that any prosecution order under the penal clause will be launched with the previous sanction of the Central Government of such authority as the Central Government may appoint.

It is not our intention that with regard to these important industries which we are regarding as of all-India importance, the provincial Governmments will launch prosecutions and thereby create confusion. There must be a central policy and for that reason the protection that we have indicated in the Bill relates powers given to the Central Government.

There is one section there dealing with the vicarious liability of companies. When there are companies whose authorities are responsible for not carrying out the provisions of the law, the question arises as to who will be deemed responsible in the eyo of the law. There are some legislative enactments where the vicarious liability vests in every Director, Manager or other officer.

The House may recall that in the last few months protests have been recorded from various quarters in this country dealing with industry against such a provision. This matter we considered very carefully. So far as the technical liability is concerned, the company has to be made liable, but so far as the actual liability is concerned, if it is possible for the company to nominate some officer or Director who will be deemed responsible for carrying out the provisions of the law, Government will not object. But the Government would certainly insist that every company should declare the responsible for carrying out the provisions of the law. If the company does that, then no question of any vicarious liability will arise so far as these copmanies are concerned.

You will see, Sir, also that we have made a provision so far as the taking over of any industrial undertaking is concerned. It will be done only by the Central Government or by a provincial Government with the previous concurrence of the Central Government. Thereby, we will make it possible that there will be no attempt on the part of particular provinces to act in any manner they like, but there will be an all round central policy, although it is quite possible and in fact, it is desirable that in many cases the actual operational part should be left in the hands of the provincial Government concerned.

Views of Provinces

I now come to the question of the provincial Governments. We have received from provincial Premiers letters with regard to the provisions of this Bill. Naturally, in some cases they do feel nervous that large powers should be taken over by the Central Government and the provinces may be placed in a more or less subordinate position. What is it that we are doing here? What we are doing is that we are laying down that there are certain industries in this country which can develop only if there is a centrally regulated policy. There are no two opinions in the country, and the provinces also agree, that a centrally regulated development is essential.

So far as the provinces are concerned, what are the points in respect of which they may rightly feel nervous. They may ask, if any provinical Government taking, will its case be considered by the Central Government in a fair and equitable way. We have indicated that that will depend on the circumstances in which such an industrial undertaking is brought into existence.

I may just give an illustration, say with regard to the steel works. We have before us now a proposal to establish two Steel works which may go to produce about one million tons of steel per year. Now, supposing you leave it to a particular provincial Government to decide where both of them or one of them will be located, obviously, it is not possible for the provincial Government to do so. What will happen is, as is happening now, the Central Government will obtain information from all the provinces on points such as availability of raw materials, transport facilities, economic conditions and so on and so forth, and then, in consultation with the provinces, ultimately take the responsibility for deciding where the works will actually be located.

Another point which the provinces have raised is of some importance. They ask, very well, if it is decided that, say five industrial undertakings should be established with regard to one particular industry, will it be left open to the provinces to decide as to who actually will run those established industrial undertakings within the province. Where obviously, if a new industrial undertaking is to come into existence in a province, the final permission should be given on the recommendation of the provincial Government. It will really depend on the way in which the whole scheme is worked in the months and years to come. It is not intended that the Central Government will act in a way which will ignore the needs of

INDO-YUGOSLAV TRADE AGREEMENT

THE Trade Agreement between India and Yugoslavia, which was signed on December 29, 1948 in Calcutta, has now been ratified by the Government of India and the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia.

Under this Agreement, which was signed by Mr. C. C. Desai, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, on behalf of India, and Mr. Merko Mermolja on behalf of Yugoslavia, India's exports to Yugoslavia will consist of:—

Jute manufactures, 5,000 tons; Linseed 1,000 tons; Coffee, raw 800 tons; Castor Oil 1,500 tons; Niger & Kurdi Seed 1,000 tons; Pepper 40 tons; Other Spices 10 tons; Nux Vomica 450 lbs; Tea 65,000 lbs; Coir Yarn 100 tons; Shellac 1.5 tons; Gum Arabic 5 tons; Sisal yarn 40 tons; Cotton, raw 5,000 tons; Medicinal Plants £ 5,000 in value; Cotton, textiles 2,000,000 yards; and Sillimanite Ore 200 tons.

The Agreement also provides for the following exports from Yugoslavia to India:—

Maize 20,000 tons; Calcium Carbide 3,000 tons; Zinc white 50 tons; Timber (Softwood) 60,000 tons; Newsprint 1,500 tons; Cement 50,000 tons; Cement-Asbestos Sheets 3,500 tons; Tea Chests 150,000 pieces; Enamelware Mugs, Buckets with lids £ 15,000 in value; Plate glass (10 oz. and over) Reinforced plate glass 200 tons; Maize starch 200 tons; Dextrine 150 tons; Denatured alcohol 1,000 tons; Plywood only of types suitable for tea chests 500 tons; Shoe lasts made of wood 100,000 pairs; Shoe heels made of wood 500,000 pairs; Various wooden products for school, Kitchen, hand tools, Sanitary installations and rulers £ 5,000 in value; Buttons, wooden 1,000,000 pieces. Wooden accessories for textile machinery £ 20,000 in value; Soda Ash 2,000 tons; Caustic soda 1,000 tons; Lead Minium 20 tons; Acetic Acid 50 tons; Cigarette paper 100 tons; Insecticides £ 5,000 in value; Agricultural tools £ 25,000 in value; Various iron household goods £ 5,000 in value; Pyrethrum £ 3,000 in value.

The Agreement will remain in force for 12 months after ratification, and, thereafter, for further successive periods as may be mutually agreed upon.

practices in soil, water conservation, drainage and other allied subjects.

Mr. Chandani while observing that among the various methods for increasing production cultural practices played a prominent part, emphasised the need for further research on this line under different conditions prevailing in different parts of the country. He detailed the results of various cultural experiments so far undertaken and remarked that the improved practices did not involve any extra cost on the part of the cultivator. He has to only work harder, he said.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

A plea to accord the highest priority for providing the cultivator with bullocks, iron and steel, and other agricultural requisites to enable him to carry out appropriate cultural operations was one of the main recommendations made by the Conference of Agricultural Scientists which concluded its deliberations on April 9, 1949.

The Conference which pleaded for an all-out effort to achieve self-sufficiency within the target date of 1951 began its four-day session on April 6 under the chairmanship of Dr. J. N. Mookerjee, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and discussed all the various methods of securing an immediate increase in food production, with particular reference to Government of India's declared intention of achieving freedom from imports within the next three years.

Working Party

To carry on sustained work, at scientific level, and to associate the accumulated experience of agricultural scientists with the Government's efforts in achieving food self-sufficiency a "Working Party" of the conference was appointed at the suggestion of Shri K.L. Punjabi, Secretary, Central Ministry of Agriculture, who participated in the deliberations at the concluding session.

It was decided that the main conference would meet once every year but the Working party which is a Standing Committee of the Conference would carry on day to do work concerning the recommendations made by the conference, and would keep close liaison with Government in its food production drive.

Lack of Facilities

The Conference felt that due to lack of facilities, such as insufficiency of bullocks, want of materials, e.g., steel, iron, bricks, cement etc., agricultural operations were greatly retarded and the resultant loss in output has sometimes reached as much as 20 to 30 per cent of the total production. The Conference recommended that timely and adequate supply of material and facilities to the cultivators must be given the highest priority and observed that this alone would make up at least 60 per cent of our total shortage in foodgrains within the next one or two years.

Another subject for which the Conference recommended the highest priority was the production of green manures and the inclusion of legumes in crop rotations. It was felt that if energetic and immediate steps were taken for cultivation of green manures, a very substantial contribution of the order of several millions of tons of food grains could be had from this source alone.

Green manure constitutes the most important source of nitrogen as plant food, both from the short and long-term point of view of the food self-sufficiency plan. Besides, it is applicable equally for rainfed and irrigated conditions. It also constitutes valuable fodder for cattle.

Fertilisers and Composts

The Conference emphasised the great importance of fertilisers in any plan of increased food production and recommended that all possible measures should be taken to import fertilisers in sufficient quantities during the next few years as indigenous production was not likely to be appreciable before the Sindri Fertiliser factory started operation.

The most important source of phosphatic fertilisers available in India is bone, of which it is estimated that about one million tons could be procured in the country. The Conference suggested that steps should be taken to utilise this indigenous resource to the fullest possible extent, both for industrial purposes as well as for fertilising the land.

The question of making greater use of oilcakes as manures also engaged the attention of the Conference but it felt that not much increase in production was expected from this source. Moreover, it was opined that increased use of oilcakes as manure should not be encouraged as they constituted the most important cattle feed, both for milch cattle as will as bullocks.

For preventing the use of cowdung cakes as fuel, the Conference suggested the establishment of village forests where quick-growing trees could be planted, thus providing fuel for the cultivator as well as grazing land for the cattle.

The Government of India's drive for preparing compost out of town and city refuse was commended and the conference suggested that the work should be encouraged by all possible means near the towns and cities.

The conference also recommended that minor irrigation projects should be given the highest priority as they could contribute to immediate increase in food production. In this connection, it was suggested that lift irrigation by pumping water from rivers, internal lakes, tanks, wells etc., should be pursued with the greatest vigour. To ensure the availability of sufficient bullock power for agricultural operations, the conference drew attention to the large number of bullocks which were now being used in the country for non-agricultural purposes. It suggested that wherever possible, mechanical transport should be substituted for bullock power, so that more bullocks were available for cultural operations.

"MAKE CONSCIOUS EFFORTS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION"

—Shri Jairamdas Daulatram

"Agriculturists must associate themselves with the Government's plan of food self-sufficiency and make conscious efforts to increase food productions; only then the determination of the Government of India to achieve freedom from import of foodgrains by 1951 can be achieved," said the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, inaugurating the Annual Conference of the Federation of Rural People's Organisation which was held on April 7, at Khanjhawala, a village about 14 miles from Delhi on the Delhi-Rohtak road. Prof. N. G. Ranga, Member, Constituent Assembly of India, presided.

Co-operative Endeavour

In an ideally rural setting with smiling fields around full of ripe wheat and gram, the meeting was attended by representatives of about 200 village panchayats in the Delhi Province and others directly concerned with Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Minister emphasising the need for intensive cultivation pleaded for co-operative endeavour on the part of the agriculturist and said that if the 360 villages of Delhi Province organised themselves into Panchayats with the object of increasing foodgrains production, substantial results could be secured. He cited the example of other countries, particularly of Japan, where he said an agriculturist having four acres of land met almost all the requirements of his food, cloth and other amenities of life from the land itself. This was possible, he said, because intellect was wedded to the cultivation of the soil.

The Government, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said, will do their best to help the agriculturists in their requirements of improved seed, manure, iron and steel etc., but unless the agriculturists, as a whole, made a conscious effort towards increasing food production, Government's efforts could not do much.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said that at present India had to import foodgrains worth more than 100 crores of rupees from foreign countries. These imports are mostly in wheat and rice. Shortage in wheat has occurred because most of the wheat-growing areas of the Punjab and the entire wheat-growing area of Sind have gone over to Pakistan. In rice, India had some shortage during the pre-war days but it used to be met by regular imports from Burma and other neighbouring countries. He urged upon the agriculturists to make concerted effort to wipe out this shortage so that the economic freedom of the country could be assured.

Did You Know that..

During 1948 a total of 3,44,521 acres of cultivable waste land was brought under cultivation in provinces of the Indian Union producing 16,00,369 maunds of additional foodgrains.

The total amount of subsidy estimated to be paid by the Government of India to the Provinces and States during 1948-49 is Rs. 22.52 crores or Re. 80 per ton for all cereals and for all recipient areas.

During 1948 over 28 lakh tons of foodgrains imported from abroad were moved to deficit areas in addition to 476,000 tons procured from internal sources. On an average, about 40 foodgrain ships were handled monthly at different Indian ports.

124,492 wells have been sunk or repaired under Grow More Food Campaign since 1943 in various provinces.

India suffers annually an aggregate loss of about 20 per cent of her aricultural production due to plant pests and diseases alone. The estimated annual loss of foodgrains is about 8 million tons.

Telegrams intended for South Korea should be written in Korean, English and French languages only. Those in Code or Cypher will not be admitted. This restriction does not apply to Government telegrams, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on April 9.

FINISH TARGETS AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULE

Agriculture Minister's Appeal to Tractor Workers

"LET us finish our targets in advance of the schedule and show to the world that the youth of India does not in any way lag behind the youth of any other country in serving the cause of the nation", declared the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, addressing the drivers and mechanics of the Central Tractor Organisation of the Government of India on the occasion of the Second Anniversary of the Organisation which was held in New Delhi on April 2, 1949.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said that the Government of India had announced their determination to achieve freedom from imports after 1951 and in this serious task that had been set before the country, he urged that every one must contribute his full share. In order to win a war, not only the General must plan but the soldiers also must fight well individually and collectively; only then can victory be assured.

He congratulated the winners of prizes. He also thanked the officials who had contributed to the Trophy presented to the tractor unit which had done the best ploughing operations. The tractor unit exceeded the target of 10,000 acres fixed for it. He expressed the hope that all those who were participating in the reclamation work were keeping themselves in touch with Government policies and decisions.

National Task

Government have come to the decision that the country must make up the small food shortage of 10 per cent by 1951. Intensive work has to be done to reach this target by the end of the coming six seasons. In this national task, all those who are operating the tractors had to play a part. They had an important place in the scheme of production. They should be conscious of the part they were playing in national reconstruction. No war can be won unless the soldiers co-operate in winning it. The share of the soldiers in a victroy is as great as anybody else's. He, therefore, hoped that they will look upon themselves as participants in a big fight to free India from the shame of importing food from outside. Those who were now working were the pioneers in a big programme of reclamation which must ultimately cover the crores of acres now lying waste. The beginning is small but those who are making the beginning will have a big place in a history of the programme.

He knew of the difficulties they were sometimes experiencing. He knew that they had some complaints in regard to allowances and work. All legitimate complaints would be looked into. They should by all means get their difficultics solved but as the great task on which they were engaged was not a task which they were doing for any particular officer or person but for the people of their own country, they should not ever think of stopping work. Government has recently appointed a Labour Welfare Officer who would be their representative and get their occasional difficulties solved but their ambition should be not merely to complete their task in time but go beyond the targets set for them.

He announced that Government had decided to give prizes to the Driver and Mate in each of the tractor units now working who showed a record of largest area reclaimed at the end of the present season.

Mr. D. R. Sethi, Agricultural Development Commissioner of the Government of India and Chairman of the Central Tractor Organisation, in welcoming the Hon'ble Minister to the function said that the motto of the organisation was: "nothing is impossible of achievement" and urged upon every member of the organisation to work up to it.

TIGHTENING UP OF FOOD CONTROL MEASURES

The Government of India, in a recent communication addressed to all Provincial and State Governments, have urged the necessity of tightening the measures for the legal enforcement of all Food Control and Rationing Orders. The communication says that in the present food emergency strict enforcement of the food control and economy measures are of paramount importance. Provincial Governments have been asked to review their food control measures, adding to or amplifying them wherever necessary, so as to close all avenues for black-marketing, hoarding, smuggling or unlicensed distribution or consumption of food.

Special Enforcement Branches

Instances of corruption in the staff administering the control measures should be dealt with firmly and severely and wide publicity should be given to food offences, convictions and punishments so as to serve as a deterrent to would-be offenders.

Among the various measures suggested to Provincial Governments are the establishment of Special Enforcement Branches with a view to arrange for proper training in the detection of cases and collection of proper evidence as in a number of cases, culprits escape for lack of evidence. Supervision at octroi barriers in the rationed area, surprise checks on the retailers and other establishments to eliminate black-marketing, steps to eliminate bogus ration cards and finally, efforts towards enlisting public support to the control measures have also been suggested for implementation.

particular provinces, and ignore the importance of regional development of industries in this country. At the same time, when the matter cannot be decided by one province, in particular, the only authority that can decide for all the provinces must be the Central Government. But, I can assure the House and through the House the Provinces as well, that in the working out of this scheme, as we have ourselves laid down in clause 10, one of the policies of the Government will be to see that the provincial Government is consulted and kept in the picture at every possible stage. This matter will be examined further when the Bill goes to the Select Committee.

Now, while dealing with the provinces, there is one other aspect which I would ask the House to bear in mind. You will see that this Bill deals only with the regulated development and control of the industries. We have not deliberately touched distribution of the finished goods; we have not deliberately touched the control of prices. These are matters which we have not touched. We have only envisaged in this Bill the desirability of an all India planning for industrial development and also the development of certain industries which are of all India importance.

In other words, as the House remembers, according to our present Constitution, unless the Central legislature passes laws with regard to distribution, fixation of prices and so on and so forth, the matter will remain in the hands of the provinces. But, with regard to the centrally regulated industries, if the Central Legislature passes laws with regard to these matters, then, the provincial laws will stand superseded. But, we have not touched that point yet. If we desire to take powers in respect of these spheres later on, we will have to consider the matter carefully, consult the provinces and come before the House only after such consideration has been concluded.

Fears of Industrialists

I take, Sir, lastly, the fears that may exist in the minds of the industrialists. As I have said, this Bill is not a surprise measure. This Bill is nothing new or revolutionary, although I regard it certainly as a measure of considerable importance which enables the Government to reach its goal by a process of evolution. What were the options which were left open to the Government? I know that there are extremists on both sides who may not be satisfied with this Bill.

There may be industrialists who may feel that any interference on the part of the Government with regard to their activities will be prejudicial to their interests. Fortunately, the number of such industrialists is now extremely limited. When I find co-operation coming in the framing of this Bill from industrialists like Mr. Homi Mody, Mr. Birla, and Sir Shri Ram, I take it that the principal industrialists of India today have come to attain a new consciousness. They have realised that in their own interests and in the interests of the country as a whole, they must completely identify themselves with the interests of the nation whose spokesman the Government certainly claims to be.

At the same time, there will be some industrialists who may feel that the powers which are being taken over by the Government are too drastic in character. I would certainly welcome a discussion of this problem, if not today, later on, when the Bill comes back to the House from the Select Committee and I hope, Sir, that I shall be able to convince any industrialist with the way in which the entire framework has been drawn up.

Balanced Industrial Policy

It is not intended at all to interfere with the working of any *bona fide* industrialist of this country. The House has accepted the policy of the Government that our industrial policy will be of a balanced type. We do not want to do away with the existing state of affairs completely. We do not want to create chaos and confusion. What we want is that these important industries should develop in this country not on a merely profit basis, but in a way which will be calculated to advance the best interests of the people at large.

The industrialists know as well as we do that left to themselves today, they can do nothing. We want raw materials, we want capital goods coming from foreign countries, we want technical assistance, we want to raise capital in so many ways. The industrialists will desire to get assistance. Which industrialist is there in India today who can stand up and say that unaided by Government, they can go ahead? They cannot. They have to come to the Government at every step. It is therefore necessary that the Government, the industrialists and the interests represented by labour should combine in an all-out effort for the purpose of strengthening the economic structure of this country.

So far as the criticisms from the other side are concerned, it is urged that the powers taken by the Government are too limited. When I find extremists on both sides criticising this Bill, I feel satisfied in my own mind that we have struck the right chord and that we are just proceeding on lines which will be calculated to benefit the people as a whole.

Sir, it is not my intention to go further into the details today. Should, in the course of today's debate, any other points be raised, I shall no doubt try to give replies to them but the only point which I would like to emphasise before I sit down is that I am fully conscious of the grave responsibilities that Government is taking in bringing forward such a measure before the House. For I cannot ignore that the development of all these industries will depend not merely on the way in which industry and labour will react but also on the manner in which Government itself will discharge the obligations which it is taking upon itself under this Bill.

In other words, it must be a new outlook on the part of Government as well. Government exists not for the purpose of merely criticising others, not for the purpose of creating obstacles but for sitting together with other interests and solving difficulties and obstacles.

It will depend, therefore, on the machinery which Government succeeds in creating, which will create confidence in the minds of industrialists, labour and the public and which will make it possible for Government to run that machinery efficiently and quickly. There is a lot of criticism which is made that when Government touches anything, it creates new problems. Now obviously these are criticisms which we will have ourselves to remove. We are to look at the matter from a completely new angle of vision. We are trying to develop the resources of this country in the quickest time possible, pooling together all the available resources no matter what may be the political ideology of parties or persons involved. It is an all-out effort on the part of the present Government to give a call to all interests so that we may carry into effect the policy which we have already announced and I am sure that if that co-operation is forthcoming, we will be able to make a success of this measure.

JAPAN A HARD CURRENCY AREA

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 11, said:

Information has been received the the Supreme Commander for Allied Powers in Japan urgently needs the following commodities, and has invited offers, f. o. b. India or c. i. f. Japan, for raw Cotton, raw Jute, Hides and Skins, Oil seeds, spinable Cotton waste, raw Wool suitable for the manufacture of carpets, Woollens and coarse tweeds, Hemp, Drugs and Medicines (Santonine Nux Vomica and Chal Moogra seed), Bone sinews, Hides fleshing, Animal hair (camel hair), Bristles, lac and Shellac.

The Supreme Commander for Allied Powers has been experiencing difficulty in negotiating purchases for want of the presence of local representatives of Indian business houses in Japan. Quota holders of articles such as oils and oil seeds and intending exporters of other articles are therefore advised to contact SCAP immediately in order to arrange sales.

In view of the present balance of payments position, Japan will be treated as a hard currency country for purposes of exports from India to Japan which are shipped before the end of May 1949.

This decision will apply to shipments of raw jute, raw cotton, oils and oilseeds as well as various other items which are either under Open General Licence or allowed freely for export to hard currency countries.

It should be noted, however, that shipments made after May will not necessarily fall in the category of exports to hard currency countries. Therefore all commitments regarding exports which are permitted in view of the treatment of Japan as a hard currency country must be such as can be fulfilled before the end of May 1949.



Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (second from left) Minister for Industry and Supply, presiding over a conference held in New Delhi on April 11 to discuss cotton control

COTTON CONTROL AND PRICES

New Delhi Conference Discussions

A PRESS NOTE issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 11 said:

Representatives of Provincial and State Governments from cotton growing areas, the East India Cotton Association, the All India Central Cotton Committee, and other cotton interests met on April 11, 1949, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, to discuss all aspects of cotton control, including the fixation of prices of cotton for the next crop.

Among those present were the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, the Hon'ble Shri R. K. Patil, Minister of Supplies, C. P., Chief Secretaries of Madhya Bharat, Saurashtra and Rajasthan, Messrs. M. Ananthasayanam Ayangar, T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Mohanlal Gautam, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Chunni Lal B. Mehta, Bhawanji Bhai, Nawab Zain Yar Jang Bahadur, R. C. Saraiya, representatives of the Bombay and Madras Government as well as representatives of other Central Ministries concerned.

There was concensus of opinion in the meeting that in view of the Government of India's general policy to fight inflation, cotton control should continue for the present. The meeting also agreed that, whatever revision might be necessary in the prices of cotton and the differentials between the basic price and the prices of different qualities of cotton, the new prices should come into force from the next crop year only and should not, in any way, affect the present cotton crop and stock.

The meeting decided to set up an *ad hoc* committee consisting of representatives of the Provincial and State Governments concerned to examine and report what revision, if any, should be made in the premia for superior varieties and staples of cotton, as related to the price of the basic type of cotton, *viz.*, 25-32 inches Jrilla.

It was generally agreed that the prices of cotton should be correlated with the prices of foodgrains and other competing crops so that the provincial plans for increasing food production should not be adversely affected. It was also agreed that the production of cotton could be increased without in any way affecting the plans for increasing food production, and that the necessary action should be taken immediately.

Requisitioning of Stocks

It was also the general view that, in the present cotton stock position, Provincial and State Governments should not hesitate to use their powers to requisition cotton stocks, wherever necessary, and that the Central Government also should take legal powers in this respect as soon as possible. It was, however, considered that while requisitioning cotton stocks care should be taken by the Provincial or State Government concerned not to interfere with *bona fide* purchases by mills.

The meeting was of the view that there should be no unnecessary restrictions on the movement of raw cotton from one province or State to another.

It was also agreed that in view of the favourable cotton position outside India, imports should be liberally allowed.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in his closing remarks thanked all those present for coming to the conference and assured them that the views expressed by them would be given careful consideration by Government. He hoped that after considering the recommendations of the meeting, Government will be able to announce its decisions before the end of this month.

SALE OF QUININE SALTS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Health on April 15 said:

Before April 1, 1948, quinine sulphate, quinine bi-sulphate, quinine hydrochloride, quinine bi-hydrochloride imported under licence into India could be cleared from the Customs only after the importer had given an undertaking to sell 60 per cent of the consignment to Government at the prescribed rates, and to sell the remaining 40 per cent at the same rates to persons or institutions approved by Government.

With effect from April 1, 1948, these conditions were relaxed and consignments of these quinine salts imported under licence were allowed to be cleared on the importer giving an undertaking not to sell them at prices above the prescribed rates and to submit quarterly reports to Government showing the disposal of the quinine.

In view of the further improvement in the supply position, the Government of India have decided to relax this condition also. Hereafter the importers of quinine will not be required to sign any undertaking for the clearance of the consignments from the Customs nor will they be required to submit quarterly reports to Government showing how the quinine has been disposed of.

EXPORT OF ART BRASSWARE DECONTROLLED

In pursuance of the policy of progressive decontrol, the Government of India has decided to remove from control the export of Art Brassware to all countries, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 4.



Dr. S. P. Mookerjee presiding over a meeting of the Textile Advisory Committee held in New Delhi on April 12 to review the working of textile control in India

TEXTILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

THE Textile Advisory Committee, which comprises of representatives of millowners, traders, labour, consumers, the Handloom Industry and dealers and millstores and raw cotton, met on April 12 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 12, 1949.

It added : The Committee reviewed the working of the Textile Control since it last met in September 1948. The reasons for accumulations of cloth and yarn at the mills were examined by the Committee which felt that though, there has been an appreciable improvement during the last three months, it was desirable to adopt measures for speedier movement of cloth from the mills to the consumers.

The Committee discussed the recent relaxations allowed by Government in the matter of disposal of accumulated stocks of cloth packed in December last and previous months. It recommended that these relaxations should be extended to future accumulations of stocks. It also recommended that the present practice of allotting stocks at the end of the month on receipt of statistics regarding packed bales should be improved upon by making advance allocations of anticipated production up to the extent of 50 per cent of estimates.

The Committee examined the question of linking up of mills to Provinces and States and recommended that further steps in this direction would have to be postponed in view of the difficult raw cotton position this year.

The Committee considered that there was no need to take a pessimistic view of the raw cotton position next season and to hold up the progress of the Post-war Textile Expansion Plan. It recommended however, that new machinery and spindles should, as far as possible, be allotted to existing mills for the purpose of replacement or expansion in preference to the setting up of new units of production.

Uniform Price Structure

The Committee examined the claims of uneconomic mills for an extra price. It was of the view that the present uniform price structure should continue, but there would be no objection to uneconomic mills being given some assistance through an allowance of a portion of the 20 per cent margin between ex-mill and retail prices. Such assistance would not increase the prices to the consumer, but would help to retain uneconomic units in production.

The Committee examined the question of the development of the millstores and accessory industries in India and set up a sub-committee to go into the question further. This sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Shri Ram, G. D. Birla, Krishnaraj M. D. Thackersey, S. G. Bhagwati, a representative of a prominent millstores firm, the Textile Commissioner and the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies will report on the matter to Government.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee appealed to the mills to furnish information regarding the statistics in time and in the form required by the Textile Commissioner.

Winding up the proceedings, Dr. Mookerjee said that the recommendations of the Committee would be given the most careful consideration by Government; and that, in particular the suggestion for quality control over exports would be immediately taken up with the Commerce Ministry.

FOREIGN GOODS IMPORTED VIA PAKISTAN

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) on April 5, 1949, said :

Foreign goods imported into India from Pakistan are exempt from payment of duty in India, provided the Customs Collector or the Assistant Collector of Central Excise concerned is satisfied as regards the identity of the goods, that import duty was paid on them in Pakistan before March 1, 1948 and that no drawback was obtained at the time of export from Pakistan.

This concession, initially granted to cover goods shipped or despatched from Pakistan up to September 30, 1948, was extended up to March 31, 1949, as a measure of relief to importers who could not obtain their goods by the former date.

It has been represented to the Government of India that there are still quantities of goods held up and awaiting export to India. The Government of India has accordingly decided as a special case further to extend the period of concession so as to cover goods shipped or despatched from Pakistan up to June 30, 1949, subject to the existing terms and conditions governing the exemption.

Importers should note that no further extension will be granted.



Dr. S. P. Mookerjee addressing the textile conference held in New Delhi on April 13

WORKING OF TEXTILE CONTROL REVIEWED

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 13 said :

The operation of textile control was reviewed today at a conference presided over by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, at which representatives of provincial and State Governments and members of the Textile Advisory Committee were present. Among the provincial and States Ministers present were those of Bombay, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir State.

The Conference expressed its general satisfaction at the working of the textile control and urged its continuation. It accepted the recommendation of the Textiles Advisory Committee that, in future allocations to provinces and States to the extent of 50 per cent of estimated production should be made in the month in which the bales are packed, instead of the first week of the following month, as at present. This should result in a speedy reduction of accumulated stocks of cloth with mills. The accumulations of cloth are not generally heavy at present, although those of yarn, specially of medium and coarse varieties, are fairly large.

The conference also agreed in principle to the recommendation of the Textile Advisory Committee that stocks of cloth and yarn not lifted by the provincial buyers within a month of allocation should be allowed to be disposed of by the mills through buyers of their own choice. If such buyers or wholesalers are not included in the list already approved by the province or State concerned its approval would be obtained.

Distribution arrangements in the provinces and States were reviewed and it was agreed that where these were working reasonably well, they need not be disturbed.

Regarding the profit margins over ex-mill prices, it was considered that the existing 20 percent margin in the case of cloth and 15 per cent in the case of yarn might continue for the present but provinical taxes, local octroi, administrative charges, and the like should be included within these margins. Sales tax imposed by another province may, however, be paid outside the quota of 20 per cent.

Classification of Mills

It was decided that the possibility of linking mills in surplus zones with consuming areas should be further investigated. In this connection, the desirability of classifying mills into three broad divisions, namely, good, average and inferior, was discussed. The conference urged that mills which used to supply their stocks to particular provinces in the past should, as far as possible, continue to be associated with them.

The question of improving the quality of production was considered in detail. It was generally agreed that the results of the recently introduced production control, which should be effectively pursued, may be watched for a little while longer before any decision was taken in respect of linking mills with provinces. It was, however, agreed that mills in deficit zones should be required to produce more and more of the varieties of cloth and yarn required for consumption of the zones concerned.

It was agreed that there should be no restrictions on movement of handloom cloth between one province and another for such period as the Central Government may decide. In the case of imported cloth, over the distribution of which there is no control, movement should be freely allowed by the Textile Commissioners concerned.

As regards statistics, it was decided that their simplification and methods for improving their collection should be examined by a small committee including the Director of Industrial Statistics.

Winding up the proceedings, Dr. Mookerjee described the organisation of the Enforcement staff and appealed to the provinces and States to extend to it their full co-operation.

NEW GOVERNOR OF U. P.
Shri H. P. Mody

"His Excellency the Governor-General has appointed Shri H. P. Mody to be Governor of the United Provinces," said a Press Communique issued from Government House on April 6, 1949.

Shri Mody assumed charge of his Office on May 1.

SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR ON ROLE OF FILMS IN NATIONAL LIFE

MOVING in the Dominion Parliament on April 8, that the Bill to amend the Cinematograph Act of 1918 be taken into consideration, the Hon'ble Shri R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting said :

This is a very small amendment of the Cinematograph Act of 1918, amended by the Act of 1934. The reason for this amendment is that today film censorship, which is a provincial subject, permits the passing or restricting or banning of films without taking into consideration whether a particular film is good enough for universal exhibition or fit only for adults or fit for children only. No such discrimination can be made by the film censors today.

Therefore it was found necessary that in order to discriminate between films which may be suitable for adults but may not be suitable for children or adolescents, some legislation of this kind should be passed. This matter was then examined and provincial Governments were consulted. The provincial Governments thought that this provision was necessary but that if they were, to pass this legislation there would be different provisions in different provinces and certain anomalies would arise.

Hon'ble Members know that film censorship though a provincial subject today, is sought to be made a Central Government's function and at the last session of the Constituent Assembly an amendment was moved to the Government of India Act by which this Parliament is authorised to pass legislation to that effect. But that may come later. Even before that, as it is, in order that some discrimination may be made between films which are suitable for adults and not suitable for children and adolescents, this amendment is considered necessary. In order that it may be uniform in all the Provinces, this Bill has been moved in this Parliament.

Importance of Industry

It is needless for me to emphasise the necessity for such a Bill. What happens today is that when a film comes before a film censor, if there are even very small portions which are not very suitable for being seen by children and adolescents, the whole film is banned. Thus an otherwise artistic and good film has to go by the board; there is no discrimination which can be exercised today under the present law. That is the main reason why this amendment is being moved, here empowering the provincial Censors and Censor Boards to go into the matter and see if a particular film is suitable for all or only for adults. That power is sought to be given by this amendment.

I may here explain also that the whole film industry is growing in importance and there are a number of different aspects of this industry. But the scope of this particular Bill is very restricted and there is no intention of expanding that scope so far as this amendment is concerned. But since the whole film industry is an important one and as I see from the number of amendments tabled that Hon'ble Members are also taking a keen interest in the matter, I am alive to the situation and a thorough inquiry is going to be made into the film industry from all points of view. It is then that this House may go into the different aspects of the question, as regards the time that a film should be shown, the length of the film and a number of other considerations which may come in.

As I glance at the amendments tabled here I see that a number of amendments are of that nature. It is natural that these amendments have come before the House; but I beg to submit that since the object of this particular amendment is very restricted it is better that we concentrate upon this one single aspect, postponing the consideration of other aspects when a more comprehensive Bill is to be introduced in this House. We shall have ample opportunity at that time to go into the whole matter when the inquiry committee makes its own recommendations on different aspects and a suitable Bill is framed in terms of these recommendations. Therefore I would like to request Hon'ble Members to see that we restrict ourselves to consider this one single important aspect and leave the matter there.

Reasons for Discrimination

Now the main considerations which weigh with us when we see a film are these. Some people would say that if it is a bad and unsuitable film we should completely ban it; why make a discrimination between a film which is suitable for adults only and not suitable for children and adolescents? But as we look at the films that are coming up and also as we look at the law that exists in some of the foreign countries we see that a discrimination is made. In fact in a number of other things also we make this discrimination between children and adolescents on the one side and adults on the other. In clubs or in dance halls or some such other places membership is restricted only to adults.

So it is on the same principle but for a number of considerations that this amendment has been introduced here. For instance, among films there are what are called horrific films where bloody scenes of murder or sudden catastrophes such as fire or thunder occur. Now adults can very easily stand it, and possibly sometimes in the course of a story all these have to be shown. But if such films are shown to children and adolescents they may act on the tender nervous system and emotional structure of younger people and therefore, they may be said to be unsuitable for children and adolescents.

Then there might be crime films which glorify crime and make a robber or dacoit a hero for the time being; possibly at the end he is punished and real retribution follows the crime that he has committed. It might happen that in the course of showing a film children and adolescents might be impressed only by the glorification part of it but might not catch the retribution part of it. Thus it might be said that such a film may be suitable for adults but it is certainly not suitable for children and adolescents. That is another illustration that I am giving.

Then there is another type where not only crimes but details of crimes are shown. We have experience that many a time children pick up these details and try to imitate them, whereas it might be that for adults who have grown and who are not so weak as to take impressions so easily or whose fibre may be a little tougher this may not be unsuitable. Not that I advocate these films being shown to adults. If they are not good for adults or grown up men they should of course be banned: there is provision under the film censorship powers to ban them. But I am making a distinction where certain things might be suitable or might be not very harmful to adults but which would be positively harmful to children and adolescents.

Social Customs

Then the same may be said of what are called sexy or sex films where passionate love-making is shown on the screen. In this matter also, of course it depends upon the taste and upon the customs and manners of certain countries as to which of such films should be shown, how far people should go and should not go to such pictures. All these are matters which are dictated by what may be called social customs and social privileges and social opinions of the particular times and of the particular countries.

But I wanted to make a distinction between certain matters which may be shown to adults and which adults may stand but which children and adolescents cannot positively stand. In the same way there might be certain problems which might be beyond the comprehension of children and adolescents. It is no use showing these films to them and trying to exercise their minds beyond the power of comprehension which they have.

I may cite here certain geological films, or for instance, a film about palaeobotany, of which a research station was recently opened by the Prime Minister. Some such subjects might be beyond the comprehension of children and it is no use showing these to them. I may also cite astronomical Mathematics or such other subject.

Then there might also be certain films, for instance, where in respect for general morality or good conduct or sense of justice is undermined. In the case of adults whose opinions are to a certain extent formed and who are not likely to misunderstand, to them certain films might be shown. But where respect for morality and justice are undermined on the screen, they should be completely banned so far as children and adolescents are concerned.

These are the real reasons why we should not show certain films to children. But unless we empower the censors to ban them they cannot do it today under the law as it stands. Therefore, when the industry as well as the provincial Governments were consulted in this matter, the different film associations in different parts of India were practically unanimous in saying that such a provision is necessary, and the provincial Governments too agreed to such a provision. That is why this matter has been taken up and this amendment has been moved in this House.

Now I may also say a few words about the types of amendments that have been sent down, so that Hon'ble Members may have occasion to see that it may not be very relevant or useful here to discuss those amendments and that they might well be postponed to a day when a more comprehensive Bill is bound to come before this House after due enquiry has been made into this industry.

There is the question for instance of the hours when films ought to be shown. There is an amendment which says that any film or cinema show should not run for more than 2 hours. There is also another amendment which says that films should be shown to children and adolescents only during the day and not at night after nine o'clock. Some such amendments are there.

My plea is that all these amendments are good in themselves. They ought to be considered but then they do not fall into line with the particular amendment that has been moved now and the purpose of which is a restricted one.

Films for Children

Then there is the question of age. In this Bill I have put 18 years as the age, including naturally children and adolescents who may be excluded from the category of adults. In certain other countries, like Denmark, Australia and England especially from where we could get details about such provision, the age has been put down as 16. There are a number of amendments proposing that the age should be raised to 21. Some of them of course say that the age should be brought down to 16. There were Hon'ble Members who said that the age should be 25.

But taking into consideration all these different suggestions, I think that so far as our country is concerned—the type of education and the type of understanding that our children have—18 is a very reasonable age. It is also said to be the age of discretion and it has nothing to do with the age of 21 for instance, which is the age for franchise. In our Constitution an adult is described or defined as one who has attained the age of 21. This bill has nothing to do with the exercise of votes or the understanding which may be necessary for voting purposes.

Here we are more concerned with what is called the power of understanding or the power of discretion. So 18 may be said to be the age of discretion, and therefore I would request Honourable Members to think about this provision and not to press the amendments as regards changing the age limit.

Then there is the question of the responsibility of showing restricted films to children of the age of 18 or below. In all cases where such provisions exist, so far as we have studied those provisions, the responsibility is on the exhibitors. Of course, certain rules might be framed and certain precautions may be taken, by the exhibitors whereby they may be able to prove their *bona fides*, but ultimately the responsibility does lie on the exhibitors and on nobody else.

To put the responsibility on anybody else would be going against the very principle on which the Cinematograph Act has been framed. It will be going out of the way and out of the line, and therefore whatever provision we make we have to make it in accordance with the original Cinematograph Act as it stands, and therefore that is also an important consideration.

Reply to Debate

Replying to the debate Shri Diwakar said : I am very glad that some of my friends here have contributed to the debate on this important subject. But at the same time I must point out that some of the speeches made, at least parts of them, were not made with the realisation that the point at issue is a very small one. Of course, it might be that I have come before the House with a very small Bill, but then there is a history about it. This Bill was ripe for introduction as long ago as the August 31, of last year when it was moved. Since then it has been there and I am now responsible for introducing it.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : You are holding another man's baby ?

SHRI R.R. DIWAKAR : I have made it clear that before this amendment was introduced, all the provincial Governments were consulted and the industry itself was consulted. With all this history behind it this Bill has come before the House. Therefore I pleaded from the very beginning that we should restrict our consideration and discussion to this one point; postponing all other considerations to a later date when, after a full enquiry of this industry we shall have recommendations before us and then in terms of those recommendations a more comprehensive Bill would be brought in.

Central Censorship

One point raised related to Central censorship. I submit that no Act has been passed here as regards Central censorship on such. What has been passed is an amendment of the Government of India Act and that too was by the Constituent Assembly in its last session. Not more than four or five months have elapsed since then. That amendment authorised this Parliament to have Central censorship and to bring suitable legislation before this House. This is the exact position. There is no meaning in saying that a Central Censorship law was passed.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Is it not a fact that the Standing Committee has stated that it should be constituted ?

SHRI R.R. DIWAKAR : It can be constituted only by law and power to make that law was obtained only three or four months ago. After that power was taken, suitable legislation has to be framed and it has to come before the House. That is the whole position. Therefore, rather than looking at it from this perspective, it is no use looking at it as something which is overdue. It may be overdue, but so far as the procedure is concerned, it is there and it has to be followed. We cannot but submit to the procedure that has been laid down. So that is how this small Bill is before us today, and the more comprehensive one will follow.

Now, I may classify the objections raised and the arguments advanced under three types : One is for total rejection of a Bill of this kind altogether.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Withdrawal is the best.

SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR : Shri Tyagi stands for total rejection of the Bill. I have not much to say about it, because that is a matter for the House to decide.

As regards the argument that he advanced I do not think I yield to any one regarding the value of our culture and so on. At the same time I could not shut my eyes to the fact that what is called modern civilization, and modern methods of spreading ideas are not inherently opposed to our ancient culture and high and noble ideas.

On the other hand I would plead with every one who stands for Indian culture to see that every modern method and media is utilised properly for the spreading of those ideas and culture and also establishing the greatness of Indian Culture. We cannot run away either from broadcasting stations nor can we run away from newspapers, authors and printing presses today. If there are some bad films, well then I can say there are bad books and had newspapers as well.

That being so, since we are not condemning journalism wholesale or authorship wholesale or printing presses wholesale, there is no meaning in picking and choosing a particular industry like the film industry and saying that whatever is produced by the industry is rotten and is demoralising. If this is demoralising us, I do not see why we should not condemn all literature, and lots of things written by the journalists. So I think there is no meaning in singling out this industry for condemnation.

Positive Way

We are all here for bettering the conditions. Those conditions can be bettered in two ways, one in a negative way, another in a positive way. The Bill before us is of the former type. There it is a negative way. Censorship is only of a negative type of action. All censorship for the matter of that is negative. However, highly placed the censors may be, however intelligent the censors may be, and whatever high standards the censors may set before themselves, still censorship is after all an act of negation, saying 'Don't do this.' But there is a positive way and that positive way can be taken up only when there is a full enquiry into the whole subject. For this we have to wait a little. That is the situation so

far as the positive way is concerned.

Now, when we are on the negative way, namely censorship, when there have been demands from provincial Governments as well as from the industry and other people, naturally we should try to see in what way we can improve the negative manner in which we are going about in this matter. So far as the positive way is concerned, I am at one with everyone in the House in saying that very high type of films should be produced and if necessary the Government also should come into the field and try to see that the best possible educative films are produced.

I am very thankful to some of my friends who said that this line should be taken up. Even our Films Division could do it. No doubt at present there are limitations of personnel, etc. and also limitations on the purpose for which Documentary Films Section exists. We are trying to produce only news and documentary films, but that does not mean that something should not be done for education. I am one with those Hon'ble members who want to take up that line and see that not only the film industry but all media of knowledge, information and entertainment are improved to the best possible extent so as to make them a source of strength of the nation.

But that does not mean that we should meanwhile sit with folded hands. We shall have to do something and that something is there because a certain line has been followed in this matter and we are at a particular stage of that development. Therefore it is that I have brought this Bill and I think it should not only be considered but also passed so that it might be a step in the right direction. If it is a step in the right direction—which is the main question--a delay of three or four months would be meaningless.

The Difficulties

Now as regards the difficulties, it has been said that so many policemen will be required and so on. I do not think that that is a valid objection. In fact no policeman will be required at all; it is not a cognisable offence. It is only when a complaint is made and brought to the notice of the court that the wheels of law will move. So, to say that it will give the police a source of income is to scandalise the police, which is not a good thing to do.

SHRI M. TIRUMALA RAO : The point is that it will be a temptation put before the police.

SHRI R.R. DIWAKAR : It might be very delicate use of language but the language is quite plain, and I would not be prepared to endorse any such remarks. So I think that that fear is baseless. In view of these facts I would request that this Bill--small as it is--should not be postponed but should be passed as one step in the right direction.

There was one very important consideration, placed before the House namely, that if a particular film is bad for adults it is bad for all. I think abstractly speaking these matters can be argued at any length but what does common sense say ? In ordinary life when we allow certain things to adults we do not allow the same things to younger people and children and adolescents. It is from that point of view that we have to look at these things. Then about age, what may be good for a man of 19 may not be good for a man of 18. These arguments lead us to what is called *anavastha prasanga* i. e., confusion. Somewhere we lay down rules and say that a man of 21 is good enough to give a vote at an election. Why not 21½ or 20 ? But some such line has to be drawn and it is to be drawn either from the point of view of past traditions, or from the point of view of psychological tests or from the point of view of impressionability.

In modern days psychology has advanced so far that apart from what is called the physical age each man has what is called a psychological age. If we take these things into consideration I do not think it would be easy for us even to take one step in any direction. Therefore in a rough and ready manner and according to old traditions we have taken 18 years as the age of discretion and that age of discretion is the line which should divide adult from child or adolescent. That is how this particular line has been drawn and if a line is to be drawn I think it should be drawn in this manner.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Why not make a distinction between married men and bachelors ?

SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR : There will be greater difficulty about bachelors. Some of my friends argue that something which is shut off from children is really something which might be very bad. Still I think every man and woman and every adult does shut out certain things from children. So I do not think there is any sense of sin in the parents when they shut out children from certain activities or certain parts of the house and so on at certain times of the day. These things are there and so we have to take a common-sense view of those things.

But what I want to impress on the House is that a full and complete inquiry is in the offing, and when that comes all the different aspects of the question like age, the time and length of the film, the length of the trailor, types of films, etc., will be before the House. Therefore I commend this motion to the House as a step in the right direction.

SHRI DIWAKAR ON NEED FOR PLANNED PUBLICITY

WITH about 16 crores of people who will be enfranchised by the Constitution, now under process of finalisation, India would rank as the biggest democracy in the world, said the Hon'ble Shri R.R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, addressing a Press Conference in Shillong on April 13, 1949.

The responsibility of educating this large number of voters in the basic principles of democracy and good citizenship rested on the Press and Government Publicity Organisations, Shri Diwakar added.

As days were passing on, India, not merely because of her geographical position but also because of her size, culture and past tradition was being called upon to play an increasingly important part in Asian and world politics. To enable her to play that part effectively it was essential that she become strong, not only in the political field but also in the economic and social spheres.

Media of Publicity

If rapid strides were to be made in the improvement of the country's standard of living, education, health and industrial output, the people themselves should be made to realise to the fullest extent their responsibility as citizens of a free and democratic country. Government efforts in planned publicity, supplemented by active co-operation from the Press, must be directed to this purpose, Shri Diwakar emphasised.

Referring to the various media of publicity, he observed that where owing to the low percentage of literacy, printed material could not reach the masses, films and the radio were immensely useful. In order to bring the benefits of broadcasting to the villagers it was necessary to make cheap radio sets available to them. The Government of India were in favour of encouraging the manufacture in India of cheap community sets which could be operated with batteries wherever electricity was not available.

Replying to questions, Shri Diwakar said it was only natural that for providing entertainment and giving correct information, the regional language should predominate in the programmes of various Radio Stations. But the national language must also find its rightful place in broadcasting, otherwise parochial and narrow provincialism was likely to get out of hand.

In regard to the tribal people of Assam and other areas of India, Shri Diwakar said he was conscious of the tremendous odds—the variety of dialects and lack of easy accessibility—which existed in the way of educating them. Attempts would, however be made to find methods of approach through folk songs and visual publicity for them.

The Government of India have appointed Mr. S. M. Jaffar, Keeper of Government Records, Government of N. W.F.P., Peshawar and Mr. Muhammad Sadullah, Keeper of the Records of the Government of West Punjab, Lahore, as corresponding members of the Indian Historical Records Commission for the period up to March 31, 1952, said a Press Note issued by the Indian Historical Records Commission on April 16, 1949.

UNION OF GREATER RAJASTHAN

GREATER Rajasthan, the new Union of fourteen Indian States on the western border of India, was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister for States, at a colourful ceremony in the *Diwan-i-Am* of the City Palace in the "pick-city" of Jaipur on April 30.

The Union consists of the States of Udaipur, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Kotah, Tonk, Kishangarh, Banswara, Dungarpur, Partabgarh, Bondi, Jhalawar and Shahpura. It is the biggest administrative unit in the country, with a total area of 120,868 square miles, a population of 12.1 millions and a revenue of Rs. 1137.5 lakhs.

Messages of goodwill and felicitations were received on the occasion from H. E. Shri Rajagopalachari and the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Governor-General's Message

The Governor-General's message stated :

"I send my heart's warmest good wishes on this great and historic occasion. We shall discharge our debts to our great and valiant ancestors only if we sternly decide to be thoroughly upright and work hard, all men's good being each man's rule, and the thought of one's own advantage being scorned as unworthy. No country was ever so lucky in its leaders as India by God's grace is at this juncture. May United Rajasthan be one of the happiest and best governed units in the Indian Union."

In a telegram to Sardar Patel, the Governor-General referred to the forced landing on April 29 of the aircraft which took off from Delhi with Sardar Patel for Jaipur and said :

"You know how I feel. After intensely anxious hours we felt a rebirth, Jawahar and I, last night. May you have many more years. Give my love to Manibon and renewed good wishes to His Highness of Jaipur. To the Maharana and all other Princes and people of United Rajasthan sincerest congratulations. Rajasthan is reborn again to achieve glory in a new chapter of history. May all troubles be over with your plane accident as an offering of purification."

Prime Minister's Message

The Prime Minister said in his message :

"This is a unique occasion bringing together in one unit many of the great and famous States of Rajasthan. These States have a history which has shed lustre on India's past. They have now united together, a great future is before them and I am happy to welcome this event. The constitution of Rajasthan as a single political and economic unit brings great opportunities to its people ; it also brings great responsibilities and obligations. I hope they will shoulder these responsibilities and obligations in a worthy manner for the good and advancement of Rajasthan as well as of India.

"Rajasthan has been, even during the days of India's eclipse, a centre of Indian art in its many aspects and there are many fine craftsmen there. I trust that the Government of Rajasthan will take particular care to encourage these master craftsmen and the many arts and crafts for which Rajasthan has been famous. It must not be said that with the coming of political freedom we ignored our great cultural inheritance."

H. H. the Maharaja of Jaipur was sworn in as the Rajpramukh of the Union by Sardar Patel. H. H. the Maharaja of Kotah and Pandit Hiralal Shastri were also sworn in as the Up-Rajpramukh and the Premier, respectively.

Sardar Patel's Address

Addressing the gathering present which included 11 Rulers, the nobles and jagirdars of Rajasthan, officials and prominent men and women, Sardar Patel said :

We all have gathered here on a momentous and historic occasion and I thank God and you all for the privilege that has been given to me of inaugurating the Union of Greater Rajasthan. I am fully conscious of what a big occasion it is, of what big problems are ahead of us and of what heavy responsibilities are devolving on us.

This is the time when we should remember providence and seek its benevolent guidance and help. We got a reminder of it yesterday. I should like to apologise to you for the trouble and inconvenience that was caused on account of the delay in my arrival. It was really the time for remembering God because but for His mercy and for His help we cannot do anything. This big occasion is not of our own doing but of God's. It was destined that this important work shall be done at the proper time. That is why I could come out of the accident unscathed. For me it was a sort of a variety entertainment ; but for you all it was a time for anxious waiting and concern. Nevertheless, my only anxiety was that the mishap would cause you all and friends elsewhere in India the deepest concern. For two hours we were cut off from the world ; but we were always with God. We should, therefore, think of divine grace and invoke its blessings and help in the discharge of our responsibilities.

On this occasion I should like to congratulate H.H. the Maharaja of Jaipur on his elevation to the office of Raj-Pramukh. So far he was the first servant of Jaipur. Our Indian tradition of Rulership consisted in being the fountainhead of authority but more than that it is the tradition of service. The Maharaja of Jaipur now becomes the first servant of Rajasthan. I am very sorry that H.H. the Maharaja of Udaipur is not present today. We all realise his physical sufferings and we ourselves should not have liked to trouble him. But I should like to assure him that we can never forget him.

What we have achieved today is merely the fulfilment of the desires and aspirations of Maharana Pratap. We are fortunate in having to fulfill his dreams and those of his ancestors. We congratulate the Maharana on his elevation to the office of Maharaj-Pramukh. Whatever dreams, whatever ambitions and whatever aspirations ruled his ancestors are being fulfilled today. The pledges which they took are being discharged. We should invoke the blessings of God and of his ancestors so that we can make Rajasthan happy and prosperous.

I also congratulate other Rulers who helped us in achieving the unity of Rajasthan and moved with the times. I am being praised and congratulated for what I have been able to do in the sphere of States. But if anybody deserves those congratulations and all that praise, it is the Rulers who have sacrificed so much for the cause of their country. If they had not wholeheartedly supported us, we could never have changed the history of this country, as we are doing today. I am not one of those who forget the benefits and obligations conferred on them. On the other hand, I am trying to make others conscious of the debt and obligations which they owe to the Princes.

Solid Unity

On this occasion, I am thinking of the place which we have to occupy in future, of the civilisation and culture which were ours and the problems of the future. I have discussed these things with the Princes also a number of times. They all agreed with me that unity and peace were the best way to follow and all of us agreed to follow that path. India's prestige and honour have now increased and if we go on at the pace at which we have been progressing our future should be assured—a future of brightness and prosperity. Those who have sacrificed for this future will get their due reward. After all neither wealth nor power but honour and success are the greatest assets. Gandhiji had neither sword nor wealth but still his character and his sacrifices were unequalled and the honour which he achieved were unrivalled. That is typical of India's culture. The Rulers have made sacrifices in the past for their States and their people and they continue to do so. Today when a new and big chapter is being written in India's history, I should like to share with you these thoughts and also the hope that in moulding the history of the future we shall neither remain stationary nor lag behind.

I should also like to remind you on this occasion of the manner in which slavery came to this country and the reason why for so many centuries it consolidated itself and how we ultimately got rid of it. We have to ensure that the circumstances which made this possible are not allowed to recur. We fought amongst each other; we never united in a common cause ; we carved small principalities and were content to work in narrow grooves.





On behalf of the members of the Indian Parliament, Pandit Nehru presented to Sardar Patel at a reception in New Delhi a miniature silver model of the aircraft which made a forced-landing while carrying the Deputy Prime Minister to Jaipur for the inauguration of the Greater Rajasthan Union. (Right) Sardar Patel presented the silver model as a souvenir to A. I. A. F. Hare, Air Vice-Marshal S. Mukerjee, Officiating C.-in-C., R. I. A. F., is receiving the gift from the Deputy Prime Minister. (Below) Photographed at the reception are (L. to R.) Shri Satya Narain Sinha, F/Lt. S. J. Singh (Navigator of the aircraft) F/Lt. Bhim Rao (Pilot of the aircraft) Sardar Patel, Pandit Nehru, Air Vice-Marshal S. Mukerjee, Shri N. V. Gadgil and Sardar Baldev Singh.



Sardar Patel photographed at the Willingdon aerodrome on his return from Jaipur

F/Lt. S. J. Singh, Navigator (second from left, front row) and F/Lt. Bhim Rao, Pilot (third from left, front row)







Sardar Patel (left) India's Deputy Prime Minister, presided over the Premiers' Conference held in New Delhi on April 8.

SARDAR PATEL CONFERS WITH PREMIERS

THE Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, held a 2-day Conference in New Delhi beginning on April 8, with provincial Premiers and representatives of States. In the morning session on April 8, he discussed with the Premiers of West Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces, Assam, and Orissa problems relating to Adibasis and other tribal people.

Unanimous conclusions were reached on all points and, in particular, on the need for urgently carrying out measures initiated by the Provincial Governments for improving the living conditions of these people.

Matters concerning internal security were discussed in the afternoon session.

In addition to reviewing the internal situation in the country, the Conference also discussed on April 9 certain service problems concerning the effective distribution of trained administrative personnel between the Centre, the Provinces and the States.

Among those who attended were: Dr. B. C. Roy, (Premier, West Bengal) Pandit G. B. Pant, (Premier, U. P.); Shri Kumaraswami Raja, (Premier, Madras); Pandit R. S. Shukla, (Premier, C. P.); Shri Sri Krishna Sinha, (Premier, Bihar); Shri Hare Krishna Mahatab, (Premier, Orissa); Shri Gopinath Bardoloi, (Premier, Assam); Shri Morarji Desai, (Home Minister, Bombay); Sardar Gian Singh Rarewala, (Prime Minister, P. E. P. S. Union); Shri V. S. Khode, (Deputy Premier, Madhya Bharat Union) and Maj.-Gen. Chaudhuri, (Military Governor, Hyderabad).

The following joint statement was issued on April 8, by the Hon'ble Pandit Ravi Shanker Shukla, Premier, C. P. and Berar, the Hon'ble Sri Hare Krishna Mahatab, Premier, Orissa, the Hon'ble Dr. B. C. Roy, Premier, West Bengal, and the Hon'ble Mr. Sri Krishna Sinha, Premier, Bihar:

"From time to time, there has been some propaganda in the Press and on the platform in the province of C. P., Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar in regard to adjustment of boundaries in the Adibasi area. The propaganda has been conducted with some bitterness and has disturbed interprovincial relations. It has also given encouragement to interested parties to exploit the Adibasis of these areas to their own advantage. Meanwhile the Linguistic Provinces Committee has reported against any inter-Provincial adjustment of boundaries and this recommendation has been approved by the Working Committee of the Congress.

"We, the Premiers of the four Provinces, on behalf of our respective Governments, express our disapproval of the propaganda and would like to inform the public that our Governments have no intention whatsoever to raise for the time being any problems in regard to such adjustment of boundaries and we desire that the public in these Provinces should accept this position.

"In particular, the Premiers of Bihar, the Central Provinces and Orissa desire to state that they have accepted the decision of the Government of India in regard to the present distribution of the former Indian States belonging to Eastern States Agency and there is no controversy between them on that account. We have also resolved to discourage such propaganda as may militate against this decision and to ensure the utmost cordiality and goodwill amongst the people of these Provinces. We hope, in maintaining this inter-provincial goodwill, we shall have the co-operation of the Press and the general public."



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General, gave a reception in honour of the representatives of Provinces and States who attended the Premiers' Conference, at Government House, New Delhi, on April 9 (L. to R.) Mr. A. V. Pai, Principal Private Secretary to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru; Lala Bhimsen Sachar, Premier of East Punjab; Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier of U. P.; Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Shri P. S. Kumaraswami Rajah, Premier of Madras, and Shri Morarji Desai, Home Minister of Bombay

We suffered disasters, we suffered insults, we suffered injuries; but even then we could not be united. Today is the first time when we have achieved a unity, unknown to history. You have to see that in future the roots of our freedom become strong and are not disturbed. In this all of you, the Rulers and the people of Rajasthan, may play their part.

Ancient Culture

Every brick and stone of Rajasthan tells its own story of history and chivalry. Its ancient culture and history fill us with joy and inspiration. Now Rajasthan has the opportunity to make history anew according to modern conceptions. When we have united, we should no longer harbour those narrow parochial ideas of belonging to Jaipur or Jodhpur, Bikaner or Udaipur. We should think of being Indians first and Rajputs second. Today every citizen of Jaipur should be proud. Similarly, every citizen of Jodhpur or Udaipur should be proud of his own State. After all, we cannot forget the soil from which we grew and to which we shall return. A frog in the well has restricted aspirations and a limited mind, but the monsters of the sea can indulge in whatever play they like. We must, therefore, enlarge our look and widen our horizons. We must be loyal to Rajputana, but we should also be loyal to India.

Today I have had the privilege of administering the oath of office to the Raj-Pramukh and also to the Prime Minister. You should understand its implications. You should realise what the occasion demands of them and of us. The privilege has not been taken in a personal capacity but on behalf of the people of Rajasthan. I have also not given that privilege in my individual capacity. I have neither the power nor the authority to do so; but I have done it on behalf of the Indian Government. I am not the servant of a group or of a party but of India as a whole. I know my limitations and in full consciousness of those limitations and my position, I appeal to you all to realise the responsibilities and importance of the occasion. You should see that the barriers and the limits which separated you so far are broken. You should look at the whole of Rajasthan, with no discriminating eye. You should also understand why we have brought about this unity. The world is marching at a fast pace. We lagged behind in the past. If we do not keep pace with it, we shall go down.

These are not the days of the sword but of the atom bomb. We should, therefore, realise the utter futility of achieving our objects with a sword. We should understand that irrespective of caste or creed a Madrasi soldier has to fight in the Valley of Kashmir. Our C-in-C was bestowing praise on the Mahar Regiment. I, therefore, appeal to the Rajputs who have made history in the past to understand and appreciate how the world is moving. Today we must remove distinctions of high and low, rich and poor, caste or creed. We all are children of God and we should realise that simple fact and act accordingly. I realise that having followed a particular path of action for centuries, it will be difficult for us to change, but change we must. We have to understand that feudalism and vested interests which do not move with the times have afterwards to repent.

Appeal to Jagirdars

Similarly, I should like to appeal to my Jagirdar friends as I did to the Princes. I do so because I know that their interests lie that way. They have grand opportunities before them. They can carve out their own people; they can even improve upon the performance of their ancestors. It is better to do voluntarily what you may be compelled to do later. That is the path of wisdom and of honour. See what is happening in China. It is a bigger country. It was never a slave country, whereas Free India is only 1½ years old. But big landowners and businessmen have had to change their outlook. We have our own culture and our own traditions and we should not create a situation in which we have to be dragged into adopting foreign cultures. I, therefore, wish to appeal to the Jagirdars, as their true friend and servant, to understand the force of the prevailing circumstances. If you do not raise the down trodden today, they will get on us sometimes. We should raise them ourselves. No man should have to bow before another. There are 33 crores of Gods in our pantheon. We have to make each one a God. We have to remove illiteracy and backwardness.

I should also like to say a few words to the Congress workers. None should take ill what I am going to say for I am one of them. I am a servant and a soldier of the Congress. I have worked for years in the Congress. Even today also I am a mere soldier and servant of the Congress though they force on me the appellation of Sardar. I should like to tell the Congress workers to understand and appreciate why our prestige and honour have risen, why we claim today seats in the front ranks and why we are in authority and power. It is because of our following the lead of Gandhiji. India has not become free on account of our sacrifices. Sacrifice does not consist of going to jail or parting with our property, but in drinking without complaint, in a spirit of exhilaration, the bitter cup. It consists in continuing to serve the people despite loss of respect and insults.

Advice to Congressmen

I am grieved to find that the humility which should have been our badge is forsaking us. In service there is no place for pride. It behoves the servant to be humble. Instead we fight for mere trivialities such as places, power and Capital. If these small things affect us, we are not true Congressmen. If you behave as true Congressmen you will be pushed into the front by the people themselves. You will not have to crave or woo office and power. For years I never opened my lips. Even now I shudder when I have to speak lest I should make a slip and hurt somebody. The soldier walks on earth, he has not to fall down. He does not have that fear but a man in authority runs the risk of a fall. He has to be alert day and night.

Congressmen should not have greed for place. Whoever is able and worthy will get his reward. For that we should have a pure heart, clean tongue, clean hands and clear eyes. Otherwise you are not fit for power and authority. Now the burden has fallen on you. It is for you to make or mar the future of Rajasthan. Whatever good comes, the credit will go to the Rulers who made the sacrifice. Whatever discredit falls to you, the blame will be yours and not that of the Rulers. Real sacrifice lies in suffering dishonour and disrespect but never flinching in the service of the people. Today it is not Hiralal Shastri who has taken the pledge but the whole Congress. I congratulate him but when I think of the responsibility that has devolved on him, I feel pity on him. May God help him and give him strength.



A conference of Rajpramukhs and representatives of the States and Defence Ministries of the Government of India held in New Delhi on April 6 to discuss the question of re-organisation of Indian States Forces

Enquiry into Forced Landing of Sardar Patel's Aircraft

A Court of Inquiry has been convened to investigate the cause of the forced landing of the R.I.A.F. "Devon" aircraft when flying the Deputy Prime Minister to Jaipur on March 29, 1949, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Defence on March 31, 1949.

Preliminary examination of the aircraft and engine on the site of the forced landing has failed to find any mechanical failure; the engines and the other components are being removed for more detailed investigations.

All R.I.A.F. aircraft are inspected between flights, daily, and at regular intervals in accordance with special inspection schedules provided for each type of aircraft, the details being supervised and checked by technical N.C.Os.

The aircraft concerned in this accident was inspected and tested before take-off.

EXPORT OF IMPORTED RAZOR BLADES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 9 said:

The Government of India have decided to remove from control the export of imported razor blades. Indigenous razor blades are already uncontrolled.

It has also been decided to classify lithographic varnished or stand oil, which was so far being treated as linseed oil, as a separate item for the purpose of export control. Intending exporters should apply to the port authorities concerned.

IMPORT OF MOTORS AND GENERATORS

Certain types of motors and generators are already under Open General licence No. XI for import from soft currency countries. With a view to avoiding anomalies, the Government of India has decided to place under this O. G. L. all types of motors and generators and component parts thereof included in Serial No. 32 of Part II of the I. T. C. Schedule.

A Notification to this effect was issued in the Gazette of Inda (Extraordinary) of March 29, 1949.

UNION OF TRAVANCORE AND COCHIN

Integration Committee Appointed

WHEN the report on the working of the Ministry of States was published last month, 538 of the Indian States had been affected either by merger or by integration among themselves, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of States on April 2.

It added: The South Indian States of Travancore and Cochin were unaffected by either of these policies and remained as single units. The policy to be adopted towards them has been receiving attention. In this connection the Adviser, Ministry of States, paid a visit to these States early in March.

The Adviser met the Ministers and members of the public in both the States and had consultations with them. He had discussions with the Rulers also. After a first-hand study of the situation in those States, he submitted a report which was under consideration.

On April 1, Sardar Patel received a deputation of the Premiers and Ministers of Travancore and Cochin and the Representatives of the Congress organisation from both these areas. They unanimously recommended that these two States should be integrated to form a United State.

In these States, there are in existence Legislatures recently elected on adult franchise and to which the Ministries there are responsible. This unanimous recommendation must, therefore, be taken to have the solid support of public opinion in the two States. Taking into account all the circumstances, the States Ministry is of the view that a United State of the States of Travancore and Cochin should be formed as soon as possible and will enter into negotiations with the Rulers on this basis.

To work out the problems of integration, it is also proposed to appoint an Integration Committee. The Committee will consist of one representative each from Travancore and Cochin and a Chairman to be appointed by the Ministry of States.

Integration Committee

In another Press Communique issued on April 4, the Ministry of States said:

In the communique issued by the States Ministry on April 2, it was stated that a Committee would be appointed to work out the problems of integration of Travancore and Cochin. The Committee will consist of the following:

Mr. N.M. Buch, I.C.S. Joint Secretary Ministry of States—CHAIRMAN.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon, Minister, Cochin State.
Mr. V. O. Markos, Minister, Travancore State. } MEMBERS

The Committee will start work immediately and submit their report as early as possible.

MERGER OF BHARATPUR AND DHOLPUR STATES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of States on April 4, 1949 said:

In connection with the formation of the United States of Rajasthan the question was raised about the integration with it of the four States comprised in the Matsya Union. Consultations have been held on the subject with the Rulers and representatives of the four States as well as with the Ministry of the Matsya Union.

As a result it has been found that there is no difference of opinion as regards the integration of Alwar and Karauli with the United States of Rajasthan; opinion in these States is unanimous that they should be integrated with Rajasthan.

But public opinion seems to be divided in Bharatpur and Dholpur on the question as to whether they should be merged with the United Provinces or should, alternately, be integrated with Rajasthan. In order to ascertain public opinion in these two States the States Ministry have decided to appoint the following Committee:—

1. Shri Shankar Rao Deo: *Chairman.*
2. Shri R. K. Sidhwa)
3. Shri Prabhudayal Himmatsinkha) *Members*

The Committe will ascertain public opinion in the manner they deem fit and submit their report before the end of this month.

The Government of India have decided to purchase the Mayurbhanj Railway on April 1, 1950. A notice has accordingly been served on the Mayurbhanj Railway Company—the present owners, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on April 1 1949.

The Mayurbhanj Railway, a narrow gauge line about 70 miles long from Rupsa to Talband, is now being worked by the Bengal Nagpur Railway.



Representatives of India and Pakistan photographed at the Inter-Dominion Conference held in New Delhi on April 7, 1949

INTER-DOMINION CONFERENCE

THE Inter-Dominion Conference of representatives from India and Pakistan met in New Delhi on April 2, 1949.

After a preliminary examination of the agenda, it was agreed to drop further consideration of three items, namely, the question of payment by Pakistan for the agreed quantity of barley supplied by the Government of the United Provinces to the Government of West Punjab; Pakistan Government's requirements of surplus stores and shipment of four German reparation plants lying in Bombay.

Twelve items were referred to official committees—items such as division of museum exhibits, Survey of India's stores, question of wireless frequencies, assignment and co-ordination, regulations governing Inter-Dominion railway traffic, and Pakistan's share of certain civil aviation assets.

The remaining items were considered at Ministerial level—items such as adjustment of pensions, Hyderabad securities, and claims of Pakistan Provincial Governments against the undivided Government of India.

The Conference which met again on April 3, considered the reports of some of the official committees and further considered the items in respect of which there had been preliminary discussion on April 2.

The Steering Committee composed of Messrs H.M. Patel and Abdul Qadir was asked to prepare a draft agreement for consideration by the Conference.

The Conference concluded its deliberations on April 4. It considered an agenda consisting of 27 items. An agreement was reached in respect of the majority of these items.

Among the more important items in respect of which agreement was reached were those relating to the payment of pensions and cash certificates. The Conference also agreed upon a machinery for ensuring prompt payment of pensions, provident funds and security deposits of Provincial and State Government servants who had left one Dominion for the other.

Partition Committee

Agreement was also reached on the setting up of a machinery for considering matters which did not fall within the sphere of the Partition Committee of East and West Punjab and for implementing decisions reached on such items.

A number of other decisions related to the clearing up of certain outstanding points in the division of stores belonging to organisations, such as the Survey of India, Civil Aviation, and Archaeological Department.

These decisions were subject to ratification by both Governments.

Transfer of Assets of Educational Institutions from Pakistan

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on April 14 said:

In connection with the transfer of assets of educational institutions left in Pakistan, the Managers and Headmasters concerned are requested to communicate to the Ministry of Education, Government of India particulars regarding the financial, moveable and immovable assets of their respective educational institutions. This information is required immediately.

Where managers are not available, the information may be supplied by any member of the Managing Committee.

The following information is required: (1) Name of the school, with names of District and province (2) Whether recognised or unrecognised, aided or unaided —boys' or girls' (3) Names of the school funds with names of the banks where deposited, number of account, if possible, and approximate amount, if exact amount is not known, (4) Names of funds pledged in the names of Inspectors with full particulars of the nature of the account and names of operators (5) Moveable property—its approximate value, whether destroyed during disturbances, or still intact, (6) Immoveable property—buildings, playgrounds, endowments and so on, and their value; (7) Whether applications were made for their recovery, if so, when, to whom and the result thereof and (8) Complete address of the Manager and Headmaster.

Applications for the transfer of funds may be made at once to the banks concerned, if that has not already been done, under intimation to the Ministry of Education. For recovery of moveable property, applications may be made to the Deputy High Commissioner for India in Pakistan at Lahore and Dacca.

PLEA FOR WORLD GOVERNMENT

Mr. B. R. Sen's Address at Philadelphia

"NO one desired peace more than Asia, because Asia wants to catch up with all the material advance that has taken place in the West, which will not be possible without peace," said Mr. B.R. Sen, Indian Charge D' Affaires in Washington, on April 8, 1949, addressing the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Philadelphia.

Mr. Sen, who was speaking on 'World Government, Why, When, How?" said at the outset that he was expressing his personal views as an Asian.

Mr. Sen said that to India, renunciation of war as a means of settling disputes was not new. In the fourth century B.C. Emperor Asoka, by renouncing war and setting for himself and his peoples the three principles of conduct, right aspiration, right effort and right living—had shown the way to as good a world order as has probably ever been conceived by man.

Mr. Sen traced the development of the idea of world Government through history, and said that there was one essential difference between "One World" of the past and the "One World" of today. "What is aimed at today is not one physical empire under one sovereign, but a world Government composed of representatives of all sovereign states, with such limited powers vested in it by member Governments as are necessary to prevent armed conflict and to assure peace."

Federal Government

He added that the fact that the idea is so old should be a warning to those who would feel discouraged if the United Nations Organization could not be immediately transformed into a federal Government.

Mr. Sen quoted William James who had said that war could not be abolished until man had found some substitute which would promote those "conceptions of order and discipline, the tradition of service and devotion, of physical fitness, unstinted exertion, and universal responsibility" which are characteristic of the higher forms of militarism.

Mr. Sen urged the American Academy of Political and Social Science to study the doctrine of non-violence preached and practised by Mahatma Gandhi, the frail little man of the East, dressed in a loin cloth of the most poor and humble of India, described contemptuously as "the naked fakir" by one acclaimed as one of the world's leaders today.

In non-violence, Mr. Sen said, several Western thinkers have found a more effective release of all subjective impulses mentioned by William James, and even a weapon of strategy which is a match for all that has been claimed for war by such masters as Von Clausewitz, Napoleon and Foch.

The speaker doubted realization of a world Government so long as the principle of *status quo* in international relations was held sacrosanct. "A machinery for international co-operation must be found which will adequately provide for revision rather than maintenance of *status quo* where circumstances make revision desirable and necessary."

Mr. Sen referred to the addresses of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Harold Stassen delivered a few days earlier at the Convocation of M.I.T., Cambridge, where eminent men had gathered from many parts of the world to take stock of man's scientific and social progress, and among important subjects had referred to world Government as means of assuring peace.

Mr. Sen said that one, especially an Asian, must disagree with Mr. Churchill's contention that the adoption of the principle of self-determination for Europe was a serious mistake of the Versailles Treaty makers. Mr. Sen said that Mr. Churchill's argument, if accepted, would mean that the peoples of Austria and Hungary, of Poland and of the old Ottoman Empire, should have been denied the right for which ostensibly the war had been fought.

He agreed that a cause of the failure of the League of Nations was to be found in the failure of men's minds to keep up with external change. Several centuries of controversy had preceded Reformation. A hundred years of discussion had preceded the French Revolution. For the idea of a League of Nations there was no such preparation. Even in his own country, President Wilson's idea was rejected as too revolutionary.

Asian Culture

Mr. Sen joined issue with Mr. Harold Stassen, who had broadly divided humanity as falling in three main streams of philosophy: those having concept of liberty of man, typified by the West; those having the concept of subservient and atheistic man, as found in Russia, Spain, Argentine and Portugal; and those having the concept of indifference to man, arising from early Eastern religions, evident in Asia.

Mr. Sen attacked this thesis as being based on the fundamental misconception of Eastern religions. He asked: "Is Islam not one of the most democratic religions of the world? Is the fundamental teaching of Budha not in the closest harmony with modern ideas?"

Mr. Sen recalled that culturally and otherwise Asia was not behind Europe till very recent times. Even in warfare, which is now a speciality of the West, two great battles, as Churchill had reminded his Massachusetts audience, though for quite a different moral, fought not many centuries ago in Poland and near Vienna, completely shattered the armed power of Europe.

But for the intervention of Providence, Europe today might have been a colonial empire of Eastern potentates rather than the other way about. Asians, however, do not regret the course that history has taken. The mechanical revolution has brought much that is of value to the world, and Asia wants to take the best of it for billions of her people. For that, Asia needs peace.

Mr. Sen emphasised his personal belief that no Asian country would hesitate to cede such of its sovereign powers as are required to make a world federation effective.

Mr. Sen emphasised that no one desired peace more than Asia, because Asia wants to catch up with all the material advance that has taken place in the West, which will not be possible without peace. But, he added, something more positive was meant by peace than mere absence of war. "It was the assurance of conditions in which man everywhere can attain his full intellectual and moral stature." For this Asia needs material assistance of the West.

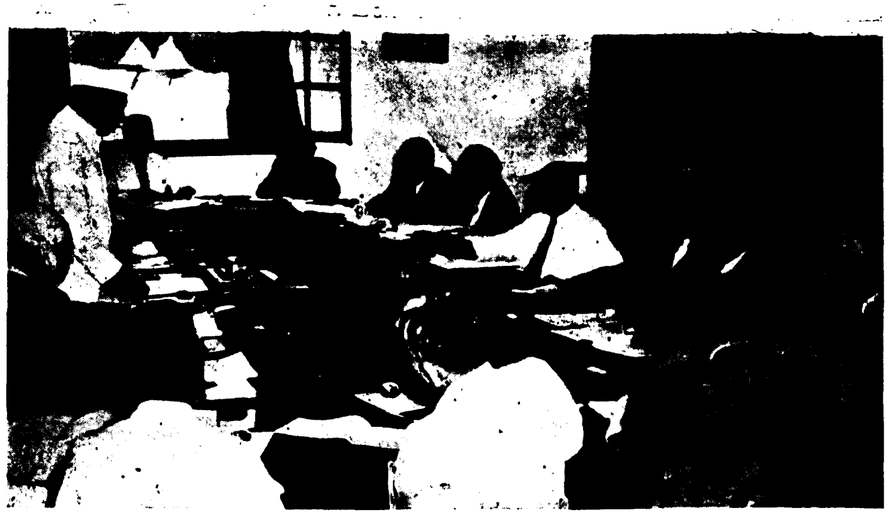
Asserting that prosperity like peace is indivisible, Mr. Sen made out a case for material assistance from the West, quoting President Truman's remark in his inaugural address on January 20 that poverty of other nations is "a handicap and a threat both to them and to more prosperous areas." One of the claims made by the West, Mr. Sen said, is that by achievements of science it has substituted machine power for hand power and eliminated drudgery from human life—a process begun by the domestication of animals, invention of the wheel, the water-mill, the windmill and other contrivances, but carried immeasurately further in recent generations. Asia wants to participate in this heritage.

Mr. Sen said that the importance of the development of backward areas was recognised in the United Nations Charter's Article 55 which, apart from its purely economical and social aspects, placed the whole problem in perspective in the scheme of the maintenance of international security.

Political Education

Mr. Sen spoke of political education as the sustaining force of any conception of world Government. If that sustaining force is to be effective it must come from all peoples of the world. Peoples who are backward today must, therefore, be helped to come forward and receive that political education. This is only possible if their energies are released from mere drudgeries of life and they have at least minimum sustaining food and clothing and education needed to enable them to understand the broader affairs of mankind.

As an Asian, Mr. Sen declared, while he fastened his faith on the principles of the United Nations Charter, he believed that our progress in the matter will be conditioned not so much by the form of the organisation as by the spirit which infuses its working. To the creation of that spirit, therefore, all peoples all over the world, whatever mould of philosophy they may be held to be cast in, should now bend their energies.



CONFERENCE ON INDONESIA

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on April 13, 1949, stated:

Representatives of Afghanistan, Australia, Burma, Ceylon, China, Egypt, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Siam, and India met in New Delhi on April 13 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of Burma was also present.

The situation in Indonesia was reviewed and it was agreed that measures for a prompt and satisfactory settlement of the Indonesian problem in accordance with the Security Council's Resolution of January 28, should be continued.

(Above) Pandit Nehru addressing the meeting of the representatives of Asiatic countries and Australia held in New Delhi on April 13 to review the situation in Indonesia and to consider further steps to be taken for the speedy and satisfactory settlement of the Indonesian problem. (Below) H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari with Thakin Nu, Burmese Prime Minister, during the latter's recent visit to New Delhi



THAKIN NU'S MESSAGE TO PEOPLE OF INDIA

"My country sent with me a most sincere message of goodwill to the people of India. Our long standing friendship which goes back far into the history of our two countries has always been a source of comfort to us specially in times of difficulties," said the Hon'ble Thakin Nu, Prime Minister of Burma, in a farewell message to the people of India, on April 15, 1949.

The message adds: "We marched side by side to freedom and our mutual understanding, I am sure, shall last for ever.

Friendly Co-operation

"Burma is passing through a difficult period but I am certain we shall soon emerge to peace and prosperity. With neighbourly understanding and friendly co-operation which we have seldom failed to receive from India we shall soon come to the end of our troubles.

"I remember with happiness that in spite of the dangers which faced India at one time, she has steadfastly attained peace. This no doubt is due to the eternal message of peace and love brought forth by her greatest leader Mahatma Gandhi.

"From what I have seen I feel convinced that India which is already making big strides towards progress under the leadership of her great Prime Minister and his colleagues shall soon find herself in line with the foremost nations of the world. May our friendship endure for ever."



The Egyptian Press Delegation which recently visited India photographed with Sheikh Abdullah, Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, at Jammu during their visit to the State

"SYMBOL OF SPIRIT OF FREEDOM IN EAST"

Egyptian Journalists' Tribute to Pandit Nehru

ON the eve of their departure from India, on April 2, 1949, Mr. Kassem Gouda, on behalf of the Egyptian Press Delegation, which recently toured the country gave the following message:—

"Before leaving this glorious country of India, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the kindness and the warm reception we have enjoyed all through our visit to different parts of the Indian continent.

"It has been a great honour and pleasure for us to be able to meet His Excellency the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as well as many of the illustrious leaders of India in the Government and out of the Government; although most of them, especially Panditji, are already looked upon in Egypt with esteem not only as the leaders of the sister country of India but as symbols of the new spirit of freedom in the whole East.

Indo-Egyptian Relations

"Our visit has stressed the fact that India and Egypt can and must co-operate to the largest possible extent in every field of activity for the ultimate good of both the Egyptian and the Indian nations. We hope that our visit will be a landmark in the history of Indo-Egyptian relations to be followed by similar visits to our own country by representatives of the Indian people and the Indian Press.

"If during the past we had both of us to depend on foreign sources of information, there is no excuse now for either Egypt or India to allow this state of things to go on and it is high time that we should exchange information through the proper channels, especially through direct contact among ourselves.

"We will be very glad to receive a delegation of the Indian Press in Egypt next winter, when we hope to repay some of the kindness and generosity we have been shown in India."

Indo-Hungarian Trade Agreement

A TRADE agreement providing for direct trade valued at approximately Rs. 1.3 crores was signed on April 8, 1949 in the Ministry of Commerce by Mr. C. C. Desai, Commerce Secretary, on behalf of India, and Mr. Tibor Mende, Leader of the Hungarian Trade Delegation, on behalf of Hungary. The "peak" figure of trade with Hungary in pre-war years was only Rs. 34 lakhs per annum.

Hungry has undertaken to export transformers, switchgear, refrigeration plants, ammonia compressors, diesel engines, steam engines, lorries and trucks, transport equipment, concrete and asphalt mixing machines, machine tools, pipes and fittings, refrigerator vans and lithopone. The value of exports from Hungary is estimated at Rs. 1.1 crores. Hungary has also offered to export railway equipment. This offer will be considered by the Railway Board when calling for tenders.

India has agreed to export raw jute, kyanite, cotton waste, linseed oil and pepper, valued at approximately Rs. 20 lakhs.

The fact that several commodities produced by the two countries are not included in the Agreement does not mean that no trading in these commodities will be allowed. Importers and exporters in India are free to import or export such goods in accordance with the prevailing regulations. The commodities included in the Agreement are such as are regarded essential for purposes of import by the two countries.

Payment for the goods to be exchanged between the two countries will be settled in rupees or sterling as may be mutually convenient to the Governments concerned.

The Agreement is subject to ratification by the Governments of India and the Republic of Hungary. It will be made public after it has been ratified.



The Indo-Hungarian Trade Pact being signed by Mr. C. C. Desai (left) Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, and Mr. T. Mende, Leader of the Hungarian Trade delegation, on behalf of their respective countries in New Delhi on April 8

NEED FOR REORGANIZING CIVIL AVIATION SERVICES

Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai's Broadcast

IN a broadcast from All India radio, Delhi, on April 2 the Hon'ble Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Minister for Communications, Government of India, stressed the need for an immediate reorganization of civil aviation services in India to establish them on a sound basis.

Mr. Kidwai said : Air Transport in India is still in infancy. Before the War only two private companies were operating air services. They were using small planes, carrying three to fourteen passengers. They were using even grass land as landing grounds and there was hardly any ground staff with the air service facilities. During the War even these services were suspended except where they were considered necessary for Defence purposes. Today there are seven companies operating the scheduled routes and the mileage of the routes has gone up from 5,264 in 1939 to 22,952 today. The planes used are mostly 22 seater and some even 24 to 27 seater.

Air Travel has upset our conception of distances and now the distances between two countries or two cities are measured by the time taken by Air Transport. Weeks have dwindled into days and days into hours. National frontiers mean but little today and mountains and seas and even oceans have lost their significance. The world seems to have shrunk in size. A number of international air services now girdle the Globe and the principal centres of the World have been brought within easy reach of each other. We find persons going from India to London and coming back within a week or even less. Such easy and close contacts cannot but provide immense opportunities for commercial and cultural intercourse among the Nations of the world.

Network of Air Services

Naturally, we in India, are also trying to develop Air Transport. Already a network of air services connecting the administrative, industrial and commercial centres has been built up. With its distances and consequent advantages both in saving of time and travelling comfort which flying affords over surface travel and safe flying weather throughout the greater part of the year, rapid advancement of Air Transport in India is assured. Besides being a rapid and pleasant means of transport, flying affords a variety of services to the community. It saves time in the transit of mails. Essential cargo, perishable goods and medicines can be made available in places where they are needed in quickest possible time.

During the War, a large number of Aerodromes were constructed for military use. After the War, such of them as were not required by the Defence Department were handed over for Civil Aviation Services. But for the existence of these aerodromes and landing strips, it would have been impossible to cope with the phenomenal increase which took place in the civil air transport during the first two post-war years.

Before the War, air services looked to Government for financial support which was given mainly in the shape of payment for the carriage of airmail. Scheduled Air Transport now draws its sustenance from sources which are really the proper sources in any sphere of transport, viz., passengers and freight. Passenger traffic which provides the bulk of revenue for air services has been consistently increasing during the last 2½ years. Freight has shown itself to have great potentialities and one other item, viz., newspapers, are being increasingly sent by air.

Question of Safety

The chief concern in the operation of air services is safety. The record of safety in India is very high indeed. If one takes into account the fact that over 23 million ton-miles were opeated, air transportation by our regular air services would have to be recognized as the safest form of travel in the country. This record has been made possible only by the most rigid adherence to safety requirements in respect of the airworthiness and maintenance of aircraft. Our air services are regular in operation and their percentage of completed schedule is over 95 per cent.

Development of civil air transport in this country has been haphazard and has not been subject to any planning. War planes were available in large numbers in the Army Disposals. They were available at low prices. To take advantage of this, a large number of companies acquired these planes, got them converted for civil use and started operations. All the remunerative routes were under operation of the two older companies, therefore, these new companies had to develop new routes.

In the last Budget speech, the Finance Minister announced two measures that are going to be helpful to operating companies. The rebate in tax on aviation petrol will reduce the operation cost and the air transport of all first class mails will provide the air services with additional load. I hope these two measures will to some extent be helpful in the development of civil aviation.

Although there has been such a phenomenal rise in civil aviation, I am afraid, unless reorganization of these services is immediately undertaken, it will not be possible to establish the services on a sound basis. Our planes in operation are not utilized to the extent to which it is necessary in order to reduce the cost of operation. On an average, a plane flies 800 hours a year. Only one company has, last year, been able to raise the utilisation to 1500 hours. We should, therefore, make the greatest utilisation of the plane possible and that can be done only if sufficient load is available for transport and night flying is made possible.

Much has to be done before Air Transport can be established on satisfactory basis. A large number of aerodromes with landing strips have to be built. The Government has a programme of construction. It is hoped in the course of the next few years this programme will be completed, but India is a vast country and for safe operations many more landing strips will have to be built in between the existing aerodromes. The Department has already undertaken to equip the aerodromes for night flying. It is expected that in the course of the next few days night landing facilities on Delhi Madras route will be completed. I hope by the close of the year many more routes will be available for night flying.

As I have already said, India is ideally suited for Air Transport. Important political, commercial and administrative centres are scattered all over the country. There is ever increasing traffic between these centres. Rail or Road Transport takes sometimes more than two days between one centre and another. All this traffic will be available to the operating air companies, if they can bring down the fares within the means of this ever-increasing travelling public. I have been pressing on the companies to get new planes. No doubt their cost is much higher than the cost of the old war planes, but they are cheaper to operate and have more load capacity. If these new planes are put in service and the air passenger charges are reduced to the railway fare, I am sure most of the first class railway traffic will be diverted to the air transport and the traffic available will enable these companies to increase their frequencies and thus increase the utilisation of planes.

Shortage of Trained Personnel

Shortage of trained personnel is also to a great extent responsible for the heavy operation charges. Government has opened a training school. I hope in the near future more trained personnel will be available for the expanding services.

By virtue of its geographical position, India occupies a most significant place in international civil air transport. India lies athwart the aerial highways of the world. Thus the international airlines of almost all the important countries of the world are flying across India. We have also made a beginning in the external air operations. Air India International is operating between India and England. In time to come we hope to extend this service to further West. Similarly, licences have already been issued to two operating companies for service to Japan and Australia. I hope they will soon come into operation.

All these services are controlled and guided by the State. In Air India International, the Government holds controlling shares. The other air services are run by private companies, but Government controls their operation by the terms of the licences issued. The question of nationalising the services has been before the Government for some time past. For the present, it has been decided to let them continue and to help them develop these air services to the fullest possible extent.

Vital Part

Air Transport has come to play a vital part in the life of a Nation. We have seen how they were helpful in the crisis that followed the partition of the country. Thousands of men, women and children lying in camps, in isolated places were evacuated by air. Again, when the Kashmir trouble started the aeroplanes made it possible for us to land troops in time at Srinagar to save Kashmir.

Past experience warns us that, in times of emergency, we may require the services of a large number of pilots and aeronautical engineers and also planes for transport. It will not be possible for us to have these at our disposal unless we make arrangements for them before the emergency arises and this we can afford to do only by developing civil aviation so that whenever we need them for Defence Services, these can be diverted towards that service.

I have given you an idea of the present position of the development of civil aviation in this country. I have also tried to point out the difficulties in our way. I am confident we will be able to overcome all the difficulties and civil aviation will develop to the extent of the country's requirements. I trust all those connected with civil aviation will realise the importance of the service they are rendering to the country and they will see that we overcome all our difficulties and develop civil aviation to a high standard of efficiency.

NEW POSTAGE RATES

From April 1, 1949, the rates of postage for letters will be annas 0-2-0 for those weighing up to one tola and one anna for every additional tola or fraction thereof, and 9 pies for post cards, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on March 31, 1949.

It added : Inland letters and post cards, excluding insured articles, will be conveyed by air as far as possible. The present air mail fee for inland letters and post cards has been abolished. It is no longer necessary to affix air mail labels on letters and post cards. Other classes of inland postal articles, namely, book-packets, registered newspapers, money orders etc. will be transmitted by air if the appropriate air fees are prepaid. Only such foreign mails as are prepaid with air fees will receive air transmission.

The new procedure of transmission by air wherever possible of letters and post cards has entailed a complete overhauling of the existing sorting arrangement. Occasional delays to some articles are, therefore, not unlikely until conditions stabilise.

CONSERVATION AND UTILISATION OF RESOURCES

THE United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilisation of Resources, it is understood, will be scientific and not policy-making. The conservation and wise use of natural resources are problems of immediate concern to all nations. For the countries ravaged by war, these problems are very urgent as they must use the advanced techniques which will most rapidly bring their farm lands and factories to full productivity. For the highly industrial countries which are experiencing temporary shortages of some of their basic resources such as oil, coal and steel there is good cause for concern over the rapidity with which they are consuming their stocks of irreplaceable materials. For India the greatest interest lies in the utilisation of modern methods which will enable her to make sustained use of resources as yet untapped and to build up more productive and diversified economies.

Preventible and costly waste both of renewable and non-renewable resources is a world-wide phenomena. No country, however favoured, has yet succeeded in exploiting to the full the possibilities which the scientific utilisation of resources offers for a rapid advance in the standard of life. For such an advance the requisite methods and techniques are at hand or in a process of development. For some resources such as soils and forest, proven methods of conservation are available by which the bases of life can be restored, improved and preserved. For other types of resources such as metals, fuels and energy, new techniques have become available which promote rapid industrial development and enable the more effective use of scarce materials and thus help to increase the general well-being of the people.

Technological Discoveries

The range of new technological discoveries and their practical application is very wide. It ranges from the processing of low grade minerals to the development of insecticides that result in greater production of grains, cattle or cotton; from the utilisation of wood wastes to the winning of oil from wells; from finding minerals by new geophysical devices to techniques of preventing soil erosion, from producing rain from clouds to the creation of new animal and plant hybrids.

The development of these advances in technique and administration is the work of many experts of the various nations throughout the world. No country has a monopoly of the best methods. Every part of the world has contributions to make and significant experience from which those responsible for resource use have much to learn.

The store of scientific and practical knowledge is one of the world's great resources. In this the world becomes a family. The fullest mobilisation of this knowledge is essential to equip the nations of the world for the task of raising and maintaining the living standards of their people. The United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilisation of Resources, it is hoped, is a step towards that mobilisation.

The Indian Delegation, it is hoped, will bring back to India from the Conference much useful scientific knowledge which will enable India to make use of the most modern scientific techniques in the various fields of industry and agriculture and will thus help to build up more productive economies which will raise the standard of living of the masses.

INDIAN DELEGATION

A Press Note issued by the Department of Scientific Research on April 1, 1949, said :

The Government of India have been invited by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a delegation of scientists to attend the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilisation of Resources which would meet at Lake Success, New York, from August 17 to September 6, 1949.

In view of the importance of the Conference, the Government of India have decided to send a Delegation of following seven scientists to represent India:—

Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar; Dr. J.N. Mukherjee; Dr. S.L. Hora; Dr. J.C. Ghosh; Dr. M.S. Krishnan; Mr. A.N. Khosla; Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis.

Dr. Bhatnagar will act as Leader o the Delegation.

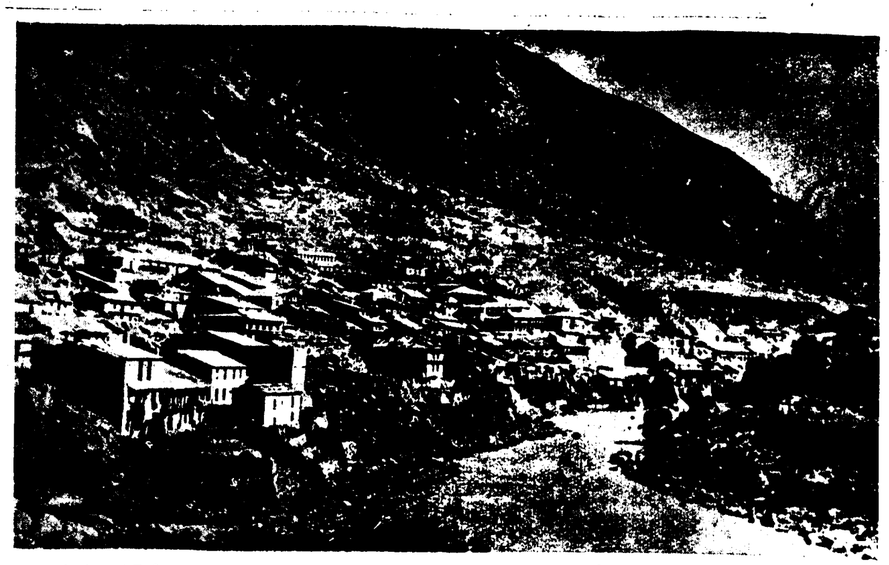
INDIAN TEA FOR GERMANY

In a Press Note issued on April 4, the Ministry of Commerce said :

The Government of India has been informed that the Joint Export-Import Agency in the Anglo-American zone of Germany has made an allocation for imports of tea worth 2 million dollars from the sterling area during the period January to June 1949.

Indian Tea exporters who are interested may submit their offers to the Joint Export-Import Agency, Foreign Trade Section, Import Branch, or Messrs Halssen & Lyson (Hamburg 11, Pickhuben 9), a German tea import house, who are acting on behalf of German tea importers.

In view of the pressing need to earn dollars, the Government of India hopes that maximum advantage will be taken by the trade in India of the allotment.



A view of Badrinath in the Himalayas which is visited every year by thousands of pilgrims from all over India

SCIENTISTS' COLONY IN THE HIMALAYAS

A party of six Indian scientists is leaving this summer for the Himalayas on a mission from Government. A similar party went out last summer for the same object and visited many high peaks. This is an account of the expedition. The article describes the purpose of the visit and the results achieved.

IT was approaching midnight. The bus moved warily along the narrow road, through abyssmal darkness. On the left was a hill 1,000 ft. high, on the right flowed a Himalayan stream. Two dim lights shone in the distance, heightening a feeling of loneliness.

A flash of light suddenly pierced the darkness, the brakes screeched, and the vehicle came to a dead stop. Six weary men clambered out, only to be told that the bulbs had fused and that the bus would go no further that night. Resigning themselves to forced rest, they spread their beds out on the road side and tried to sleep. But sleep would not come easily in that lonely Himalayan countryside. Thunder presently broke the stillness of the night, and lightning and rain followed, driving the six men back into the bus.

On Mission from Government

Suddenly someone screamed. It was the driver's assistant. He had sighted some dark objects approaching ominously from the front. He gasped in horror: "The wild buffaloes !" None in the party had any firearms. Helpless, they waited for the beasts to charge. But a flash of lightning brought the anti-climax. The "beasts" proved to be no more than ordinary buffaloes. Mercifully, the driver announced that he was ready to move again as he had found some spare bulbs. The bus moved forward.

It was 4 a.m. on a foggy morning in June, 1948. The destination was Badrinath, in the United Provinces, near Garhwal. The party included a meteorologist, an astronomer, two experts on snow and glaciers, a geologist and a biologist. They were on a mission to the Himalays on behalf of the Government of India.

The object of the expedition was to find a mountain top, at a height of 14,000 to 16,000 feet, with about 10 acres of flat space on which could be located a multi-purpose laboratory of the type of the Jungfranjoch Laboratory in Switzerland. The Laboratory would have separate departments dealing with : (1) snow and glaciers and their contribution to Indian rivers (2) astronomical and astraphysical observations (3) cosmic rays (4) constitution of the upper atmosphere, study of solar radiation, meteors, mother of pearl clouds etc. (5) geology and geophysical observations (6) meteorology of the Central Asian table-land and (7) and study of flora and fauna.

The proposal for establishing a high altitude laboratory was first mooted in 1947, and an exploratory party was got ready in the summer of 1948. The party spent nearly a month visiting various peaks in the Hamalayas. Many photographs of these peaks were taken. Among the sites they visited were two in the neighbourhood of Badrinath (the Narayan Parbat 19,570 feet; the Nar Parbat 19,210 feet); and three sites in the neighbourhood of Kuari Pass, ranging in height from 12,000 feet to 15,000 feet. The party on return to Delhi made certain tentative recommendations.

Before the Government of India commit themselves to the financial and other implications of this costly project, they require as complete data as possible. An effort is, therefore, to be made to see whether sites more suitable than those already visited are available. With this object, a second party is being got ready to leave for the Himalayas this summer.

Multi-Purpose Laboratory

The site finally selected would have to satisfy many hard tests. It would have to be on a mountain top with about 10 acres of flat space on which buildings can be constructed to house an astronomical dome and a compact building to house departments for cosmic rays, biological research, snow and glacier study, meteorological observations, research on flora and fauna of the Himalayas etc.

This multi-purpose laboratory would be run by a number of scientits living in a Scientists' Colony which will be built at a somewhat lower level where living conditions are more suitable for human endurance than at the site of the laboratory.

Another condition the site has to satisfy is that no neighbouring mountain peaks should subtend an angle exceeding 10 degrees from the selected site.

Problems of transport from the plains, once the laboratory is set up, have also to be borne in mind. The party last summer was asked to look for a suitable place near the proposed site for a Scientists' Colony where an airfield could be developed. As an alternative, the possibility of helicopters landing and taking off in this region was to be examined.

A power station worked either by windmills or by a waterfall to provide electric energy for domestic and laboratory use is another feature of the scheme.

For carrying the scientists up to the laboratory and bringing them back to the Scientists' Colony, the party was asked to examine certain alternatives. These were : a motor road; a funicular railway; or a rope trolley up to the hill-top working on electricity with buckets which could take up or bring down two or three persons at a time.

Interesting Trip

A water supply system and arrangements for wireless communication with India were other things to be gone into.

The trip proved to be both interesting and instructive. The oldest man in the party, 65, was Professor S.P. Agarkar, a biologist. He represented the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. Mr. R.D. Dhir, of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, was the leader of the party which also included another officer of this organization, Mr. Harbhajan Singh. Both are experts on snow and glaciers.

An astronomer of the Indian Meteorological Department, Dr. R. Ananthakrishnan, a meteorologist, Mr. R.V. Badami, and a geologist of the Geological Survey of India, Mr. S.P. Nautiyal, made up the rest of the party. The Indian Meteorological Department and the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission were the sponsors of the expedition and the party had the benefit of mature advice, before it started, of eminent scientists like Dr. S.S. Bhatnagar, Prof. H. J. Bhabha, Dr. J.C. Ghosh, Dr. J.N. Mukherji, Prof. M.N. Saha, and the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India, Shri A.N. Khosla.

Recommendations

Of the many sites the party visited, they were impressed with the advantages offered by some of the peaks near the Kauri Pass. Pangarchula peak stands clear from its surroundings and has a height of 15,000 ft. Another suitable site lay midway between Pangarchula peak and Kauri Pass at a height of 14,000 ft. The party in particular reported about the Ghorsoan peak, at a height of 12,458 feet, which can be easily connected by a zigzag motorable road with Joshimath, lower down to the route from the plains. Five hundred feet below the peak lies a vast stretch of meadow known as Aulibugyal (pastureland) which would be suitable for the Scientists' Colony.

The party found the proposal for a funicular railway unworkable and recommended that the Scientists' Colony and the laboratory should be located on the same plateau to obviate daily journeys by road, railway or otherwise. The establishment of a hydro-electric power station and arrangements for water supply would not present any difficulty. The question of finding a suitable site for an airfield has been left to be decided after the final selection of a site for the laboratory.

Transport of foodstuffs and equipment was one of the party's main headaches. Nearly 40 porters and 9 mules had to be pressed into service. They carried about 60 maunds of cereals and a bewildering variety of other petty equipment down to pins and tincture iodine for all possible emergencies. Despite the hard journeys on foot beyond the motor-head which the members of the party had to endure, each one of them returned healthier from the trip.

FRENCH ZONE OF GERMANY A HARD CURRENCY AREA

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 16, said :

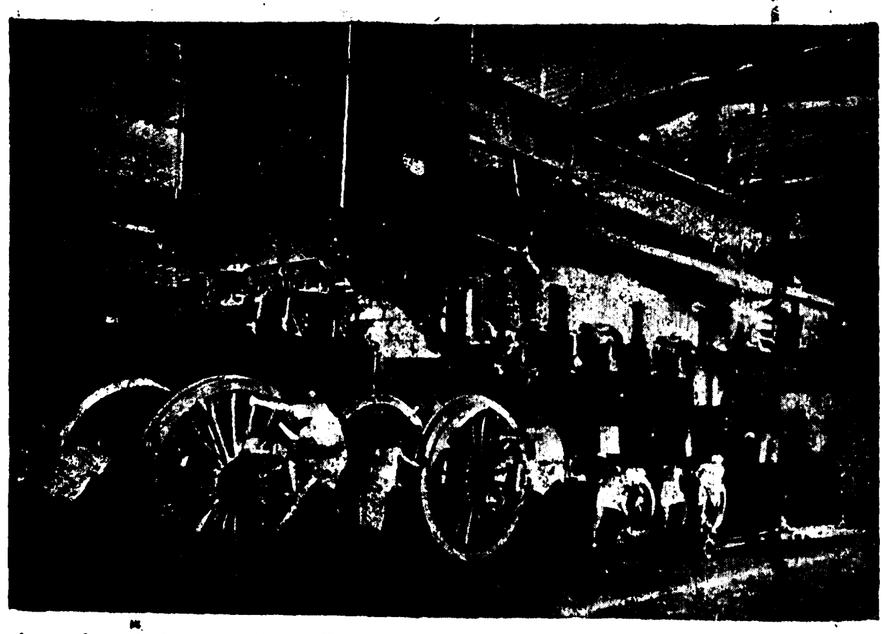
As a result of recent developments, it has been decided to treat the French Zone of Germany as a hard currency area. Consequently, imports from that area have to be restricted in accordance with the policy regarding imports from hard currency countries generally.

The Government of India has therefore decided to exclude the French Zone of Germany from the scope of Open General Licence No. XI. A notification to this effect has been issued in the Gazette of India (Extra-ordinary) dated April 16, 1949.

It has also been decided that goods against orders placed under Open General Licence No. XI, where irrevocable letters of credit have already been opened for shipments from the French Zone of Germany, will be allowed to be cleared without license if shipment is made within the time stipulated in the letters of credit.



A panoramic view of Himalayan peaks as seen from the Kuari Pass which is at a height of about 12,300 feet



A steam locomotive being repaired in an Indian railway workshop. The wheels have been turned and the axle boxes relined with bearing metal and they are now being moved into position to receive the locomotive frame when lowered by the crane

POWER POSITION ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

ONE of the subjects which evoked considerable interest during the recent discussion on the Railway Budget in the Dominion Parliament was locomotives and their manufacture in India. Several speakers commented on the present inadequate rail facilities for passenger as well as goods traffic, overcrowding, etc., all of which to a great extent, hinge on the availability of rolling stock.

Power position has been one of the main headaches of the Indian Railway Administration for some time now. Shortage of locomotives constitutes a serious bottleneck in the way of the efficient working of India's huge railway system which has been made completely dependent on foreign industry in regard to locomotives and machine tools, thanks to the "short-sighted policy" of the previous regime.

The terrific strain imposed by six years of war coupled with the most intensive use to which engines were put, particularly on the East Punjab Railway, to meet the unprecedented demand for the movement of vast masses of population following Partition played havoc with the power position of Indian Railways. And, the virtual non-availability, during the last few years, of replacement and spare parts has further aggravated the situation. Out of about 7,000 locomotives, 1,391 were expected to become overage by March 31, 1949, and a further 179 are expected to become overage by March 31, 1950, calculating that the average efficient life of an engine is 40 years. Overage engines are uneconomical to maintain and are less dependable; they are scrapped when their cost of operation and maintenance becomes prohibitive.

Another factor which has adversely affected the maintenance of locomotives relates to spare parts. The multiplicity of types of locomotives has made the problem of repairs very complex. Many of these locomotives were purchased during the day of company management often designed to suit some purely local requirement of service or grade of coal which the particular Railway was then able to secure. The result was that parts of one type of engine were not interchangeable with those of any other type.

Conditions During War

Things went fairly well before the war when each Railway was able to maintain its own supply of spare parts for the particular types of locomotives it possessed. In their all-out effort towards the successful prosecution of the War, the railways used up all their stocks of spare parts which, owing to scarcity of raw materials and restricted imports, could not be replenished. With the end of the war, conditions were no better. To cite a particular case: at one time on the B. B. and C. I. Railway, seven engines were lying idle for nearly a year for want of crank axles pending their arrival from the United Kingdom.

The Railways are making all-out efforts to bring the power position to normal. Orders have been placed abroad for 863 engines in addition to the 10 B. G. locos under construction at the B. B. and C. I. Railway's Workshop at Ajmer. Of the engines ordered abroad, 303 are from U. S., 350 from Canada, 190 from U. K. and 20 from France. Of these about 100 engines have already arrived in India. Markets in other countries are also being tapped.

Chittaranjan Project

Indeed, the main object of the Chief Commissioner of Railways' mission last year to Europe and U. K. was to ascertain what production capacity was available with various locomotive manufacturing companies there and if it was possible to secure for Indian Railways their immediate locomotive requirements. Efforts are also being made to obtain loco spares of indigenous manufacture by utilising the surplus capacity of Indian Ordnance factories and private firms.

Meanwhile, work on the Rs. 14 crore Chittaranjan Project for the manufacture of locomotives is proceeding apace. National interests demand that the country must be self-contained in the matter of key industries. In this context, the Chittaranjan Project is vital in any national emergency.

Chittaranjan, the new name for Mihijam, is on the East Indian Railway between Asansol and Madhepur, about 17 miles from Asansol by rail and 20 miles by road and is in the Burdwan district of West Bengal. It is ideally situated, adjoining as it does the labour surplus districts of Santhal Pargenas and Manbhum in Bihar and in close proximity to the coal-belt and the steel producing centres.

Rs. 14-Crore Scheme

The Chittaranjan workshops are designed to build about 120 steam locomotives and 50 spare boilers per year working single shift and, together with the Tata's Locomotive Factory, are expected to make India self-sufficient in regard to locomotives. About 1,200 machines will be used for manufacturing and assembling spare parts and locomotives, for this work involves a variety of operations embracing various trades, such as pattern making, foundry work, forging and smithy work, die sinking, drop stamping, heat treatment of materials, welding, machining of parts to high precision, boiler making, plate work, copper and tinsmith work, fitting work calling for great skill and accuracy, tool making, etc.

The total estimated cost of the scheme is a little over Rs. 14 crores, divided broadly as—Rs. 8.5 crores for workshops and ancillaries and Rs. 5 5 crores for staff colony and welfare works. Out of the former, Rs. 3 6 crores are for machinery, Rs. 1 crore for electrical arrangements, Rs. 2 crores for workshop buildings and Rs. 1 crore representing the share of construction expenses including construction plant, and the balance is for sidings, roads, share of cost of water supply, etc. The workshops involve a heavy construction programme including about 14,000 tons of steel fabrication. The project is expected to employ about 10,000 workers on a single shift work.

New Township

A modern township with the necessary ancillary services has been planned to accommodate 6,000 families to start with. Provision has been made for future expansion if the need arises. The various colonies of the township have been laid out on the "neighbourhood unit" basis, each being self-contained to a great extent provided as it will be with shops, schools, dispensaries, playgrounds and social amenity centres. All the houses in the township will have electricity, a continuous supply of filtered water and water-borne sewage. An up-to-date and well-equipped hospital to serve the needs of the township is also being built.

The ancillary services consist mainly of electric power, water and sewage and health service. It is proposed to establish at present an independent thermal station consisting of three 660 k. w. Diesel oil-engine-driven Alternator sets and ultimately power will be purchased from the Damodar Valley Corporation. There will be in all eight sub-stations inside the workshops for supplying electric power to the various motors and other electricity consuming devices.

To begin with, the workshops will produce parts of standard locomotives. The first locomotive is expected to be turned out of the shops complete by the end of 1951.

LOCOMOTIVE WORKSHOPS AT CHITTARANJAN

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on April 12 said:

Considerable progress had been made in the construction and equipment of the Indian Government Railways' Locomotive Manufacturing Workshops at Chittaranjan in West Bengal, and the Railway Board are planning to start work in these Workshops from 1950.

In order to ensure progress of this project, it has been decided to fill the post of General Manager of these Workshops and entrust to him immediately the organising of the preliminaries, obtaining of staff, arranging of special training, etc.

Mr. P. C. Mukerjee, at present General Manager of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, has been selected to be General Manager of these Workshops at Chittaranjan. He is expected to assume charge of his post some time during May, 1949.

In the vacancy created, Mr. P. C. Bahl, at present Chief Administrative Officer, Eastern Punjab Railway, is appointed to officiate as General Manager, B. N. Railway. He will be succeeded on the E. P. Railway by Mr. Daya Chand, at present Divisional Superintendent at Delhi.

BOOKING OF "SMALLS" TRAFFIC

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Transport on April 12 said:

Consignments booked as parcels or "smalls", *i.e.*, in less than full wagon loads, do not ordinarily come within the purview of rail priority control, except in the Bombay area where "smalls" traffic is subject to allotment of wagon quotas.

Applications in respect of such traffic should, therefore, be addressed to the Goods Supervisor or the Station Master of the despatching station instead of, to the Regional or the Chief Controller of Railway Priorities as this will lead to delay and inconvenience to consignors.

If, however, any consignment contravenes weight or other restrictions in force for such category of goods, an application should be made to the Traffic Superintendent or the Divisional Superintendent, who are directly concerned with this traffic, for exemption from those restrictions to enable the booking of the consignment.

Academy of Hindustan Music

The Government of India in co-operation with the United Provinces Government have established the National Academy of Hindustani Music (Hindustani Sargit Vidyapith) at Lucknow. The Marris College of Hindustani Music will be one of the constituent units of the Academy and will be known as the Bhatkhande School of Music.

The members of the Governing Body, in addition to the representatives of the Government of India, the Government of U. P. and the Marris College, include Shri Vinayak Rao Patwardhan as representative of the Vishnu Digambar School of Music, Shri T. K. Chittambara Natha Mudaliar representative of the Central College of Karnatka Music, Shri Sailaja Ranjan Mazumdar, Principal, Sangit Bhawan, Visva Bharati, Dr. Bhattacharya, Vice Chancellor, Allahabad University, Principal Panna Lal of Bharatpur and Shri D. P. Mookerji of the Lucknow University.

At its first meeting held in Lucknow recently the Governing Body decided that the Academy should undertake post-Graduate teaching in all schools of Hindustani Music and should have powers to affiliate institutions teaching Hindustani Music wherever situated. A separate department for research work may also be set up to conduct research on collection and editing of manuscripts, the composition and rendering of different *RAGAS*, establishment of a Museum of ancient musical instruments, preservation of the different *GAYAKIS* and the music of eminent *Ustads* and collection of folk songs and preservation of folk music.

Four Sub-Committees have been appointed by the Academy (1) to prepare syllabuses and courses of study (2) to frame the constiturion of the Academy (3) to discuss the functions of the Research Department and to decide whether its location should be in Delhi or Lucknow and (4) to enquire into the financial assets and liabilities of the Academy and its constituent colleges.

EXPORT OF CRUSHED BONES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 9 said:

Export quotas in respect of crushed bones and bonegrist are at present granted by the Government of India against sale of bonemeal to the Ministry of Agriculture in the proportion of three-fourths for export to hard currency countries and one-fourth to soft currency countries.

It has now been decided to dispense with this mode of allocation, and quotas granted in future against the sale of bonemeal to Government may be utilised for export to any permissible destination.

All current licences for the export of crushed bones and bonegrist which exporters may have secured will also become valid immediately for all permissible destinations.



H. E. the Governor-General presented badges and trophies to 13 cadets at an impressive parade held at the RIAF Advanced Flying School, Ambala, on April 1, the sixteenth anniversary of the R.I.A.F. Here, H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari inspects the cadets prior to the presentation of the wings

GLORIOUS RECORD OF ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCE

APRIL 1, 1949, marked the 16th anniversary of the Royal Indian Air Force.

The 'germ idea' for India having her own Air Force originated with the recommendation of the Skeen Committee in 1926, and a humble start was made when a 'flight' of the first Indian Air Force Squadron was formed at Karachi in 1933. By 1939, No. 1 Squadron had become full-fledged after having gained considerable operational experience on the North-West Frontier.

On the outbreak of World War II and the growing realisation that it might eventually engulf the whole of Asia, plans for the rapid development of the Indian Air Force were swiftly carried out, and By 1940 Coastal Defence Flights had been organised at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Karachi. Manned by the Volunteer Reserve of Officers, mostly Indians, these Flights were entrusted with the task of defending the 8,000-mile-long Indian coastline.

Burma Operations

Under the command of the late Wing Commander (then Sqd. Ldr) K. K. Mazumdar, No. 1 Squadron went into action in war against Japan, when it gave air cover to Allied troops throughout the crucial phase of the first Burma operation. Other squadrons which had

16 Years of Progress

been formed during 1942 and 1943 also played a notable role in the second phase of the Burma campaign.

By 1944, the I. A. F. had been enlarged manifold and equipped with modern machines. Two squadrons were now using Vultee Vengeance dive-bombers and five Hurricane fighters and aircraft for reconnaissance and ground-attack tasks. I. A. F. squadrons closely supported the 14th Army's historic push from Imphal to Mandalay and Rangoon and played a vital part in the Arakan victories at Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Akyab, Meybon, Kangaw and Ramree.

During 1944 and 1945, I. A. F. squadrons not only successfully carried out hundreds of tactical and offensive sweeps and bombing missions but also sprayed DDT over mangrove swamps and mosquito-infested jungles, laid smoke-screens for amphibious landings by commanders along the Arakan coast and escorted supply-dropping aircraft. In addition, a large number of I. A. F. personnel were already integrated with the Royal Air Force in India and abroad. A number of Indian pilots also flew on offensive missions over enemy-occupied Europe.

In recognition of the services it rendered during World War II, His Majesty the King approved the designation of "Royal" as a prefix to the Indian Air Force.

Battle-scarred, the RIAF returned from Burma and settled down to develop and expand itself. For every work of praise and for every award, Indian squadrons had paid heavily, but their vast field of experience was a significant gain and proved to be of great advantage in graver national emergencies later.

In April 1946, No. 4 Spitfire Squadron was selected, along with some famous Indian Army units, as part of the British Commonwealth occupation forces in Japan. It was for the first time that a full Indian squadron went overseas and shared onerous occupational duties with the British, Australian, New Zealand and American Air Forces.

India's partition cut the R. I. A. F's strength to seven fighter and one transport squadrons. Before effective steps could be taken to reorganise it, an unexpected strain was placed on its limited resources when it was called upon to help the evacuation of refugees from Pakistan.





His Excellency presents the Silver Spitfire Trophy to F/Cdt. Fernandez (left) for obtaining best results in air gunnery in the course, and pins the coveted Flying Badge on the breast of F/Cdt. Under Officer Goodman (right) who was also awarded the Jodhpur Sword of Honour and the Governor-General's special prize

The R. I. A. F. performed a miracle when it saved the fair valley of Kashmir from the ravages of the free-booters and kept itself actively busy throughout the campaign.

Despite unfavourable flying conditions, the R I A F carried out some of the most difficult tasks assigned to it, including the evacuation of over 30,000 starving refugees from the beleagured town of Poonch and the airlifting of tons of supplies and men to Leh without proper high-altitude flying facilities and landing on hurriedly-improvised airstrips at heights of over 12,000 feet. While the Kashmir operations were still on, the R. I. A. F. had to render close support to ground troops during the five-day Hyderabad 'police action.'

Plans for Expansion

Plans have been formulated for the future development of the R. I. A. F.. "Technical and Supply Staff" is a recent edition to the former Air Staff and Personnel and Organization Staff in the expansion scheme of Air HQ. In addition to the Operational Group (Palam), which controls the activities of the R. I. A. F. and the Training Group (Bangalore), which is responsible for training air crew and ground personnel, the R I A F has now a central maintenance organization where aircraft and mechanical transport are assembled, overhaled, repaired and tested.

Selected officers are being sent for advanced and higher training to the United Kingdom, and a separate recruiting agency to provide the personnel needed for the expanding air force has been set up. A staff college education is being provided for R. I. A. F. officers and a special class for them will begin at the present Military Staff College in May next. Plans for the formation of a college to impart higher technical education to selected officers and airmen are under way.

The R. I. A. F. recently acquired from the U. K. three jet-propelled Vampire fighter aircraft, the fastest machines in service today. But compared to the air forces of other countries, the R. I. A. F, is still very small. At any rate, it is not big enough to provide air defence to the whole of the vast sub-continent of India, but it is a "solid foundation" on which a bigger structure can be built when the nation so desires and can afford it.

If past history is an index of the future, the record of our 16-year young air Force should make us look forward to the times ahead with hope and confidence.

Defence Minister's Message

On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the RIAF, on April 1, 1940, the Hon'ble Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, sent the following message:

"Today, the youngest of our Fighting Services, the Royal Indian Air Force, is 16 years old. This is a very short period, but it has in this short time already built itself into a firm pillar of strength. The manner in which young pilots, ground officers and men carried their duties in Kashmir will bear comparison with the most arduous duties and complicated tasks in aerial warfare. The daring landings they made at high altitudes, in narrow river beds, on short shell ridden strips under gunfire were some of the deeds of which they and we will ever be proud. This all augurs well for the future of this young Service and I, along with the rest of India, wish you, on this day, good luck and a successful future."

INDIA'S GREETINGS TO R.A.F.

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Royal Air Force Air Vice-Marshal S. Mukerjee, O. B. E., Offg. Chief of the Air Staff and Commander-in-Chief, R. I. A. F., sent the following message to the Royal Air Force, through the Indian High Commissioner in London.

"On April 1, 1949, we, the officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force send you our heartiest greetings.

"We pay our homage to the immortal heroes of your air force and recalling with profound respect and gratitude the glorious tradition of service, sacrifice and comradeship which are a source of inspiration to us in building our own air force, we, the officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force salute you."

HORSE SHOW AND CARNIVAL AT RAJAURI

Sheikh Abdullah's Praise for Indian Troops

UNDER the patronage of Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh, Divisional Commander, the Mountain Regiment of the Royal Indian Artillery held a horse show and a carnival at Rajauri on April 2 and 3.

The show was the first of its kind held in these parts for a considerable time, and it provided great interest and amusement to the villagers, most of whom had never seen the outside world. Days in advance, thousands of people, including Indian troops, from far-off Poonch, Mendhar, Naushera, Thanamandi and Budhil had assembled at Rajauri to take part in the two-day 'mela'.

Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and many high State officials were also present. The GOC, Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh and the local Brigade Commanders, Brig. V.R. Khanolkar received the Premier, who arrived by air. Sheikh Abdullah had previously visited Rajauri several years ago, but this was his first visit to this third biggest town in the State since the disturbances and his assumption of premiership.

Cordial Relations

At the end of the first day's show, Sheikh Abdullah addressed a gathering of more than 15,000 people squatting on the airfield or perched on the slopes of the hills around. He congratulated them on the very cordial relations they had cultivated and maintained with Indian troops, who came to their aid at a time of great peril. He recounted how when the Kashmiris were uprooted from their homes by the marauders, Indian troops not only fought the raiders but also helped the people in various ways, including the sharing of their rations and clothing with them.

The premier expressed appreciation for the Muslims of the Darhal Valley (10 miles north of Rajauri) who had, in a body, refused to be cowed down by the fanatical hostiles. This, he said, quickened the pace of liberation of a vast area. He conveyed the thanks of the GOC to Darhal Muslims who came forward in their thousands to assist Indian forces in their advance that culminated in the link-up with beleagured Poonch.

Sheikh Abdullah felt confident that the firm ties of friendship that were now being forged between the various communities on the one hand and between the people of the State and of India on the other would endure for ever. He told the people of the State that they could build a strong and prosperous Kashmir only through truth and love and exhorted them to stand united.

Before concluding, Sheikh Abdullah referred to what Government were doing to bring relief to the people, and assured them that speedy steps were being taken to rush to the interior of the State essential supplies such as food, salt, clothes, seeds and agricultural implements.

Before returning to Jammu, the Premier visited the Military Hospital and went round the various wards.

Giving away the prizes, Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh thanked the people for helping his troops during the Poonch operations. That fine gesture on their part, he said, would never be forgotten. Though hostilities had terminated, Indian troops were not keeping idle. They had full orders to utilise their spare time, and energy to help the civilians in every possible way. "India and her Army have nothing but goodwill towards the people of Jammu and Kashmir and they wish them all peace and prosperity", he said.

During the two-day show, a card of 17 events was gone through, the programme including tug-of-war on mules, handy hunters, musical chairs, wrestling and races.



Maj.-Gen. Thimayya, G. O. C.-in-C., Indian troops in Kashmir, distributing atta to refugees in Kashmir

PRIZES OFFERED FOR MILITARY SONGS

The Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army has offered 12 prizes of Rs. 150 each to the best composers of songs suitable for adaptation for military march music. Versed in simple Hindustani, the tunes should be capable of orchestral rendering and particularly playable on military brass bands.

For some time past, the Army authorities have been trying to secure appropriate compositions for the purpose without much success. The practice of playing popular film songs on military bands has, however, not been considered proper. What is required are songs that would inspire martial enthusiasm if played on military bands or hummed and whistled by soldiers as they march along just as British troops do in their community singing.

Competitors are required to submit their manuscript on proper music score sheets for military bands. They should be sent to the Adjutant-General, Army Headquarters, New Delhi, before August 1, 1949, after which no contributions will be entertained.

Army Headquarters will set up a committee of experts to adjudge the first 12 best songs and its decisions will be deemed to be final and binding. No correspondence with competitors whose songs are rejected will be entertained. The accepted song will become the property of Army Headquarter.

RECEPTION TO UNCIP MEMBERS



Pandit Nehru held a reception in New Delhi on March 29 in honour of the members of the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan. Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Deputy Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, entertained them to dinner. (Left) Pandit Nehru with H. E. Robert Van de Kerchove and Dr. Alfredo Lozano.

Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad with Lt. G. Haug (centre) and Col. P. Ringdal (left) Military Observers of the Commission



Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad talking to H. E. Robert Van de Kerchove



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRINTING PRESSES

Expert Committee to Examine Working

IN a resolution published in the Gazette of India on April 2, 1949, Government have appointed an Expert Committee to examine the working of the Government of India Presses under the Controller of Printing and Stationery (India), determine the overall printing capacity required by Government, the location of the presses, the manner in which Government work should be distributed among existing presses and the need for establishment of new presses.

The Resolution reads : The Government of India have had under consideration the question of augmenting the printing capacity of their printing presses, located at Simla, New Delhi, Aligarh and Calcutta. The machinery in these presses has become old and worn-out; and their out-turn has decreased on account of their age and frequent breakdowns. On the other hand, printing demands have considerably increased due, *inter alia*, to the establishment of the new Ministries and offices on account of the country's new status. It has also become imperative to arrange to print the debates of the Constituent Assembly in different Indian languages.

Increase in Demands

Some of the Government Departments and Ministries *viz.* the Survey of India, the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Commerce, have got their own printing presses for their specialised work, but even so the Government of India Presses under the Controller of Printing and Stationery are unable to cope with the steady increase in the demands of Government offices and it is necessary now to make an overall review of the whole position.

A senior Manager of the Government of India Presses was placed on special duty to examine the needs of the situation. He has submitted a report with a five-year programme of development. The Government of India consider that this report needs careful consideration and scrutiny by a Committee of independent experts and have decided to set up an Expert Committee, with personnel and terms of reference as follows :—

Chairman.

Shri Ramnath Goenka, Managing Director, Indian Express, Bombay.

Members.

2. Mr. F.Borton, Proprietor, Caxton Printing Press, Bombay.
3. Shri H.K. Das, Managing Director, M/S. Eagle Lithi & Co., Calcutta.
4. Mr. F.H. Reuledar, Superintendent Hoe & Co., Madras.
5. The Controller of Printing and Stationery, New Delhi.

Secretary.

Shri V.N. Limaye,
Diploma in Printing (London)
Nagpur.

The Committee will generally examine the working of the Government of India Presses under the Controller of Printing and Stationery (India), determine the overall printing capacity required by the Government as a whole including Civil and Defence requirements and the probable growth in the next five years, the location of the presses, the manner in which Government work should be distributed among existing presses and the need for establishment of new presses.

In particular, the Committee will examine and make the suggestions on the following :-

(*i*) Whether the replacement programme as recommended by the Officer on Special Duty in his report should be given effect to;

(*ii*) Whether any of the existing presses should be expanded and modern machinery installed (in addition to replacement of the old machinery) and whether there is scope for such expansion;

(*iii*) From which countries and what types of machinery might be procured and what should be the agency for their procurement; also whether any machinery manufactured in India can be used;

(*iv*) Whether in the interest of economy and efficiency the printing now done by the other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India including the proposed expansion of presses under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of Commerce and the establishment of new press by the Legislative Assembly Department should be centralised under the Controller, Printing and Stationery;

(*v*) What special arrangements are necessary for the printing of top-secret work and whether and if so, to what extent the capacity of the presses should be increased for meeting the demands of the Ministries and offices for printing in different vernaculars in the next five years.

(*vi*) Whether a practical printer should be attached to the Headquarters office of the Controller, Printing and Stationery, as Technical Adviser and if so what should be his duties; and

(*vii*) Whether any steps other than those indicated at items (*i*) to (*vi*) above, may be taken to improve production and efficiency, e.g. introduction of double shifts, training of personnel etc.

(*viii*) Any other suggestions concerning the Stationery and Printing Department which the Committee may wish to make.

In view of the great urgency of the matter, the Government of India hope that the Committee will be able to complete the work and submit their report as early as possible.

Jute Stock Position

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 1 said :

The Jute Industry's difficulty in maintaining production at the present level because of paucity of raw materials was discussed by the Government of India last week with representatives of the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Calcutta Jute Fabrics Shippers Association and the Raw Jute Trade. The Minister for Commerce, the Minister for Industry and Supply and the Minister for Agriculture held the discussion. The Premier of West Bengal was also present.

While the Government agrees that the position of stocks is serious, it feels that it would not be desirable to embark upon a policy of curtailment of production immediately but that the position should be kept under watch and reviewed afresh some time early in June.

Equitable Distribution

It has suggested to the Indian Jute Mills Association certain measures, such as adjustment in production of hessian and sacking without curtailment of total output by re-distribution of stocks of raw jute among mills, so that the quantity of raw jute for hessian production is equitably distributed; and increasing the production of sacking relatively to the production of hessian.

The Government feels that these and other measures proposed by it may suffice to enable the industry to tide over the present crisis without any curtailment of production or adoption of special measures regarding labour force which the industry has in view, neither of which could be said to be in the long-term interests of the country or the industry. Should the position appear to be otherwise as a result of the review, the Government would be prepared to consider curtailment of production later in the light of the facts then divulged.

CENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

The Government of India has decided to participate in the Third Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the further Tariff negotiations to be held in April at Annecy, in France. The Government of India Delegation will comprise:

Representative:

Mr. M. J. Desai, Commercial Adviser to the High Commissioner for India in London.

Alternate Representative:

Mr. B.N. Banerji, Assistant Commissioner-General for Commercial and Economic Affairs in Europe, Paris.

ACCIDENTS THAT NEED NOT HAPPEN

ACCIDENTS will happen in the best regulated of places, it has been said. Nature's pranks or some other cause beyond the control of man, will set at naught his most elaborate precautions against mishap.

Yet, there are certain types of accidents that just need not happen. This one, for instance : In Belgatohia, Howrah, some time ago, a family of seven went to bed one cold night after a hard day's work at the family trade. The next morning they were all found dead. The verdict was : death due to negligence.

The family were engaged in the manufacture of fireworks. They had a quantity of fireworks stored in the premises when they retired for the night. Some open light started off a fire, which spread quickly. All the occupants of the house were trapped and died of suffocation and burnt. Incidentally, they had no licence for manufacturing fireworks.

This unfortunate accident which caused the premature death of an entire family could have been avoided. Yet, it is but one of many that occur frequently in this country through faulty handling of explosives.

Thirtytwo valuable lives were lost and a much larger number of persons sustained injuries through carelessness or ignorance in handling explosives, in 1947. Details of these accidents were recently published by the Department of Explosives under the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, Government of India, as an appendix to its Annual Report for 1947.

Expert Body on Explosives

The Statute Book in this country includes two Acts dealing with explosives and inflammable substances. These are the Explosives Act and the Petroleum Act. The Department of Explosives, which is in charge of the Chief Inspector of Explosives in India, functions as an expert body advising the Government, the Railways, the Port Trusts, and commercial and industrial concerns in the country on all matters relating to the handling, storage, transport, import and manufacture of such dangerous substances.

For instance, this Department regulates trade in explosives through licences. During 1947, 1702 licences were issued under the Explosives Rules and 4,851 under the Petroleum Rules.

Regular inspection of places where explosives and petroleum are stored or handled is carried out by the Department. During the year 1947, for which complete figures have been compiled, 2,720 inspections were carried out.

Another duty the Department is called upon to perform is the investigation of accident, caused by explosives or similar dangerous substances. There were 64 such accidents during 1947. The direct causes of some of these accidents were faulty handling of country-made gun powder, fireworks, petroleum, etc. Accidents from gun powder were due to inexperienced persons attempting to make their own gun powder illegally for deepening wells, etc.

Accidents have also occured from persons picking up or playing with explosives washed ashore from the sea or found after troops had left a practice ground. Through this cause alone 11 persons lost their lives and 152 sustained injuries during 1947. What the public ought to do in such cases is to report the discovery of the explosives to the nearest police station.

The Department of Explosives has taken steps to enforce much stricter control over the use of chlorates in the manufacture of certain materials. Those engaged in the manufacture of fireworks have been totally prohibited from using chlorates and the composition of other explosives which require the use of chlorates is being scrutinized to reduce the causes of accidents.

Fires from Films

Cinematograph films have been the cause of many accident . The Cinematograph Film Rules, 1948, have been framed and published under the Petroleum Act by the Department to provide a set of co-ordinated regulations throughout India for storage and transport of this highly inflammable commodity. A concentrated effort is being made to remove all large film storages outside crowded areas of cities.

Another common source of accidents, particularly in South India, has been "safety" matches. These have occurred in most cases during transport and have resulted in damage to Railway property. On investigation by the Department of Explosives, it was found that match-heads projecting outside match boxes, or the side composition flowing over to the top and base of the match boxes had caused fires. In other cases, match boxes were found to be of flimsy construction, or the fitting of the inner trays and outer covers of boxes was uneven.

The Department specially deputed an officer to visit match factories in South India where match manufacture flourishes as a cottage industry. Certain suggestions were made by this officer, and considerable improvement has been noticed since then.

The Department's Annual Report furnishes many other causes of accidents. For instance, ignorance that petrol vapour can easily be ignited by a hurricane lamp or a similar naked light has been the cause of many accidents. At Basin Bridge Station, Madras, nine barrels of petrol arrived early one morning from Bangalore, loaded in a wagon along with other goods in a passenger train. When the door of the wagon was opened, the guard entered with his hand-lamp. Immediately the petrol vapour inside caught fire, injuring four, one of whom subsequently died. What really happened is this : From the petrol that was spilled as a result of decantation from one container to another vapour was produced. Vapour, being heavier than air, accumulated near the ground level and caught fire when the guard entered the compartment with his lamp. The result was a blaze.

At another place, there was some spillage of aviation spirit while it was being delivered to shore tanks from a tanker. The spillage was washed down into the river by the ship's personnel, and it drifted with the tide. Lower down the river it caught fire when it reached a jetty where a steam launch was tied.

The Department's advice to all concerned is : an extra pinch of caution where explosives are concerned repays itself many times over.

POSTINGS BY TRANSFER BUREAU

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 8 said :

The Government of India have set up a three-man Committee to reconsider such cases of postings by the Transfer Bureau as involve gross disparities between the present and previous employment of displaced Central Government servants and refugee Provincial Government servants from Sind, Baluchistan and N. W. F. P. Mr. S. B. Bapat, Joint Secretary, Home Ministry, will be the chairman of this Committee.

A Special Officer has also been appointed in the Home Ministry to attend to this work of reshuffling. In the circumstances in which the Transfer Bureau had to function in the earlier days immediately after the partition, the need for placing displaced Government servants in employment was paramount and this led in some cases to disparities of placements. Information is now being collected by the Reshuffling Officer regarding the number and nature of cases in which such disparities have occurred. Steps will be taken to rectify them as far as possible but it must be realised that actual reshuffling must be limited by the number of suitable vacancies available.

Any Transfer Bureau nominee having a genuine grievance regarding his posting may apply through his Department to the Reshuffling Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, quoting (*i*) his registration number in the Transfer Bureau (*ii*) academic qualifications (*iii*) full details of previous employment, especially substantive post, pay and pay-scale, officiating post, pay and pay-scale and period of officiating in higher post and (*iv*) present post, pay and pay-scale ; he should also certify that the statements made are correct.

Any association interested in rehabilitation of displaced persons may bring to the notice of the Reshuffling Officer cases of Transfer Bureau nominees holding posts which are either unduly high or unduly low compared with the posts previously held by them.



(L. to R.) Air Commodore R. H. D. Singh, Air Officer Commanding No. 2 Training Group, R.I.A.F. (Bangalore); Air Commodore A.M. Engineer, D.F.C., Air Officer Commanding No. 1, Operational Group, R.I.A.F. (Palam); Air Vice Marshal S. Mukerjee, O.B.E., Officiating Chief of the Air Staff and Commander-in-Chief, R.I.A.F.; Air Commodore Narendra, Air Officer-in-Charge, Technical and Equipment Services, Air H.Q., R.I.A.F., and Air Commodore D.A.R. Nanda, Air Officer-in-Charge, Personnel and Organization, Air H.Q., R.I.A.F.

AIR VICE-MARSHAL S. MUKERJEE ON ACHIEVEMENTS OF R.I.A.F.

BROADCASTING a message from All India Radio Delhi, to all ranks of the Royal Indian Air Force on its 16th anniversary on April 1, Air Vice-Marshal S.Mukerjee, Chief of the Staff and officiating C-in-C., RIAF said, "Service is your life not because regulations say so but because you have been chosen out of thousands as fit to undertake the task of defending our motherland. As one of you, I know only too well, some of the inconveniences we have to put up today, but let me remind you that India won its independence only recently and we have a big task in front of us. While our country is in the process of being built up we must be prepared for all sacrifice.

Front-Line Efficiency

"India is a vast country and strategically we occupy a vital position on the globe. The last war has made it clear that in a crisis we shall be the first to be called upon to take off. As such, our difficulties are great. We have to maintain a front-line efficiency at all times. Our vast distances, and long coast-lines require a network of air-defence much larger than what we have at the moment. Fortunately our Government is alive to this aspect of the problem of national defence and RIAF is expanding. It is up to each and every one of us, no matter in what capacity we serve, that we make personal sacrifices and finally emerge as a Service strong enough to defend the honour and pride of our country."

Recalling RIAF's proud achievements, the Air Vice Marshal earlier said "I speak to you as one who has known intimately the trials of its infant years, its achievements during the war and its work in Kashmir, which have been fully appreciated by our people. All this has been achieved at a cost and my thoughts turn to our comrades who gave up their lives and to all serving airmen and ex-servicemen, who have given up their all to build the traditions of which we are so proud today."

Laying stress on the spirit of working as a team, the Air Vice-Marshal wished happiness and good fortune to all ranks of RIAF and exhorted them to make the Air Force an example of steadiness and a source of pride and strength to the country.

INDIA'S GREETINGS TO CANADIAN AIR FORCE

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal S. Mukerjee, officiating Chief of the Air Staff and Commander-in-Chief, Royal Indian Air Force, sent the following message to the Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Canadian Air Force, through the Indian High Commissioner in Canada, Sardar Hardit Singh Malik.

"On this memorable occasion of the silver jubilee of the Royal Canadian Air Force, the Royal Indian Air Force send their heartiest greetings to the Officers and men of your national air arm.

Happy Coincidence

"It is a happy coincidence that the Royal Air Force, the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Indian Air Force should all celebrate their Anniversary on this, the first day of April.

"In celebrating our anniversary we recall with respect and admiration our Camradeship during the last war and pay our homage to the heroes of your air force whose splendid achievements have enriched our traditions also.

"On this historic day which marks the 26th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force, we the officers and men of the Royal Indian Air Force, salute you"



Senior Military Officers stationed at Jammu being introduced to Gen. K. M. Cariappa, C.-in-C., Indian Army, during his recent visit to the State

"THE ARMY IS SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE"

Gen. Cariappa's Address at Srinagar

"I am an Indian first and last and am determined to make my Army such an organisation that no one would dare look at India with an evil eye," declared Gen. K. M. Cariappa, C.-in-C. of the Indian Army, addressing a public meeting at Srinagar on April 8, 1949.

Expressing relief and satisfaction at the gradual return of peaceful conditions in the Kashmir Valley, Gen. Cariappa said, "Last year, when I spoke to you in this part of the country, I shed tears of sorrow at the woeful state of affairs then prevailing here due to the terrible havoc wrought by the raiders during their orgy of loot and arson. Today, when I see this vast assemblage of smiling people, tears of joy gather in my eyes.

"The Army is the servant of the people and it exists to defend democracy and protect the country's newly-won freedom in accordance with the gospel of truth, love and sacrifice preached by Mahatma Gandhi."

Describing an interesting episode which gave a glimpse of how Pakistan carried on false propaganda, he said, "Some time back a Pakistani Officer of the rank of a Brigadier gave a graphic account to the U.N. observers of how a Muslim Conference worker was "murdered" at Jhangar by soldiers of the Indian Army. When the U.N. observers actually visited the spot to investigate the incident, they were shown a grave. When the grave was unearthed it revealed the corpse of a dog buried there."

Earlier, Maulana Sayeed, Secretary of the National Conference, welcoming the C.-in-C., praised the services the Indian Army had rendered to the people of Kashmir at an hour of great peril.

Gen. Cariappa reached Srinagar after making a whirlwind tour of Naushera, Rajauri and Mendhar in the Jammu province and Poonch. On arrival, he was presented a guard of honour by Sikh soldiers and Kashmir police.

Overseas Radio Telephone Service will be extended to Hungary with effect from May 2, 1949, according to a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on April 30. The charges per call will be Rs. 50 for the first three minutes. Rs. 16-11-0 for each subsequent minute and Rs. 6 for a Report Charge. The hours of service will be the same as between India and U.K.

Military Training for Civilians

WITH a view to inculcating a sense of discipline among the people, the Indian Army proposes to start voluntary classes for civilians to receive simple military training.

Under the scheme, a parade ground will be selected, in consultation with the local police authorities, where civilian volunteers between the ages of 18 and 35 will be permitted to congregate once a week. They will be organised in small squads of 15 to 20 each. Each squad will be under the command of a Non-Commissioned Officer and a group of four such squads will be controlled by a Junior Commissioned Officer. Three group-squads, *i.e.*, 12 squads, will be placed under an officer.

Each squad will have to undergo 10 minutes' simple physical training and 20 minutes' squad-training without rifles, when the squads will be made to march in military formations.

There will also be a 20 minutes' talk on sanitation, hygiene and discipline, with 10 minutes of rest in between. Each individual will be required to attend six parades.

The parades will be purely voluntary and the training will be on the basis of "no cost" to the State. No money or refreshment of any kind will be admissible to the volunteers, who are free to wear any clothes they like. While this kind of training is given in the cities by the Army, the police may undertake to impart it in the villages.

To start with, the experiment will be tried in the cities of Delhi, Lucknow, Jhansi, Jullundur, Ambala, Amritsar, Calcutta, Nagpur, Madras, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Poona and Ahmedabad. After the first batch of volunteers has been trained and the results achieved seen, the question of extending the scheme to other stations will be considered.

It is hoped that the scheme, of which the people are expected to take the fullest advantage, will go a long way in making them more conscious of their civic responsibilities. Bodies of men made to march about, turn left or right, salute and halt on words of command given by an officer will naturally produce an instinctive habit in such 'drilled' people of strictly obeying orders. A free course of military drill, besides helping men to walk straight and talk straight, will incidentally help them also to think straight.

A Pres Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 14 said :

There appears to be some misunderstanding regarding the scope of the sales tax recently introduced by the Bombay Government on exports outside the Province of Bombay.

This tax is levied only on sales or supplies of goods despatched from the Province to other Provinces and States within the Union of India—not on goods exported to countries outside the Indian Union, except foreign possessions such as Goa which are within the geographical boundaries of the Indian Union.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari performed the opening ceremony of the Central Cottage Industries Emporium organised by the Ministry of Industry and Supply in New Delhi on April 9. Here, the Governor-General is examining an exhibit

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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 H L. Sharma, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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INDIA'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMONWEALTH

Decisions of London Conference

The following Press Communique, as approved by the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon and the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, was issued on April 27, 1949, from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, New Delhi:

During the past week the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon and the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs have met in London to exchange views upon the important constitutional issues arising from India's decision to adopt a republican form of constitution and her desire to continue her membership of the Commonwealth.

The discussions have been concerned with the effects of such a development upon the existing structure of the Commonwealth and the constitutional relations between its members. They have been conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding and have had as their historical background the traditional capacity of the Commonwealth to strengthen its unity of purpose while adapting its organisation and procedures to changing circumstances.

Declaration

After full discussion the Representatives of the Governments of all the Commonwealth countries have agreed that the conclusions reached should be placed on record in the following declaration :

"The Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon whose countries are united as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations and owe a common allegiance to the Crown, which is also the symbol of their free association, have considered the impending constitutional changes in India.

"The Government of India have informed the other Governments of the Commonwealth of the intention of the Indian people that under the new constitution which is about to be adopted India shall become a sovereign independent Republic. The Government of India have, however, declared and affirmed India's desire to continue her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations and her acceptance of the King as the symbol of the free association of its independent member nations and as such the head of the Commonwealth.

"The Governments of the other countries of the Commonwealth, the basis of whose membership of the Commonwealth is NOT hereby changed, accept and recognise India's continuing membership in accordance with the terms of this declaration.

"Accordingly the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan and Ceylon hereby declare that they remain united as free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations, freely co-operating



Pandit Nehru bidding good-bye to H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari and Sardar Patel before leaving New Delhi for London to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference



Sardar Patel addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on April 28 when he made a statement on India's future association with the Commonwealth

in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress."

These constitutional questions have been the sole object of discussion at the full meetings of Prime Ministers.

SARDAR PATEL'S STATEMENT

The following is the text of a statement made by the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, at a Press Conference on April 28.

I am sure all of you have already read the Press Communique which has appeared in this morning's papers on the discussions which have been going on in London for the last one week on the problem of India's association with the Commonwealth of Nations. As a Dominion, we have been, like other members of the Commonwealth, owing allegiance to the Crown. When we accepted this position, we made it quite clear that this was for the time being and that the question of our future status was one to be decided by the Constituent Assembly as a sovereign body with complete freedom.

We had already passed an Objective Resolution in the First Session of the Constituent Assembly. That Objective Resolution stands and shall remain the corner-stone of our Draft Constitution and our republican status clearly forms a part of that objective. At the same time, we have throughout expressed the view that we desire close association with the United Kingdom and other countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The problem before us was how to regulate such association having regard to our proclaimed objective of a republican status.

It was a difficult problem and we have given to this matter most anxious thought and consideration. Throughout, however, we have never flinched from our objective of our republican status, and never has the problem been of modifying that status in order to suit such form of association with the Commonwealth as might be evolved; on the other hand, it has been our endeavour to determine that form of association without, in any way, affecting or departing from our republican status. This undoubtedly involved an adjustment of the existing structure of the Commonwealth.

INDIAN INFORMATION

With effect from July 1, 1949, 'Indian Information' will cease publication. The last issue of the journal will be the issue dated June 15, 1949. A few of the more important features in 'Indian Information' will appear in 'March of India', published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

We thank our readers in India and abroad for the support extended to 'Indian Information'. Unexpired subscriptions will be refunded to regular subscribers who have registered with the Production Manager, 'Indian Information.'

We have to remember that, throughout its existence, the Commonwealth has never been a rigid institution. It has displayed an amazing adaptability to the ideological growth in its component parts. In that has lain principally its integrity and strength and it is through that adaptation that it has survived many critical moments in its history.

Throughout the discussions which we have had on this important matte, we have had full understanding of our attitude by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and other Dominions with whose representatives we have already had informal discussions. There has been manifest throughout a desire for adjustment to suit our constitutional position. I should like to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation which we have had from these gentlemen.

The Prime Minister, from time to time, has made statements on this question and has explained the ideas underlying our approach to this question. Before he left India to attend the Conference, he re-stated our position and I am sure you will be glad to find that, in essentials, that position has been sustained as a result of the conclusions reached at the Conference.

It is not for me to give you any idea of the course of negotiations. I know this much that throughout during the deliberations of the Conference our Prime Minister found a general attitude of friendliness, cordiality and goodwill and an earnest desire to achieve a solution which would accord India an equal place in the Commonwealth without affecting its republican status.

India's Sovereign Status

I shall now say a few words by way of explanation on the conclusions and decisions which have emerged. You will notice that there is a change in the nomenclature of the Commonwealth. In future, it will be known as the "Commonwealth of Nations." Such a thing was inevitable in view of the changing character of its composition.

India's status of a Sovereign Independent Republic is, by no means, affected because there is no question of allegiance

(*Continued on Page 495*)



Pandit Nehru inaugurating the first session of the Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO in New Delhi on April 9

INDIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CO-OPERATION WITH UNESCO

Pandit Nehru's Inaugural Address

"IN Asia today there is a natural upheaval, not only in men's minds but in outward activity also, and something of the greatest importance from the historic point of view is taking place in Asia," said the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, in his inaugural address to the first session of the Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO on April 9, 1949.

Pandit Nehru said :

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I presume I have been invited to inaugurate this National Commission in my capacity as Prime Minister of India because it is not quite clear to me what other qualifications I possess for this purpose. Both in my official capacity as well as in my personal capacity I should like to welcome you all here and to express my pleasure at the formation of this National Commission. I was thinking late last night as to what exactly I should say to you on this occasion and I confess that I could not make up my mind or have any clear ideas on the subject. I requested the Chairman to give me some more time to think about it but he refused and so, if what I say to you is not very coherent or very much to the point, you will forgive me.

It is obvious that this great Organisation, which is part of the still greater Organization, the United Nations, is trying to grapple with a variety of problems which are today convulsing the world and which, unless they are solved, will bring inevitable disaster in their train. The United Nations as a whole deals more or less with the political aspects of these problems. The UNESCO deals with the social, cultural, scientific, etc., aspects. Politics have a certain value and a certain importance and our lives unfortunately are affected a great deal by what happens in the political field. Nevertheless, I suppose it is beginning to be realised more and more that politics are affected greatly by other things—economic certainly, cultural background certainly—and so, more and more attention is gradually being paid to these backgrounds.

Constant Dread of War

We live in constant dread of war. Now, war may be caused by many things but probably one of the main causes of war is just its dread alone, that fear of each other. How to grapple with this fear ? It is possibly political in some places, but ultimately something deeper than that—some kind of attempt to understand the working of men's minds, the working not only of individual men's minds but national minds, the mass mind,—an attempt to make people understand other people's minds, one national group understanding another national group's mind.

We are met here in India today and naturally, for us Indians, even more than for others in the other continents of the world, what is happening in Asia is of the utmost tremendous significance. In Asia today there is a natural upheaval, not only in men's minds but in outward activity also, and something of the greatest importance from the historic point of view is taking place in Asia. I cannot say whether it will lead to all good or all bad or something between the two. The point to notice is that something very big is happening.

Now my mind goes back to a period let us say roughly 500 years ago, when first of all Europe or some countries of Europe began to throw out their feelers towards Asia and their adventurers, seamen and others, discovered the routes to India and thus began those first contacts between Asia—Southern Asia, Eastern Asia and Western Asia—and the West, which developed into various forms of colonial population. It took 200 or 300 years for them to instal themselves and then we had in another couple of hundred years all these forms of colonial domination in Asia by countries of Europe. We who have been living in the last generation or so are used to this period. Perhaps, after all, in dealing with history, this period is a very short period so far as India or Asia or the World are concerned.

Now, what is happening today? Not exactly a reversal of that process but something like it; that is to say, European colonisation in Asia is vanishing fairly rapidly. It has gone in some areas, it is bound to go in other areas. Any person who has any understanding of these things can see that. So, we are going back in a sense to a period some 100 years ago—not, going back, of course, because we live in a new world but in a sense we pick up certain old

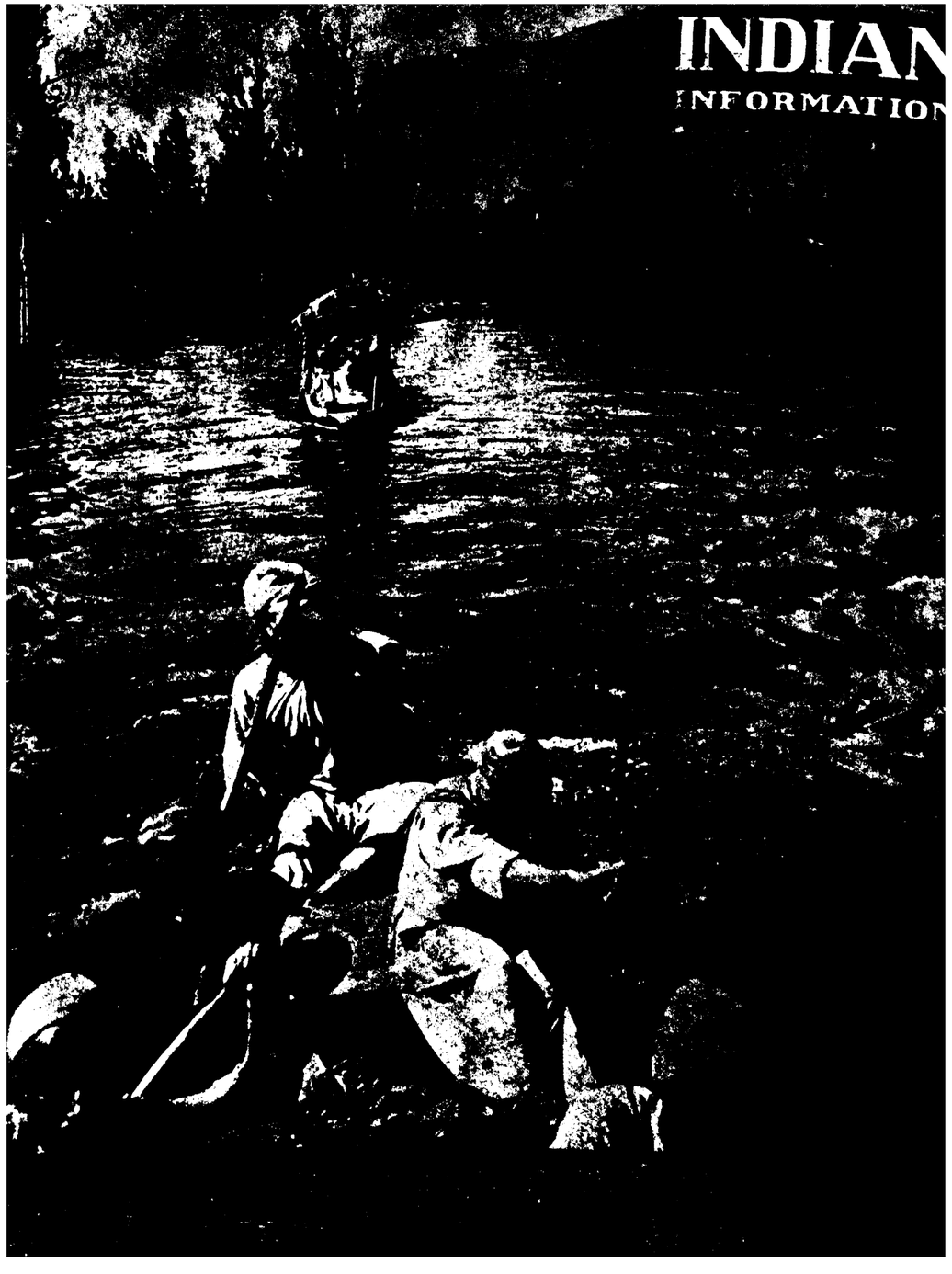
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EASTERN COMMAND SERVICES WEEK—Sardar Baldev Singh, India's Defence Minister, inspecting a Guard of Honour during his recent visit to Ranchi to witness the celebrations of the Eastern Command Services Week. (Below), for the first time in the history of Indian Army, Governors of five Provinces assembled at [illegible] Army Exhibition recently held at Ranchi where they witnessed military displays. (L. to R.) Shri Sri Prakasa (Assam) Shri M. S. Aney (Bihar) Lt.-Gen. Thakur Nathu Singh, G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command, Dr. K. N. Katju (West Bengal) Shri B. Malik (U. P.) and Shri Asaf Ali (Orissa)



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up a United Nations Organisation, it was, therefore, decided that there should be also an organisation for promoting closer collaboration between different peoples of the world in the fields of education, science and culture. Accordingly, the UNESCO was set up to achieve these ends.

Co-operation and Understanding

At the time of the constitution of UNESCO, it was realised that co-operation and understanding between nations could be built only if there was co-operation and understanding among the different elements within the nation itself. If within a nation itself there were divergent elements, whose differing points of view had not been fully co-ordinated, such a nation could hardly serve as a harmonious unit in international setting.

Experience showed that there was not only colossal ignorance about different Nations but in many cases members of the same nation were ignorant of one another's attitudes, beliefs, customs and faith. This was an experience which was almost universal except in the case of a very few small and homogeneous nations. Further, it was felt that closer co-operation between different elements of national life would lead to a promotion of activities in all the fields of education, science and culture.

The constitution of the UNESCO, therefore, provided that every nation should set up as soon as possible a National Commission or co-operating body for furthering the aims and objects of the UNESCO within the national unit. It was also felt that such activities could be better carried out by a non-official agency than by the Government or any body set up directly under Government auspices.

The constitution of the UNESCO provides that only States can be its members. This guarantees that there will be no possibility of adding to international complications through its activities. There is, however, another aspect of the question which cannot be ignored. The nature of education, science and culture is such that their cause can be served better by private and voluntary agencies. This is the reason why the UNESCO constitution insists that there should be voluntary bodies or National Commissions to perform its functions in the national field.

Spiritual Wealth

Unfortunately, the experience of the last three years has not fully justified the hopes which were raised by the establishment of the United Nations Organisation. In spite of the initial agreement with which it started, it has to-day become the arena for struggles between rival blocs. It is true that the struggle is yet only a cold war. This is, however, little consolation to those who seek peace on an enduring basis. It is tragic that even to-day nations have not given up the old attitudes which so often led to war.

The one gleam of hope offered in this dark picture to-day is the manner in which the UNESCO, an allied organisation of the United Nations, has been attempting to establish better relations between human beings in the fields of education, science and culture. It is obvious that in the realm of material clash of interests, compromise is difficult while in the fields of the creative spirit, co-operation and compromise is not only possible, but is the natural law. Division of material wealth leads to a diminution in quantum while the distribution of spiritual wealth leads to mutual enrichment.

The UNESCO has also rightly recognised that all conflicts, even in the material field, have their ultimate origin in the mind of man. It was, therefore, felt that unless the causes of fear, suspicion, distress and jealousy could be eradicated from human mind no efforts by politicians and statesmen alone could remove the possibility of future conflicts. This is the justification of the UNESCO as well as the reason why it has become a rallying ground for the faith and hope of all who want to avert the disaster of a third world war.

Considerable Progress

In its brief life of three years, the UNESCO has already made considerable progress towards the achievement of its objects. The very fact of associating together a large number of people of different nations with marked difference in language, background, social habits and outlooks is a considerable achievement. The obligation under the constitution of holding the General Conference in a different country each year has added to the burdens of the Secretariat but in spite of such initial difficulties, the progress achieved holds promise of still greater achievements in the future.

In three years the membership has increased to 44 while national commissions are either in operation or about to be inaugurated in about 35 countries. A large number of international conferences, and Seminars have been held under its auspices. Of the various activities in these fields, one which deserves special mention is the establishment of the Institute of Hylean Amazon. Another is the establishment of pilot projects in fundamental education in Haiti.

The development of the educational section as a clearing house for ideas and experience in different parts of the world is also proving extremely helpful. The constitution of a new Division of Arts and letters with Dr. Lin-Yu-Tan as its head has also contributed to greater exchange in cultural matters between Asian and European countries. Recently it was decided to set up a special centre for the Middle and Near East. It has also been decided to promote the establishment of an Institute for Arid Zones and another for study of conditions in high altitudes.

The UNESCO has also tried to contribute to clearer analysis and understanding of philosophical concepts as the basis of modern civilization. A volume on human rights is already in the press and one on the concept of democracy is under preparation. A specialized journal, Museum and an official organ called 'The UNESCO Courier' are among its regular publications.

UNESCO has helped in the organisation of Work Camps for both re-construction and education in war devastated areas. It has arranged for the exchange of students and voluntary workers. During 1948, over 50 million dollars were distributed in educational relief by voluntary organisations largely through its efforts. In its last conference at Beirut, it decided to extend the field of re-construction from war devastated areas to the undeveloped or underdeveloped areas of the world in order to help in the achievement of more uniform standards throughout the world. It is expected that concrete programme for the achievement of this end will be one of the main items before the next General Conference.

UNESCO has also been helping the exchange of books by Book Coupons for countries which have a shortage of dollars. It has also helped in making scientific equipment available to countries short of such material. A field Science Co-operation Office has recently been established in Delhi for South Asia. The East Asia Science Co-operation Office has undertaken the responsibility of allocating and distributing in that region 2 million dollar worth of education and engineering equipment collected by the UNRRA.

Another project undertaken by the UNESCO is the translation of great books in order to make the cultural heritage of different countries available to one another. Considerable progress has been made in exploring the possibilities of production of cheap books. Another valuable contribution to international understanding is the project of studying causes of tensions between different peoples and communities in order to find out methods of eradicating them. Its most ambitious venture in this field is the project to produce a scientific and cultural history of mankind.

India's Leading Role

Members will be glad to learn that ever since the foundations of the UNESCO, India has been playing an important part in its deliberations. She is one of the founder members and helped in the shaping of its aims and purposes. In spite of the political and other disabilities under which she then laboured and the extremely restricted size of her delegations, she played a leading role in both the first and the second conference. She has been on the Executive Board from the very beginning and her representatives have made valuable contributions in almost every sphere of the UNESCO's activities.

During the last year, several achievements amd projects of special interest to India have been undertaken. The election of Prof. Radhakrishnan as the Chairman of the Executive Board has brought an Asian to the Head of the Organization for the first time. The Indian Delegation at the third Conference played a very important role and made valuable contribution in almost every decision taken there.

Some of the Indian experts who have been associated with the special activities of the UNESCO during the last year may be specially mentioned. Dr. Zakir Husain attended a meeting on Fundamental Education of Experts in Paris in April, 1948, and Mr. N. K. Sidhanta attended a meeting of experts for translation of great books. Mr. Humayun Kabir of this Ministry was invited to contribute a chapter to the UNESCO's Volume on Human Rights as a result of the International Symposium.

Mr. Lakshmanan, Director General of All India Radio was invited to attend the Technical Needs Commission Expert Committee and Mr. Kirpal of the Ministry to servey the educational and cultural needs of refugees in the Middle East, Dr. S. K. Banerjee attended the International High Altitude Research Conference and Mr. M. S. Sundaram of this Ministry, represented India in the Preparatory Conference of the Universities of the World.

During the last Genera Conference of the UNESCO, there was a proposal to hold a Far Eastern Seminar on Education. The subject originally considered was "Education of War Handicapped Children," but at the instance of India, the subject finally chosen was 'Adult Education' which is the most pressing problem facing all the Asian countries. The UNESCO has accepted India's invitation to hold the Seminar in India. This will be its first Seminar to be held in Asia and is to take place during November.

For reasons which are known to every one, it has not been possible to set up the Indian National Commission of the UNESCO earlier. As members are aware, the problems created by partition demanded all the energy and attention of the Government till about the middle of 1948. As soon as things started settling down, the Government appointed a Committee to consider the setting up of a Commission and after its report had been approved by the Central Advisory Board of Education in January this year Government have not allowed any lapse of time in setting up this Commission

It is expected that this Commission will serve as a focus of educational, scientific and cultural activities of the Nation and will contribute to the enrichment of national life in all these fields as well as better co-operation and understanding with other countries.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

The Director-General of UNESCO, Dr. Torres Bodet, sent the following message to the Indian National Commission:

The first meeting of the Indian National Commission of UNESCO, is a great occasion. If circumstances had allowed, I would have come in person to New Delhi to wish you well.

Earlier this year I was able to meet the National Commissions of France and Belgium. When you hear this message, I shall be just reaching Paris after a Conference arranged by the National Commission of the United States where more than three thousand delegates of American organizations for education, science and culture met in UNESCO's name.

That, I think, shows how UNESCO is gathering strength, how it is becoming increasingly the spear-head of those forces which see in co-operation between the peoples in these fields, the way to peace.

That is indeed our object and few countries are better fitted than India to discern and serve it.

As long as the London Conference of 1945 which saw the conception of UNESCO India's counsel was alike original and of great weight. Here I speak with knowledge, for I was myself the head of my country's delegation. I shall take leave to quote a little only of the wisdom and insight of my Indian colleague at that Conference, H. E. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:

"There can be no true freedom and consequently no genuine culture in a world which is half bound and half free, half fed and half starved, where exploitation and social injustices flourish side by side with pious expressions of good intentions and high-sounding policies....

"No structure of society can be a stable one that has not its roots deep in the moral and spiritual values of life. We have come very near to losing our souls. We must find them again if we are to live."

Then, and ever since, you have borne your full share of our common burden. Always and everywhere your representatives, and foremo t amongst those your great philosopher, Sir Sarvepalli, Radhakrishnan, now Chairman of our Executive Board, have been the champions of those deeper values of the spirit which alone make possible any society worthy of the name.

Vital Hour of History

Your National Commission is entering on life in a vital hour of your history. The political independence which became yours two years ago has roused old virtues from their slumbers and called new powers to life. Already India is numbered among the greatest States of an ancient Continent which history now summons to new responsibilities. Already under the enlightened leadership of H. E. Pandit Nehru, she has played a worthy part in the United Nations and their Agencies.

UNESCO in particular needs what you have to give. You have a rich and ancient culture, and a conception of Man's nature and destiny which is a rampart against the materialism which stalks mankind to-day.

India has her appointed place within UNESCO. Her consequence will grow yet more and I myself expect great things of her. It will be the high duty of your Commission to secure the co-operation from your thinkers, scientists and artists which we need to sustain and enrich us.

To the universal goals UNESCO seeks, there is but one path—that of joint effort by all cultures, to which they bring not the drabness of uniformity, but the fullness of their rich diversity, with mutual understanding to cement the whole.

And what you give, UNESCO can, I think, to some extent repay by effective help in the solution of those problems which to-day confront you.

Most of them, I know, are economic or material. Yet you yourselves have declared, by the mouth of your chief delegate in London, that, without the reverence for certain moral values, and without a rise in the social and cultural level of the common people, no material progress can be achieved.

Of all the men of our day, he whole life best exemplified the ideals of peace and human brotherhood was your own Mahatma Gandhi. May I then, in conclusion, pass on to you his definition, for UNESCO of the moral and philosophic bases for a universal declaration of human rights:

"I learned from my illiterate but very wise mother that all rights to be deserved and preserved came from duty well done. Thus the very right to live accrues to us only when we do the duty of citizenship of the world."

We have taken to our hearts that message. It will guide our future efforts, as it will—I know—your own.

DR. RADHAKRISHNAN'S SPEECH

The following is the full text of the speech of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO, at the first meeting of the Indian National Commission on April 9, 1949.

Friends, I have had the honour of leading the Indian delegation to the three general conferences of the UNESCO at Paris, Mexico City and Beirut, in 1946, 1947 and 1948. I have also served as a member of the Executive Board since its start, and this year I happen to be the Chairman. On behalf of the UNESCO and in my own name I wish to express my sense of gratification that a National Commission to co-operate with the UNESCO is established here under such excellent auspices.

We have got together many distinguished representatives of education, science and culture. Our Hon'ble Minister for Education is not merely the head of the department, but an illustrious exponent of Islamic culture. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister has affirmed his faith in the United Nations ideal over and over again, and has directed the foreign affairs of this country with a remarkably consistent integrity. It is only natural that we hope that this Commission, established under such great auspices, will have a great future.

When the war was on, we dedicated ourselves to great ideals. We said that in a delicate and complex world, with its shrinkage of distances, new methods of transport, unprecedented powers of destruction, colossal powers of Governments to handle men, not only their bodies but their minds, war becomes, in such a context, inconsistent with the continuance of civilized society; that if we do not end wars, wars are likely to end us; that mankind must learn, and must change, if it wishes to survive, and the only way in which we can survive is by surrendering a part of our sovereignty giving up our nationalistic vanities and ambitions, and serving a common world society.

No man can be regarded as free if he does not give up a part of his freedom. You cannot drive along a road as you please if you wish to escape from sudden death; and so long as nations claim to be free, to be independent, to judge their own cases and to impose their own verdicts, their claim is an anti-social demand, and a dangerous demand, which cannot be tolerated if we are to live together as members of a common world order.

Ideals of UNESCO

But it is one thing to set up a United Nations Organization, an economic and political framework. These external mechanical frameworks will not work unless they happen to be based on a union of minds. Whereas the other agencies of the UNO deal with the human condition in its external manifestations, so far as the UNESCO is concerned, it tries to deal with the human condition in its inward side. The world may find itself as a single body; but it is for the UNESCO to give to it a soul.

If we want to build a nation, we must develop a community of ideals and interests; if we want to develop a world society, we must develop common interests, we must educate people to a sense of world citizenship, make them understand that our smaller loyalties are to be subordinated to the primary patriotism of the whole human race; and if that work is to be undertaken, it has to be undertaken by means of educational agencies.

When Hitler was preparing his country for war, he adopted one method. If we look into the way in which he trained children we will find illustrations of the methods which he adopted. "Who is the person who reminds you most of Jesus Christ in his self-sacrifice and love for the people" ?... "Hitler". "Who are those who remind us of his disciples for their loyalty and obedience" ?.... "Goering and Goebbles". "Who betrayed Jesus"? ...."Judas". "Who was Judas"?...."A Jew". "Who was Jesus"?...."A German".

That is the line which was adopted in those days. And if we today wish to develop the youth of the country to believe that they are, first and foremost, members of the human race, it is essential for us to adopt a different strategy; different methods will have to be adopted by us if this United Nations Organisation is to succeed; if it is to become really united.

The Hon'ble the Prime Minister said that education, science and culture may perhaps wait, but that something more drastic is necessary now if we are to make the world safe for humanity. We agree. The UNESCO Preamble makes out that its purpose is not merely to promote education, science and culture; its purpose is to promote human welfare; its purpose is to promote the extension of the four Fundamental Freedoms. It wishes to use education and science for the betterment of humanity.

If in spite of all these attempts at world co-operation we are unable today to establish a society which is free from the fear of war, it is because we have reverted to the nationalistic fervours of the past. That is exactly what has actually happened to us. It is that fear of war, of which we are made aware day after day. If we open the papers, we see about the Atlantic Pact, the Western Union, armed alliances and so on. And when once this fear overtakes humanity, it wrecks their social sense, and it degrades the general ethical atmosphere. There was a film shown recently on the atom bomb. President Roosevelt listens to an account of the devastating power of atomic fission and reels back in his chair, and in an awestruck voice, says : "If this should fall into Hitler's hands, well, it would be murder". And yet, when once our vision is distorted, our judgments are perverted and we do not care what we do. Today we are getting mentally and emotionally ready for war.

Above Politics

We ask : What is it that the UNESCO can do in this conflict of ideologies? UNESCO has nothing to do with politics. UNESCO deals with education, science and culture. It is its task to bring the nations together, to interpret nations to one another; it is its task to speak out the truth, bear witness to it, and try to stir the conscience of mankind. It believes that truth will prevail and that ultimately the social conscience of man will assert itself. Why do we find ourselves in this condition? Both groups claim to be adopting exactly the same kind of ideal democracy. Both say that they are advocates of true democracy. It may be that both are looking at democracy in fragments, and very dimly.

During the war, we asserted that we were the supporters of the Four Freedoms. But have we adopted that policy after the end of the war ? There is a very interesting passage which I may give you from Abraham Lincoln. He said : "When we were the political slaves of King George and wanted to be free, we called the maxim: "All men are created equal", a self-evident truth. But now when we have grown fat and lost all dread of being slaves ourselves, we have become so greedy to be masters that we call the same maxim ("All men are created equal") a self-evident lie. During the war, when we were fighting Hitler, we said : race superiority is an obnoxious thing; national bigotry will have to be surrendered



A dance recital was an important item of the programme for the reception held at Government House on April 9 by Maulana Azad in honour of the delegates to the Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO. Here the distinguished guests are watching the performance

Democracy will have to be established round the world. Has race superiority disappeared from South Africa ? Has political exploitation disappeared from Indonesia? Have we the right to get up and say that we are the true democrats? While we are not adopting democratic methods where we have the power, we cannot complain that other people are not following democratic methods.

Loyalty to Faith

Why is it that in places like China, in the Middle East, in the Far East, while we had the leadership, while the democracies were the dominant powers, why is it that they have not met with success? Why is it that a country like China, trained in Confucian ethics, trained in a spirit of compromise, with a distrust of extremes, with an enormous respect for authority,—why has that country gone the way it has ? It is not all due to the subterfuges and the intrigues of Soviet Russia? It is due to our fundamental deficiencies. It is due to the fact that we have not been loyal to the faith that we profess.

The Prime Minister said that we must go rapidly. We must move drastically, we must bring about a revolution, a social and economic revolution. There are deeper forces at work around us today. People are in revolt against conditions of political, economic and racial servitude which we are slow in altering. These things are bound to go. In our country we have had half a dozen formidable problems: partition, refugees, inflation—problems which would have wrecked other nations. And if we are faithful to what our Prime Minister said today, that we should without losing time bring about a social and economic revolution, we may yet succeed. Delay in that matter will be dangerous.

Let it not be said of us that we proclaimed great ideals and programmes while we fought for independence and grew less enthusiastic about them after we won our freedom. I do hope that it will be understood by all that there is no complete truth or complete justice in either of these two conflicting ideologies. It is necessary for us, as members of the UNESCO as believers in what we call world polity, to fight one ideology, the ideology of war, the ideology that says that human personality does not matter, that material resources count, that he who has the largest number of atom bombs will be able to bring about a revolution in this world. It is that kind of ideology that all believers in truth, in peace, will have to fight. It is the ideology of war that we have to attack. That seems to be the true function of the UNESCO.

Reconciliatory Role

It is not for the UNESCO to take sides in this controversy. It is for UNESCO to point out to both of them: Search within yourself. Find out your faults. Come together. Understand each other and try to get over the present suspicions which have been dividing you. That is the way in which UNESCO should interpret its task of reconciliation of ideologies.

We talk about science. We talk about education. We talk about culture. Science is a great instrument. Science is necessary for improving the lot of backward peoples in this world today, and we have to welcome science. We have enormous resources which we need to develop through science and technology. But let us not be under the delusion that the more science there is in this world the better does the world become.

We have always argued that faith in the perfectibility of human beings through mere material means is a false faith, and that unless we are able to improve the spirit of man, to change his habits of mind and morals, we will never be able to get a better species of humanity. There is in the Chandogya a passage which tells us : "I have read all the Vedas. I have read all the Puranas. I know all the texts. What am I (a knower of texts, not a knower of self. *Mantravid evasmi na atmavit*) I know only the texts. I have factual information. I have not developed understanding. That is what he tells us. It is necessary for us to have factual information; but in addition to factual information, it is necessary for us to improve the quality of our being. Unless we do it, we cannot regard ourselves as truly educated. We may be informed. We may be learned. But we are not educated. We are not cultured. For that; the artist, the painter, the sculptor, the philosopher, the prophet of spirit, these are the people who can induce changes in our inward being.

That is the way in which we have to go about the work of the UNESCO. We may have quarrels with Hitler or Goebbles. But what quarrel can we have with Goethe or Kant? We may have quarrels today with Stalin and Lenin, but what quarrels can there possibly be with Tolstoy or Dostovsky? What we try to emphasise is the imaginative link that brings people nearer, not those political and economic divisions which separate people one from the other. That is what the UNESCO is trying to do. We have tried to bring together savants from different parts of the world, scientists and scholars and make them discuss those fundamental problems in a detached objective spirit without which there can be no true unity of mind or heart.

Plea for World Culture

We may say, "Why then this National Commission"? It is not a nationalistic emphasis that we are asking for. We are trying to make out that national cultures have got a vital role to play in the development of world culture. Only the other day Arnold Toynbee after surveying the rise and fall of civilization, wound up by saying, "If civilization survives this present menace, the concepts of art, philosphy and religion of Asia will have a determining and formative role to play". It is our duty to present those concepts and to co-ordinate them in an integrated purpose.

Every country today is spending a lot of money in letting others see its own way of life. The British Council was established in 1934, and is spending nearly three million pounds—more than that, for the purpose of enabling other people to understand the contributions of Great Britain. I do hope that our Hon'ble Prime Minister, who is also our Foreign Minister, will take into account the necessity of appointing cultural attaches in all the Embassies—those who would be able to explain our art, our architecture and our history, philosophy and our culture to other peoples of the world. India through her soldiers in the Persian Army influenced Plato's Greece. India, through Asoka's mission influenced Jesus' Palestine. India even today, if she is loyal to her heritage, may influence the world to reach a higher level.

PROCEEDINGS

The Commission elected the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, as its President and held a general discussion on the programme of UNESCO for 1949-50.

The plenary meeting held on April 9, after considerable discussion, decided to set up a committee of nine to draft a constitution for the Indian National Commission.

During the course of discussions, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Chairman of the Executive Board, expressed the view that India should send larger delegations to the general conferences of UNESCO. Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, endorsed this view.

The meeting also felt that in the UNESCO programme items which are of special interest to countries like India should not only be included but should be given high priority.

MEETING OF SUB-COMMISSIONS

The Educational, Scientific and Cultural Sub Commissions appointed by the interim Indian National Commission at its first Plenary Session on April 9 met on April 10, in Council House, New Delhi. The Sub-Commission for Education elected Professor Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan to be its Chairman, Dr. Zakir Hussain as Vice-Chairman and Professor Humayun Kabir as the Rapporteur. The Sub-Commission also elected Shri B. G. Kher, Bombay Premier, Mrs. Hannah Sen and Professor N. K. Sidhanta to be its representives on the Executive Board of the Indian National Commission.

The Commission examined in detail UNESCO's programme for education for the year 1949 prepared at the third General Conference held at Beirut. The Sub-Commission resolved that the Director-General of UNESCO should be requested to interpret the constructive development of education, science and culture to mean both constructive development in underdeveloped areas as well as reconstruction in war-devastated areas.

Teachers' Charter

Important among the items which were considered in detail by the Sub-Commission were ways and means of improving text books and teaching materials, imparting of fundamental education with particular reference to free and compulsory primary education and adult education and education as a

threads again. That is one idea I should like to put before you.

The other idea is this. In various ways the last 200 years or so of this colonial domination resulted in two types of happenings. One was a certain retardation possibly of normal growth of these countries, and on the other hand, something exactly contrary to that—new ideas coming in, new processes coming in, which had meant a certain revolutionary significance. So, both processes continued side by side, a process of keeping things static and a process which had the seeds of dynamism in it. The result is that these seeds grew slowly and when this obstruction was removed, then these seeds suddenly sprouted up very rapidly.

In large parts of Asia, social conditions and structures were kept within a straight jacket and not allowed to conform to changing conditions as they normally might have done, whether peace or war. We must adjust ourselves to the changing factors very rapidly. To give you a minor instance, in the course of the last one and half years, we came up against something which was completely out of date in the modern context of things in India, i.e., the Indian State system which had continued because of some kind of external protection, some pressure, some propping up for the last one hundred years or more, not because of its inherent strength.

Agrarian Problem

As soon as that external pressure goes, the thing collapses or tends to collapse or change. Fortunately for us in India those who had to deal with this problem in regard to the States did so in a spirit of co-operation, in a spirit of trying to adjust themselves to changing conditions and brought about a change in the course of a year or so which is very remarkable. Looked at purely from the historical point of view, in such a short time, we have tried to adjust ourselves to changing conditions. We are still in the process of adjusting ourselves. We have to go a long way.

Look at Asia as a whole. I suppose the major problem of Asia, as it has been of other countries too, is the agrarian problem, the land problem, the peasant problem. In India or in parts of Asia which are essentially agricultural countries the agrarian problem becomes the dominant problem. It may be solved in various ways. It must be solved partly by changing the agrarian economy of the country and partly by the growth of industry, etc. But the growth of industry takes a little time. Meanwhile, the agrarian aspect of it becomes dominant. It is dominant now. In India we have had to face it. But, fortunately for us, we have not remained completely static in regard to the agrarian problem and we have, perhaps haltingly, perhaps too slowly, but nevertheless we have marched in a certain direction and we are trying to ease the burden on these men.

In some other countries of Asia even that progress has not been made. If I were asked to analyse the situation in Asia I would say that fundamentally it is a tremendous agrarian revolution that is going on. It may take political forms, it may take any number of forms, but it is essentially an agrarian revolution, and till it solves itself or till we find a solution, that agrarian problem, that revolution, will persist. What the solution should be I cannot say definitely. It may differ in various countries. Now, behind this agrarian problem lies the tremendous poverty of these peasant masses of Asia and all the things that flow from poverty and which ultimately compel people to rebel. That is the background. Perhaps, what I have been telling you is not completely in keeping with a UNESCO gathering. I say this because we have to understand these things.

Asia Neglected

We have to understand another factor, and it is this, in the course of the last few hundred years the political centre of the world was in Europe and recently though somewhat transferred to the Americas, still Europe remained in a sense the centre of war or peace, the centre of gravity when political problems and political conflicts arose and it became the fashion and the custom to consider Asia as a kind of fringe of Europe and Asia's problems as somehow minor parts of the European problems with the result that the great problems of Asia were neglected and no attention was paid to them whether in the political or economic sphere.

Now, that ignoring, that neglect in the past has resulted in something which is not very desirable. If we had not neglected them in the past, perhaps we might have come nearer an understanding and a solution of some of Asia's problems. I do not mean to say that Asia was forgotten. Enough attention has been paid. What I mean to say is that the perspective was somewhat different. People thought in terms, as I said, of Asia or Africa being a kind of fringe of Europe. Now things have happened in the world which have resulted in giving an importance to Asia now and that is likely to become greater and greater.

Vital Phase

We are today passing through a vitally important stage of the world's history. When another shift takes place in the centre of gravity and therefore it becomes quite essential for us to understand this whole business because if we do not, what happens in Asia is likely to have a powerful effect on the rest of the world. Therefore, it becomes important for us to consider the world's problems in proper perspective. It becomes important for the great statesmen of the world, of the United Nations and the rest, to see these things in proper perspective.

I have some times said this before because I feel that there has been a lack of perspective whether it is in the United Nations or in the UNESCO of any other organisation which has grown out of the United Nations. Now there is a great deal of goodwill I know and there is the desire to help. What I want is not merely goodwill and desire. I want an appreciation of the fact of Asia's importance. She will be dominant, dominant not in the sense of dominating anybody, but in the sense that she will be creating problems which will dominate the world. Whether it is the problem of war or peace or hunger or poverty, it will affect the rest of the world and will engulf people in other parts of the world if they are not very careful about it.

It is extraordinary how we cannot get out of the ruts of our own thinking and habit.

World changes and yet the mind of man, which probably ought to be capable of changing more rapidly than anything else, somehow remains static. The mind of man, I take it, is the greatest thing that has been provided on a long course of evolution. It has millions of years of growth behind it. And yet the mind of man becomes so static that it does not adapt itself to changing conditions rapidly enough. Asia is changing rapidly whether you like it or not. The change is inevitable.

So I want you to consider your problems in this conference in the light of this background. So far as the political aspect is concerned, the United Nations deal with it. But, as I said, behind the political aspect lies all kinds of mass working of men's minds. Therein the UNESCO can do a tremendous job and so I am glad that the UNESCO is spreading out more and more, and spreading out to the countries of Asia and Africa. I hope it is spreading out in the sense that it is descending from an ivory tower attitude. There is always a tendency in such an organisation of living in the mental attitude for being in an ivorytower. The UNESCO attracts very eminent men and women, educationists, scientists and the like, the best that the world can produce. There is a risk that these eminent men may live in their ivory tower rather than to adapt themselves to these vital happenings and human earthquakes that are happening or are likely to happen.

Moral Standards

They have, therefore, to descend from that tower and know all these problems from the point of view of the human minds which are in motion and try to adjust themselves to them and understand them. So if I may make this in all humility, it is that the problems that come up before you should be considered from the point of view of what is happening and what is likely to happen in Asia and the world, not from a theoretical point of view, but just from the point of view of mass literacy or adult education. Of course you want literacy, you want adult education, you want culture and all that. But these are relatively minor things. Something bigger should be thought of. The world is changing rapidly and we must proceed fast enough. The minor programmes can wait. Therefore there is a tremendous service that the UNESCO might do.

To my thinking, today there is obviously a tremendous sense of frustration in men's minds, a tremendous search after lost values and the standards, with the result that we have not



Those who attended the session of the Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO included (R. to L.) Dr. Koh-yu-Shou, Regional Director, UNESCO, Prof. S. Radhakrishnan, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, Pandit Nehru and Dr. Tara Chand, Secretary, Education Ministry

got an anchorage by which they can judge policies or their own actions. Unless we find some yard measure, some standard of values, it will not be good either for us or for humanity. After all the whole history of human evolution points to some kind of objective which humanity aims at even though that objective is changing from time to time. If these objectives become just, if I may use a word which I do not like, material objectives, I cannot myself see or understand how they will solve any fundamental problems of ours. There have to be some other standards, you may call them moral standards—whatever we may consider moral standards, I think it is quite essential that certain fundamental values should be appreciated, should be realised, and should be worked up to.

Vital Importance of Asia

I think it is the business more especially of this great organisation, the UNESCO, to see to it that these values are maintained. Otherwise, we shall work in our narrow bigoted grooves because there will be no common binding factor amongst us in the great race that is going on in the world today between countries and the great powers:—the race if you like, between powers of construction, building up and powers of destruction. In that race, unless we have that anchorage, powers of destruction will win and therefore it is highly important that this organization should lay stress and try to develop proper standards.

I have ventured to put before you two or three ideas and I should like these ideas to be correlated to one another in so far as they can be. The first thing is the new and vital importance of Asia in the world context of today. I am not merely talking as an Indian from an Indian context—of course that is important to me—but in the world context.

Secondly, in Asia, and in the rest of the world to some extent too, a vast upsurge is taking place: how to deal with the basic problems that cause that upsurge.

Thirdly, this question of moral and spiritual values in life. Unless we can see all these things together and correlate them, I am afraid, our efforts will be rather useless. We put up fine buildings, institutions and the like; no doubt they result in producing good men and women, trained men and women. We should do that.

But, I have a feeling that there is a more important problem which is something deeper. So, I should like this organisation not only to do those good works which I have mentioned, but always to think of this important problem, to think of the disease that has infected humanity and of the remedies that we must seek for that.

I am very glad that this National Commission is taking shape in India. I hope it will find a solution for this big problem. India will be prepared to undertake her share of responsibility and to carry her share of the burden. I do not presume to say, and I do not like anybody saying that India is out for leadership here or anywhere else. I dislike this business of leadership. We have had enough of leadership of other countires which in the name of leadership has assumed other shapes and forms.

Therefore, I dislike anybody saying that India is going to be leader of this or that. The only way to approach this problem is to give up this conception of our being superior to others. It is a bad thing for any country, for any group as for any individual to go about with these superior airs. But, it is inevitable that, situated as we are in India, geographically, historically and culturally, a big burden is cast upon us. It is a heavy burden and a heavy responsibility. Nevertheless, we cannot shirk it and we do not want to shirk it.

MAULANA AZAD'S ADDRESS

"It is expected that this Commission will serve as a focus of Educational, Scientific and Cultural activities of the nation and will contribute to the enrichment of national life in all these fields, as well as better co-operation and understanding with other countries", said Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Education, Government of India, in his Presidential Address at the opening session.

Maulana Azad said: I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this inaugural meeting of the National Commission of the UNESCO. This is in some ways a memorable occasion, for the constitution of the National Commission gives concrete shape to our efforts for international co-operation in the fields of education, science and culture. It would therefore, perhaps be appropriate if I should describe in some detail the aims and objectives of the UNESCO and the manner in which it has attempted to carry out its purposes.

After the experience of two world wars within the course of barely twenty-five years, thinking men and women all over the world realise, as never before that there must be a change in the outlook of man to avert the calamity of a future disaster. It was out of this universal desire to find an instrument for the settlement of disputes without resort to war that there arose the United Nations with renewed hope for afflicted humanity.

All conflicts have their ultimate origin in the mind of man and it was felt that unless the causes of fear, suspicion, distress, and jealousy could be eradicated from human minds, no efforts by politicians and statesmen could remove the possibility of future wars. At the time of the preliminary discussions for setting



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari (fifth from left) with Maulana Azad, Prof. S. Radhakrishnan, M. Novikov, Russian Ambassador in India, Mrs. Novikov and others at the reception held by the Education Minister at Government House on April 9

means of promoting international understanding.

Regarding the proposed formulation of a teachers' charter the Sub-Commission recommended that Central, Provincial and State Governments should be requested to improve the conditions of service of teachers. The role of Universities in promoting international cooperation and the ways and means of associating young people with UNESCO's programme were also considered by the Sub-Commission.

Cultural Sub-Commission

The Cultural Sub-Commission elected Shri K. M. Munshi as its Chairman, Madame Sofia Wadia as Vice-Chairman and Shri Anil Chanda of Vishwabharti, Shantiniketan, to be Rapporteur. The Commission elected Shri K. M. Munshi, Shrimati Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya and Shri Devadas Gandhi to be its representatives on the Executive Board of the National Commission.

The Cultural Sub-Commission examined the cultural programme of UNESCO. Important among the subjects considered by the Sub-Commission was a suggestion to translate great Indian books for presentation to foreign countries, cataloguing of all literature in Sanskrit and other Indian languages and books published in foreign languages about India. The Sub-Commission also considered the possibility of obtaining microfilm copies of valuable manuscripts about India from abroad. The Sub-Commission adopted a resolution recommending the adoption of measures for the fusion of different schools of music, dance and drama which are prevalent in different parts of India.

The Sub-Commission for Science elected Dr. M. N. Saha as its Chairman and Drs. K. S. Krishnan and K. N. Bahl as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur respectively. It also elected Dr. Baini Prashad, Dr. B. Mukerji and Professor K. R. Ramanathan as its representatives on the Executive Board of the National Commission.

The Sub-Commission agreed to UNESCO's general recommendation that UNESCO should effect a a gradual transition from the reconstruction of war-devastated areas to constructive development of education, science and culture particularly in the underdeveloped areas. While agreeing to UNESCO's recommendation for its functioning as a World Centre of Scientific Liaison the Council resolved that the procedure for exchange of scientists should be clarified. It also recommended that UNESCO should adopt captions in Indian languages in scientific films.

The Sub-Commission set up a Sub-Committee to advise the Government of India on the proposal to set up the Institute of Arid Zones. The Sub-Commission welcomed UNESCO's recommendation regarding measures to popularise science and suggested the setting up of a section in the Ministry of Education to achieve this object.

MAIN RESOLUTIONS

A resolution expressing deep sympathy with the misfortunes of displaced persons who have lost their homes and occupations as a result of the partition of the country was adopted by the interim Indian National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO at its second plenary session held in the Council of State Chamber, Council House, New Delhi on April 10, under the Presidentship of the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

The Commission decided that through the agency of Government, voluntary organisations and individuals the educational and cultural needs of displaced persons should be surveyed with a view to rendering adequate assistance in the task of rehabilitation and also requested its Executive Board to consider the possibility of securing assistance from UNESCO and other specialised agencies of the United Nations in this respect.

Plan for Social Service

By another resolution the Commission has called upon its Executive Board to prepare a plan for social service designed to improve the living conditions of the less fortunate sections of the community in India. The resolution says that the Commission considers it to be the duty of all citizens of India to promote the moral and material welfare of all backward and underprivileged sections of the nation and recognizes that this great task can not be accomplished without mobilising the agencies and resources of voluntary organisations and individual volunteers.

The National Commission also unanimously adopted a resolution asking for the appointment of a Committee to initiate, direct and stimulate in cooperation with other bodies with similar ends, the study of the ideas and techniques expounded by Gandhiji. The resolution says that considering that Mahatma Gandhi was the greatest exponent of peace, non-violence and international understanding and recognising that in the troubled state of the world today people in all countries need his message and methods to promote peace and welfare of all mankind.

It adds that in the light of the study of the ideas and techniques expounded by Gandhiji a world-wide programme of action should be prepared to promote universal peace and good will among all nations, for consideration by the 5th General Conference of UNESCO to be held in May 1950.

The Commission has drawn the UNESCO's attention to conditions created in certain parts of India as a result of partition and requested UNESCO to provide suitable assistance for the rehabilitation of education and culture in such areas. The resolution says that the Commission notes with satisfaction the fact that in future years UNESCO will effect the gradual transition from the reconstruction of war-devastated areas to the constructive development of education, science and culture and wants to emphasise that the constructive development should apply to underdeveloped and undeveloped areas as much as to war-devastated regions and in this context invites the particular attention of UNESCO to the conditions created in certain parts of India as a result of partition.

After considering UNESCO's recommendation regarding the improvement of text-books and teaching materials the Commission resolved that the Executive Board in consultation with a Committee consisting of Dr. Zakir Hussain, Prof. N. K. Sidhanta, Messrs. K. G. Saiyidain, Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, G. N. Sinha and Mrs. Hannah Sen should examine text-books in India to fit them in with the criteria suggested by UNESCO, the objective being to ensure improvement in text-books from the point of view of increasing national solidarity and international understanding as well as increasing consciousness of world citizenship.

Fundamental Education

While expressing sympathy with the objectives of UNESCO's programme for fundamental education for providing universal, free and compulsory primary education and adult education, the Commission drew the attention of the Director-General of UNESCO to the fact that the same objectives had been accepted by the Government of India and steps were in hand for bringing into operation the scheme of universal free and compulsory education throughout India within as short a time as possible. The Commission requested the Government of India to secure from the Education Section of UNESCO all available information about the methods adopted by different countries for providing education and for the solution of adult illiteracy.

Regarding UNESCO's recommendation on education for international understanding the Commission expressed its complete agreement with the objects of UNESCO and requested the Government of India to secure necessary material from UNESCO or other organisations of the United Nations, in order to prepare and publish in Indian languages suitable literature which may be used in the elementary and secondary schools to encourage international understanding among the students. The Commission also welcomed the preparation of a convention to ensure that the educational programmes of all member States of UNESCO at all levels directed towards international peace and security.

By another resolution the Commission resolved to draw the pointed attention of the Central, Provincial and States Governments to the unsatisfactory conditions of service of teachers and resolved that steps must be taken to improve these in order to attract and retain in the teaching profession men of the highest ability.

While welcoming the preparation of an International Charter of Youth, the Commission pointed out that this had been accepted in principle by the Constituent Assembly of India and called upon the Government of India to ensure that the principles embodied in the draft Constitution are given practical effect and all disabilities due to financial or other handicaps are removed.

Welcoming UNESCO's proposal to form an international non-Governmental organization for ensuring co-operation among universities in the world, the Commission resolved that the inter-University Board of India should be the agency in India to carry out this work.

By another resolution the Commission decided to refer the question of the Establishment of an international organisation to promote co-operation in social sciences, with particular reference to promotion of such an organisation for Asia, to the Indian Political Science Conference. The Commission also decided to refer to the conference UNESCO's proposals for dealing with tensions affecting international understanding, study of international collaboration and social and international application of science.

By another resolution the Commission decided to investigate the possibility of preparing text books which will interpret all religions at their best and bring out points of their unity with a view to inculcate equal respect for all religions among peoples belonging to different communities, races, religions or groups.

Centre of Scientific Liaison

The activities of UNESCO as a world centre of scientific liaison were reviewed and approved by the Commission. The Commission suggested that the procedure about the exchange of scientists under the auspices of UNESCO should be clarified and recommended the introduction of captions in the main Indian languages in scientific films produced or sponsored by them with a view to making them more useful to Indian people. Appreciating the proposal to set up an Institute of Arid Zones the Commission appointed a Sub-Committee consisting of Profs. K.R. Ramanathan, K.N. Bahl, S.K.

STEPS TO ENCOURAGE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

National Cultural Trust to be Set Up

THE Government of India have under consideration a scheme for the establishment of the National Cultural Trust which will be an organisation to foster and develop the art and culture of the country. The Trust was expected to be established in a short time, but owing to the present financial difficulties its formation has been postponed, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on April 29, 1949.

It added: Government, however, desire to encourage and promote cultural activities in the country as far as the present circumstances permit. The Ministry of Education, therefore, propose to call three conferences during the course of the year to discuss the ways and means of fostering our national culture and of directing its activities into channels of creative thought and effort.

The conference on Art which is expected to meet in July will discuss the means encouraging indigenous styles of painting including folk art, stimulating aesthetic sensibility and creative effort amongst artists as well as the common people, and the development of commercial art and the use of Indian designs. It will also discuss the methods by which schemes for the promotion of art can be implemented in co-operation with the Provincial and State Governments, art institutions and individual artists. The conference will be limited to a small group of leading artists and art critics of the country. The Provincial and State Governments will also be invited to send their representatives to the conference.

Another conference of Indian writers and literatures will also be called to consider the progress and development of modern Indian literatures, the production and popularization of scientific books and the compilation of authoritative encyclopaedias in India. It will also consider as to how the best books in different languages can be made available to speakers of different Indian languages. It will survey the tendencies in different regions and the desirability of bringing them into mutual awareness.

A third conference will be held to discuss dramatic activity in the country and the development of a national stage. It will also consider the contribution that can be made to Indian drama by dramatic forms other than the literary drama, i.e. shadow plays, puppetry, dance dramas, pantomimes, ballet. Dramatic production in rural areas and the place of translations and adaptations of foreign plays in the evolution of national drama will also be considered.

It is not intended at present to call a conference on Indian Music and Dance except in so far as it relates to the dramatic methods mentioned above. The Government of India have already established two Academies of Hindustani and Karnataka Music at Lucknow and Madras respectively in co-operation with the Provincial Governments concerned, and it is intended to watch the development of the function and activities of these two institutions before taking any further steps in this direction.

Banerji and a representative of the Defence Ministry to be nominated by Dr. D. S. Kothari, to advise the Government of India in connection with the proposed UNESCO Committee regarding the setting up of the Institute.

The Commission welcomed the directions of the third General Conference of UNESCO on the popularisation of science and suggested introduction of a separate Section for the purpose under the Ministry of Education. It further recommended appointment of an Advisory Committee to advise that Section in its work.

Cultural Consolidation

The Commission also reviewed the work of Field Science Co-operation Offices in South Asia and resolved that the working of the Field Science Co-operation Office in Delhi had been helpful to Indian scientists and recorded its appreciation of its services.

Another resolution adopted by the Commission recommends that the Government of India should compile lists of exhibits in private museums and collections so that the unique objects of art may not be taken out of India without the knowledge of the Central Government who should have the prior claim on the purchases of these objects in order to preserve them in national galleries and museums.

The Commission recommended to UNESCO that members of the Indian Library Association should be included in their schemes of fellowships and scholarships. Another resolution adopted by the Commission calls upon UNESCO to take steps to secure for the libraries in India the same concessions in price from the publishers in Great Britain and the United States of America as are given to the libraries in those countries.

The resolution also appeals to Indian publishers to reciprocate in this matter when selling books to foreign libraries. That the value of the book coupons assigned to India should be substantially increased is recommended in another resolution adopted by the Commission. The resolution points out that a large number of universities and research libraries are in need of sets of scientific periodicals which are indispensable for research and are obtainable only in the Dollar area.

By another resolution the Commission requested Shri Devdas Gandhi to prepare a memorandum on the subject of freedom of information so far as India was concerned.

Another resolution calls upon the Executive Board of the Indian National Commission to take steps to hasten the preparation of a catalogue of all the manuscripts in Sanskrit and other Indian languages which are in public libraries or private collections in India and other countries (b) obtain microfilms of manuscripts concerning India which are outside India and (c) undertake cataloguing of books in foreign languages having reference to India.

Another resolution asks the Executive Board to appoint suitable machinery for the selection of great works in Indian languages, to be translated into foreign languages and published by UNESCO.

By another resolution the Commission decided that the Cultural Sub-Commission of the Indian National Commission may hold a session in different parts of the country to co-ordinate all the literary, artistic and cultural activities of India. Another resolution adopted by the Commission calls for steps to prepare portfolios of representative works of Indian art.

The two-day session of the Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO concluded on April 10. In his closing remarks the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister and President of the Commission, pointed out that the Commission had taken up great responsibilities and set high objectives before itself. While they had made a beginning in the first session, he felt that the real work of the Commission would now begin.

He called upon the Commission to see that education, science and culture would be so developed in the country as to promote the cause of peace and international understanding. Co-operation and progress both in the national and the international sphere, he said, must be their objectives and they should prepare their plans most carefully in order that their work would go on in an enthusiastic and spirited manner.

Maulana Azad hoped that the decisions of the Commission would be put into practice as soon as possible and he assured them that adequate finances for the work of the Commission would be provided by the Government of India. He announced that he already had some buildings in view for setting up a proper secretariat for the Commission and its Sub-Commissions so that their work could start immediately.

The Education Minister expressed the hope that it will be possible for the Commission to meet again in about six months.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION

The following is a list of members appointed to the interim Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO:—

(I) Educational Sub-Commission

(1) Mr. R.M. Chet Singh or in his absence Mr. V.S. Mathur—Indian Adult Educational Association, Delhi.
(2) Dr. V.S Ram, Lucknow University, Lucknow—Indian Political Science Congress, Cuttack, Orissa.
(3) Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar,
(4) Mrs. Hannah Sen,
(5) Justice Mr. Teja Singh and
(6) Mr. B.H. Zaidi, Central Advisory Board of Education, Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

(7) Prof. N. K. Sidhanta, Lucknow University, Lucknow and

(8) Mr. S. Matthai, Secretary Inter University Board of India, Delhi—Inter University Board of India, Delhi.

(9) Shrimati Asha Devi Aryanayakam—Hindustani Talimi Sangh Wardha.

RECORDS OF MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU'S RECITATIONS

The National Archives of India have recently been presented with two copies of a recording of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's recitations of some of her own selected poems, by Messrs Columbia Gramophone Company Limited, Delhi. This was recorded when Mrs. Naidu was in England for the last time.

It will be recalled that Messrs Columbia Gramophone Company Limited had presented National Archives of India with a recording of Mahatma Gandhi's voice shortly after his assassination.

(10) Dr. Amar Nath Jha—All India Federation of Educational Associations, Secunderabad, Dn.

(11) Dr. Zakir Husain—Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi.

(12) Dr. S. N. Sen, National Archives of India, New Delhi—Indian Historical Records Commission, New Delhi.

(13) Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad, Combined Inter-Services, Historical Section, Simla—Indian Historical Congress, Allahabad.

(14) Prof. A. R. Wadia—Indian Philosophical Congress, Delhi.

(15) Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao—All India Economic Conference, Delhi.

(II) Scientific Sub-Commission

(1) Prof: A. C. Banerji, Allahabad University, Allahabad.

(2) Prof. S. R. Bose, Calcutta.

(3) Dr. D. S. Kothari, Ministry of Defence New Delhi.

(4) Dr. M. S. Krishnan, Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, New Delhi and

(5) Dr. Baini Prashad, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi—National Institute of Sciences, New Delhi.

(6) Prof. K. S. Krishnan,

(7) Prof.P. C. Mahalanobis,

(8) Dr. B. Mukherji

(9) Prof. B. Sanjiva Rao—Indian Science Congress, Calcutta.

(10) The Hon'ble Mr. N. R. Sarkar

(11) Mr. Fazil Ibrahim Rahimtoola—All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi.

(12) Prof. H. R. Mehra—Nations Academy of Science, Allahabad.

(13) Prof. R. N. Ramanathan—Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore.

(14) Prof. K. Banerji—Association for Cultivation of Science, Calcutta.

(15) Dr. B. C. Guha—Association of Scientific Workers of India.

(III) Cultural Sub-Commission

(1) Shri G. Vankatachalam—All India Association of Fine Arts, Bombay.

INDIA'S GREETINGS TO EIRE

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, sent the following message, to the Prime Minister of Ireland on the occasion of her becoming a Republic on April 17, 1949.

On the occasion of coming into force of the Republic of Ireland Act, 1948, I wish to convey to the Government and people of Ireland the best wishes of the Government and people of India.

I sincerely hope that the friendship which has marked the relationship between our two countries will be maintained and even strengthened by close co-operation in the extension of democratic freedom to peoples of the world which do not enjoy it and in the firm establishment of world peace.

(2) Mrs. Renuka Ray—Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan.

(3) A member representing Kalakshetra, Adyar, Madras, Music Academy, Allahabad and Tamil Isai Sangham, Madras.

(4) Dr. B. C. Guha—Anthropological Survey of India, Banaras.

(5) Mr. R. P. Masani—Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, New Delhi.

(6) Mr. Justice R. P. Mukerji—Royal Asiatic Society, (Bengal and Bombay Branches).

(7) Dr. S. R. Ranganathan—Indian Library Association, Calcutta.

(8) Madam Sophia Wadia—P. E. N. Bombay.

(9) Shrimati Kamladevi Chattopadhaya—Indian National Theatres Association, Bombay and Congress Sahitya Sangam, Calcutta.

(10) Shri L. V. Sathe—Indian Institute of Architects, Bombay.

(11) Dr. R. N. Dandekar—Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona.

(12) Rai Uma Nath Bali—Bhat Khande Sangit Vidyapith, Lucknow.

(13) A member representing All India Newspapers Editors' Conference, New Delhi.

(14) Mr. Manzal Ali Sokhta—Hindustani Culture Society, Allahabad.

(15) Mr. A. A. Fyzee—Islamic Research Association, Bombay and

(16) Shri Barda Ukil, Hony. General Secretary, All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society, New Delhi.

Fifteen distinguished persons nominated by the Government of India to serve as members of the Interim National Commission are :—

(a) *Educational Sub-Commission* :—

(1) Prof. S. Radhakrishnan, (2) Acharya Narendra Dev, (3) Prof. Muhammad Habib, (4) Nawab Ali Yar Jang and (5) Shri Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar.

(b) *Scientific Sub-Commission* :—

(1) Dr. C. V. Raman, (2) Dr. Birbal Sahni, (3) Dr. H. J. Bhabha, (4) Dr. K. N. Bahl and (5) Dr. M. N. Saha.

(c) *Cultural Sub-Commission* :—

(1) Shri Premendra Mitra, (2) Shri Jainendra Kumar, (3) Shri K. M. Munshi, (4) Shri D. V. Potdar and (5) Shri S. Venkataramani.

Representatives of Central, Provincial and State Governments :—

(1) Dr. Tara Chand, Education Secretary to the Government of India.

(2) Prof. Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Education.

(3) Mr. C. S. Jha, Joint Secretary or in the absence of Mr. Jha—Miss Leilamani Naidu—Ministry of External Affairs.

(4) Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar—Department of Scientific Research.

(5) Maharaj Nagendra Singh, Deputy Secretary to the Government of India—Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(6) Minister for Education, Mysore.

(7) Minister for Education, Patiala and East Punjab States Union (Shri Nihal Singh).

(8) Director of Education, Jaipur (Shri Swarup Kishen Zibbu).

(9) Minister for Education, Madhyabharat representing States.

(10) Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Assam.

(11) The Hon'ble Minister for Education or in his absence Secretary, Education Department—West Bengal.

(12) The Director of Public Instruction, Bihar.

(13) The Hon'ble Shri B. G. Kher, Premier, Bombay.

(14) The Hon'ble Minister for Education, Central Provinces and Berar.

(15) The Hon'ble the Premier, East Punjab or in his absence Shri G. C. Chatterji, Secretary Education, East Punjab.

(16) The Hon'nle Minister for Education, Orissa.

(17) Dr. I. R. Khan, Deputy Secretary, Education Department, United Provinces and

(18) The Hon'ble Minister for Education Madras or in his absence his nominee.

RAJAJI'S MESSAGE TO THE POPE

His Excellency the Governor-General sent the following message to His Holiness Pope Pius XII, on the occasion of the jubilee of his ordination on April 23, 1949 :—

"On behalf of the people and the Government of India and on my own behalf may I offer felicitations to Your Holiness on the Jubilee of Your ordination."

Representation for Voluntary Societies

The Interim National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO has appointed a Constitution Committee to review the representation of voluntary societies working in the fields of Education, Science and Culture and to finalise the Constitution of the National Commission.

The voluntary societies of all-India or regional character, who desire representation on the National Commission or wish to co-operate with the Commission in the implementation of UNESCO's programme, are requested to write to Mr. P. N. Kirpal, Secretary, Indian National Commission, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, stating briefly the nature of their activities, annual income and expenditure, constitution, and any other particulars.

TRIBUTE TO LATE DR. SAHNI

At the plenary meeting of the Indian National Commission for co-operation with the UNESCO, held at New Delhi on April 10, 1949, glowing tributes were paid to the memory of the late Dr. Birbal Sahni, a member of the Commission. The Commission passed the following Resolution with Dr. Radhakrishnan in the Chair :—

"The Indian National Commission expresses its profound sense of sorrow and loss at the untimely death of Dr. Birbal Sahni, a distinguished member of the Commission, a great scientist and a beloved teacher; and resolves that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to Mrs. Sahni and the Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University."

MADRAS S.S.L.C. EXAMINATION RECOGNISED

The Government of India have decided, in consultation with the F.P.S.C., to recognise a pass in the Madras S.S.L.C. examination with eligibility either for the University course of study or for service under the Government of Madras as equivalent to a pass in the Matriculation examination of a recognised University or Board for purposes of appointment to the services and posts under the Central Government.



Pandit Nehru laying the foundation-stone of the Central Institute of Education in Delhi on April 18. Behind the Prime Minister is Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister

NEED FOR HIGHER EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Pandit Nehru Lays Foundation-Stone of Central Institute of Education

THE urgent need for raising educational standards in India was emphasized by the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, when laying the foundation-stone of the Central Institute of Education in the Delhi University enclave on April 18. Maulana Azad, Education Minister, presided.

A distinguished audience, including Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Dr. S.P. Mookerjee, Dr. Tara Chand, Sir Maurice Gwyer and members of the Diplomatic Corps, was present.

The Institute was formally opened by Lady Mountbatten in December, 1947, and began work in small rented buildings and tents. In addition to training both higher and secondary school teachers, it is intended to carry on research into problems of basic, secondary and adult education.

Pandit Nehru said that although he had to make preparations for his journey to London, he had felt it necessary to be present on this occasion in view of the importance of the work for which the Institute was meant.

Though it was unnecessary to point out the value of education, the Prime Minister said he sometimes had doubts whether educated people helped to improve world conditions or worsened them. In his contacts with young people in India while he had found some fine specimens, well equipped to take on the responsibilities that would soon fall on them, he had also come across others of a different "mental climate" who were only interested in getting their degrees by hook or by crook.

Unfortunately, in India a completely disproportionate interest was paid to the getting of degrees. People were anxious not so much to improve themselves but were agitating for the lowering of examination standards so that more can pass.

As an example of this mentality he referred to a recent visit by an important person to a university during which it was suggested that to celebrate the occasion, a number of students who had failed should be given degrees.

This, Pandit Nehru added, was a most dangerous attitude as the progress of the country depended on the maintenance of high standards. Unless there were a sufficient number of first-rate people the nation would rapidly become second or even third rate.

He had noticed a serious fall in the country's educational standards, both among the teachers and students. For this recent events in the country were mainly responsible. While he felt that this deterioration could be arrested, it would only be possible when the seriousness of the situation was fully realized.

Referring to the controversy over the name and content of the national language, Pandit Nehru deprecated the narrow-mindedness and heat that had been generated. "I do not see how a language can be made by statute", he said. "Living languages grow and are rooted in the people; I would not like to confine it in a strait jacket".

There was no doubt that Hindi would be the most powerful language in India, but unfortunately, many of its advocates spoilt their cause by their narrow-minded attitude. They did not love Hindi so much as they hated other languages. This approach reflected the mentality in which communalism had flourished in the country.

Mahatma Gandhi had held definite views on certain problems of education Pandit Nehru said. He was pained to see people doing many things in his name which he had actually opposed.

MAULANA AZAD'S ADDRESS

Outlining the scope and purpose of the Institute, Maulana Azad said that its services would not be restricted to the Centrally-Administered areas, but to the whole of India.

Continuing the Education Minister said:

Immediately after I assumed charge of the Ministry of Education in January, 1947, I looked into the development projects which had been accepted in principle but not carried out in practice. Of these, one of the most outstanding was the scheme for a Central College of Training for Teachers. The Central Advisory Board of Education had in 1944 recommended the establishment of two Training Colleges—one for men and other for women, each providing for an intake of 200 students for the service of the Centrally Administered Areas and the smaller Provinces and States. On grounds of economy the Government of India modified that recommendation and decided to establish one College for both men and women, with a capacity of 300. Provision was accordingly made in the Budget of 1946-47 for the establishment of the College.

I was, therefore, on assumption of office, surprised to find that the whole programme had been held up on the ground of shortage of building materials. I was aware of the difficulties in securing steel and cement and other equipment and I could understand the delay in the implementation of the building programme.

I could not, however, understand why this led to a postponement of the entire scheme. Even if buildings were lacking, the institute could have been started in temporary structures or hired houses, but here, less as in so many other cases, programmes of educational development were held up on the ground of lack of accommodation.

This undue stress upon buildings has always seemed to me to be an instance of confusing ends with means. Buildings are only a means of which the end is education, and yet it seemed to me that many of our educational planners were so engrossed with building projects that they could not conceive of carrying on educational work in their absence. I therefore decided forthwith that the institution must be started immediately with whatever accommodation was readily available.

The period was an exceedingly difficult one and all the attention of the Government was concentrated first on the disturbances in the Punjab and later on the impending division of the country. Even then, a small house was secured in the Delhi University area in July, 1947. I realised that this was not adequate to our needs and the work of the institute even on the smallest scale could be carried out only by the additional accommodation provided in tents.

In spite of our anxiety to get the institute working, a further period of delay was enforced by the division of the country and the extension of disturbances to Delhi itself, and for several months all normal activities had to be totally suspended. As soon, however, as the situation was brought under control, on the 19th of December 1947, the Central Institute of Education was formally opened by Lady Mountbatten and started to work in one hired building and several tents.

It is hardly necessary for me to relate at length the importance of an institute of this kind. With literacy figures so low as only 15 per cent., the paramount importance of expanding the facilities of education is obvious. The acceptance of democracy as the pattern of our State has, if anything, added to the urgency of the problem. It is also self-evident that the first step towards expanding the facilities of education is to provide for an increase in the number of trained teachers. Equally necessary is an institution to assess the results of educational methods followed till now and devise improvements demanded in the changing circumstances of to-day.

Purpose and Functions

It will be noticed that the institution which was started in December 1947 was the Central Institute of Education and not the Training Colleges which had originally been planned in 1944 and 1945. This meant not merely a change in nomenclature, but a considerable expansion in the purpose and functions of the institution. I felt that changes were necessary in two directions. First, it should not be merely a College for training teachers but also an institution for research in the fields of education. Secondly, its services should not be restricted to the Centrally Administered Areas but should extend to the whole of India.

The Central Institute will, therefore, train teachers both for higher and secondary schools and also carry on research into the problems of basic and secondary education. The stage at which a child should be introduced to a craft as distinct from activity, the relative emphasis on craft and academic subjects and their correlation, the production of a new type of school literature to bring out the social functions of all human activity, the degree of abstraction possible in the earlier stages of education, the stage at which there may be some bifurcation between academic subjects and crafts, the grouping of children according to aptitude, taste and ability, the place of arts in the school curriculum—these are only a few of the many problems which arise out of a new conception of Basic Education and require constant and careful study in a research institution.

There are also problems relating to Adult Education which demand fresh and careful scrutiny. It is a commonplace that the methods which are suitable for children cannot without modification be applied to adults. No doubt a good deal of work in this connection has been done in other countries of the world but each country has its own peculiar problems arising out of its social and economic background and its political history. We will have to devise the quickest methods of liquidating adult illiteracy. Equally important is the maintenance of a continual service of literature to prevent relapse into illiteracy. Thus alone can we provide adult literates with the knowledge to discharge their functions as citizens of a democratic state.

I could go on referring to many other problems which require immediate attention if we are to make our education truly creative. The system of examinations is itself being examined all over the world. The problem of text books which will provide useful and interesting information and at the same time develop a truly human outlook on world affairs is also engaging the attention of many countries. The aim and purpose of secondary education also require fresh re-examination. It is my hope that the Central Institute of Education will be our laboratory for examining all these important questions under controlled conditions and offering suggestions as to the best methods for their solution.

I have already stated that we did not allow the lack of buildings to delay the starting of the institution and I am glad that inspite of these difficulties, the institution has made good progress. I, however, felt that now that the Institute has started to work, we must provide suitable buildings for it as soon as possible. When the plans were made in 1945 the estimated expenditure for buildings was Rs. 18 lakhs, but the sharp rise in the cost of construction is bound to lead to an increase in expenditure. I am, however, glad that inspite of difficulties, we are to-day in a position to take in hand the building programme of the Institute and I hope that it will in the near future have all the buildings it needs.

Research Library

A library of over 5,000 books has been built up at a cost of approximately forty thousand rupees. We are hoping that when completed the Institute Library will be comparable to similar research libraries elsewhere. I am also hoping that we shall, in the course of the next year or so, attach to the Institute a Psychological Section for carrying out experiments in aptitude tests, selection methods, vocational guidance and other services.

We are conscious that only a beginning has been made and all that we propose and hope to accomplish are still in the realm of the future. Foundations truly laid are, however, a guarantee of future success, and no one, Mr. Prime Minister, is more aware than yourself of the need of imaginative planning and bold execution in order to achieve our objects. It is for this reason that we requested you to lay the foundation of this Institute, so that this new institution may, from its very inception, be inspired by that broad humanism and width of culture which have distinguished your actions in public and private life. I have, Mr. Prime Minister, great pleasure in requesting you to lay the foundation-stone of the Institute.



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram (second from right) Food and Agriculture Minister, presided over the Conference of Secretaries and Directors of Agriculture of Provincial and States Governments held in New Delhi on April 16

MEASURES TO ACHIEVE FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

New Delhi Conference Decisions

CONCRETE decisions covering the whole range of the Government of India's plan to attain self-sufficiency in food by the end of 1951 were taken at the two-day Conference of Secretaries and Directors of Agriculture of the Provincial and State Governments which concluded its deliberations on April 16, under the chairmanship of Shri K.L. Punjabi, Agriculture Secretary of the Government of India. The Hon'ble Shri Jairmadas Daulatram, Food and Agriculture Minister of the Government of India, was also present during major part of the discussions.

Provincial Targets

Fixation of provincial targets of increased production by concentration on irrigated areas or those which have assured rainfall, quick supply of raw materials required for agricultural purposes through a special machinery, diversion of 10 per cent of the present sugarcane area to food crops, inducement to private owners to reclaim culturable waste land by granting exemption from payment of land revenue for a specified period, award of medals and prizes as encouragement to progressive cultivators, steps for organizing an extension service to carry the results of research to the fields were some of the many important decisions taken.

Representatives of the Provincia. Governments indicated their plans of increased production during the next three years ending 1951 by intensive cultivation methods, including application of better seeds, manures, extension of minor irrigation etc. This is to be confined to area which are either irrigated or have an assured rainfall so that the results of intensive cultivation would not be subject to adverse climatic factors and could be assessed without difficulty. In other areas, minor irrigation works were particularly recommended.

The representative of Madras explained a 3 year scheme of the Provincial Government which aims at repairing or constructing 26,000 tanks which, when completed, would irrigate 5 million acres of land and bring in two million tons of additional foodgrains. The Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram urged that the scheme should be accorded the highest priority so that the increased production estimated could be realised within the target date for food self-sufficiency fixed by the Government of India.

In order to expedite the supply of iron, steel, cement, bricks, etc., required for agricultural purposes, a special officer is proposed to be appointed in the Central Ministry of Agriculture who would keep personal touch with the provincial Governments for their requirements and would ensure a steady supply of these materials so that production was not hampered by lack of essential implements. The Central Ministry of Agriculture have arranged for a substantial increase in the quota of iron and steel for agricultural purposes and the Provincial Governments have been asked to furnish their requirements to the Special Officer who would arrange for their procurement and supply.

The question of starting an extension service with a view to apply the results of research on improved methods of cultivation to the fields was extensively discussed. Sri K.L. Punjabi, Agriculture Secretary, informed the Conference that the Government of India had asked the F.A.O. to give the assistance of an expert in Extension Service who could advise the Government of India on this matter.

Meantime a Committee of officers in the Ministry had prepared a report on extension service which would be circulated shortly to the Provincial Governments and would be considered at a subsequent meeting of Provincial representatives. The idea underlying the extension service is to enlist non-official support for increased food production activities of the Government and to ensure that the more progressive among the farmers themselves take an active interest in the Government's plan of food self-sufficiency and induce other cultivators to apply improved methods of production in their respective fields.

The Conference noted with regret a tendency among some of the cultivators to divert fertilisers like sulphate of ammonia from food crops, for which they have been allotted to them, to cash crops as the latter brought greater return. In view of the paramount necessity of immediate increase in food production it was considered essential that such diversion must be checked.

The Conference suggested that the allocation of fertilisers should be restricted in such a way that only areas growing food crops received them and that they were distributed during the particular season in which food crops were grown. Besides, it was suggested that the import of nitrogenous fertilisers should be increased so that the inducement to divert fertilisers from food crops to cash crops was minimised.

Town Refuse and Sewage

The Conference felt that a large lot of valuable manure, consisting of town refuse and sewage, was at present being wasted and recommended that effective steps should be taken to utilise this valuable material for increased production. It was explained that of about 4,000 towns in India with a population over 5,000, not more than a dozen had yet taken up compost production work, on any comprehensive scale.

The Conference recommended that municipalities must undertake preparation of compost and advised that the provinces should pass enabling legislation to compel municipalities to take up this work. The compost schemes of municipalities should normally be self-supporting, but it was agreed that financial assistance might be rendered, as a special case, if a particular municipality was in need of it.

Reclamation of Waste Land

The Conference decided that all land, either privately owned or otherwise, which had been reclaimed by Government efforts should be put under food production. Inducement should be given to private owners for reclaiming waste land by exempting them from payment of land revenue for a period of five years, provided they put the reclaimed land under foodgrains.

The difficulty experienced by private owners of tractors and tubewells in procuring diesel oil for their machineries were explained and it was decided that the Central Government would help them in this respect if the Provinces would co-ordinate these requirements also in their indents.

Keeping cultivable land fallow was considered an anti-social act in the present context of food shortage in the country and the conference suggested that legislation might be introduced to compel owners to put such lands into cultivation, otherwise penalties might have to be imposed.

The question of diversion of some of the existing acreage from cash crops to food crops was considered and it was recommended that 10 per cent of the existing sugarcane area, constituting about 3.4 lakh acres, should be diverted to foodgrains production.

A system of distributing prizes in order to stimulate the enthusiasm of the cultivators in increasing the yield of foodgrains and holding of exhibitions to demonstrate improved agricultural methods were recommended. Special medals and trophies with which our Leaders may be associated were considered for award to agriculturists who achieve high increase in foodgrains production.

The Conference concluded with a feeling of confidence that provided the necessary materials such as steel, iron, cement and coal were available in time for the agricultural operations and the resources in men and money increased, agricultural production would be stepped up sufficiently by the end of 1951 to cover the defecit in foodgrains. Efforts for intensive cultivation had already been started. Extension of minor irrigation works and reclamation of culturable waste offered large scope for increasing the country's production.

Did You Know that....

During the thirty days ending May 11, 1949, India expected to import 4,90,400 tons of foodgrains, of which wheat will be 316,600 tons and rice 72,500 tons.

Of the 3,50,000 acres of land vacated by the Meos in the Mateya Union during the post-partition upheaval, 1,00,000 acres have been cultivated by the local people and 40,000 acres mechanically cultivated by the Central Tractor Organization of the Agriculture Ministry of the Government of India.

During 1948, Australia was the largest exporter of foodgrains to India with 7,09,000 tons, the U. S. A. came next with 6,57,000 tons.

In India there are 4,000 towns with a population of 5,000 and above. The refuse material of these towns, which is at present mostly wasted can produce 10 million tons of good quality compost.

TRANSFER OF CASH CERTIFICATES FROM PAKISTAN

A Press Communique issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on April 29, said:

As a result of the Inter-Dominion Conference held in Delhi early this month, it has been decided to allow the transfer of Post Office Cash, Defence and National Savings Certificates issued before August 15, 1947 from one Dominion to the other up to June 30, 1949. No application will be entertained after that period.

Holders of certificates (in the case of deceased holders, the legal heirs) who desire to have their certificates transferred to India are requested to apply to the nearest Head or Sub Post Office not later than June 30, 1949. The transferred certificates will be subject to the terms and conditions of their original issue.

Agricultural Census in 1950

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on April 18 said :

In pursuance of a recommendation made by the F. A. O. for organizing an agricultural census in 1950 in member countries, the Government of India have appointed a Technical Committee consisting of Mr. W. R. Natu, Economic and Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture as Chairman and the following members :

Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, Statistical Adviser, Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi; Dr. P. V. Sukhatme, Statistical Adviser, Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Dr. V. G. Panse, Deputy Director (Research), Institute of Plant Industry, Indore; Dr. B. Natarajan, Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras; Mr. G. M. Sankpal, Director, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Government of Bombay; Mr. K. Kishen, Statistician to the Department of Agriculture, United Provinces; Mr. N. C. Chakravarty, Department of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries, Government of West Bengal; Mr. H. C. Kothari, Statistical Officer, Government of Jaipur, Mr. K. S. Surainhji, Director of Agriculture, Government of Saurashtra; Mr. B. A. Bombawale, I. C. S., Secretary to Government of Central Provinces and Berar, Land Records Department, C. P; and Mr. J. S. Sharma, Research Officer, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture (Secretary).

The terms of reference of the Committee are : (a) to examine the forms of returns at present used by the different provinces and states for routine collection of data and evolve standard forms of returns (b) to consider whether any special modifications are necessary in the scope of enquiry in respect of areas where the system of land survey or record of rights is not introduced; and (c) to explore the directions in which the data collected, through the Census of Agriculture can be usefully integrated with the data collected through the Census of Population.

The invitation of the F. A. O. for organizing an agriculture census in 1950 was considered by the Conference of Provincial and State Ministers of Agriculture held in September 1948 which recommended that the occasion of this census should be utilised to collect all the basic data in the field of agriculture.

It is further recommended that the various enquiries in connection with the census of agriculture should be so planned as to provide in a comprehensive manner all the data that is required for formulating measures on agricultural development.

MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

The name of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has been changed to the 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' with effect from April 25, 1949.



Palm trees in a village in Meerut District

DEVELOPMENT OF PALM GUR INDUSTRY

DATE palms and palmyras which abound in the countryside lin India, if properly exploited, can provide employment to 5 million families besides producing substantial quantity of cheap and wholesome Gur.

There are in India about 50 million palm trees, spread over almost all Provinces and States. The palmyra is found in all Provinces except in the East Punjab and Assam and number about 40 millions; the rest are date palms. In Madras and Bengal these palms have been tapped, from times immemorial, for Gur and the villagers have supplemented their sugar requirements from this simple and inexpensive source.

Sparse location of palms and the consequent difficulty in collecting large quantities of juice at a central place for untilisation on a factory scale make the Palm Gur Industry essentially a cottage industry.

The Central Ministry of Agriculture has been for the past one year encouraging the development of palm Gur as an indigenous cottage industry. Steps have been taken to teach villagers to exploit the palms in the best manner possible and to interest them in the economic potentialities of this industry. It has been estimated that proper exploitation of the 5 crores of palms in India on a cottage industry basis will provide at least part-time work for 50 lakh tapper families and many hundreds of potters and smiths who will be required to supply juice collecting pots and tapping tools.

The source of raw material is perennial and does not involve periodical replanting as in the case of sugarcane. Palms grow on waste lands, require no manuring or irrigation and wild animals can do no harm as in case of sugarcane. Besides, the manufacturing process is so simple that even a single family can conduct independently all the necessary operations from the collection of juice to its final processing into Gur.

Mahatma Gandhi, who was impressed with the economic possibilities of date palms had instituted work in Wardha with a view to develop palm Gur as a cottage industry. Under his guidance and inspiration the All-India Village Industries Association, Wardha, opened a Palm Gur Department through which the popular Provincial Ministries were approached for starting work in different provinces. Subsequently, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India opened a Palm Gur Section in December 1947 for the development of palm Gur industry. Experienced officers who had worked in Wardha have been put in charge of this Section.

Development Schemes

The development of palm Gur industry is being pursued in two directions: (i) Further development of the industry in Provinces and States like Bengal, Madras, Cochin, and Travancore where it already exists, by adopting improved methods and (ii) Introduction of the industry in the remaining Provinces and States. While the Provincial and States Governments are primarily responsible for executing the programme, the Central Government assists them by providing the necessary technical guidance and financial assistance on a 50 : 50 basis.

Development schemes recommended by the Government of India have already been put into execution in Bombay, C.P., East Punjab, U.P., West Bengal, Bhopal Jaipur and proposals for starting the work in some other provinces and States are under consideration. Bombay, Bihar, C. P., U. P., and West Bengal have also established centres for training in palm Gur Industry. Each trainee receives a stipend ranging between Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per month for the period of training, which varies between one to four months. After completion of the training, each trained worker is subsidized to the extent of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 for initial investment in equipment and accessories necessary for starting the industry on his own.

Central Training Centre

A Central Palm Gur Training Centre was established at Moodbidri, Distt. South Kannara, Madras, by the Government of India in September last year to train the staff required by the Provinces and States for development work. The training given covers practical field-work as well as theoretical lessons besides study of the state of industry in different areas in India.

To make palm Gur popular, demonstrations were given in various provincial centres as well in the Congress Exhibition at Jaipur, in the Bihar Sarvodaya Exhibition, Patna, and in the All-India Sarvodaya Samaj Sammelan, Indore. Practical demonstrations by preparing different kinds of sweets and confectionery were given.

Research on the problems of the industry, preservation of Neera and palm Gur, economy in fuel consumption, improvement of furnaces, etc., is being carried on by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at the old Pusa Farm in Bihar.

For maintaining three families, sixty palmyra trees are required which are estimated to produce about 6,000 lbs. of Gur a year valued at Rs. 1,500. The expenses of the materials required would come to about Rs. 150 leaving a balance of Rs. 1,350—as wages for the families. Thus a family of one tapper, his wife and a minor working in this industry is expected to get a monthly return of about Rs. 75 for six months of the tapping season.

One hundred and fifty date palm trees are required for a family consisting of one male and one female labourer which will produce 3,000 lbs. of Gur valued at Rs. 750. The expenses on materials etc. would come to about Rs. 100 leaving a balance of Rs. 650 as the family wages.

MORE RUSSIAN WHEAT FOR INDIA

It is reliably learnt that a third Indo-Russian food agreement signed recently, provides for the supply of 200,000 tons of wheat and 20,000 tons of maize to India by Russia. The total quantities of these foodgrains are expected to arrive in India by the end of July 1949. In exchange India has given to Russia a quota of 20,000 tons of raw jute and 7,000 tons of tea.

The first agreement signed with Russia in July last year, provided for 50,000 tons of wheat for Indian tea. The second agreement was signed two months ago, under which India was to receive 101,000 tons of wheat in exchange for supplies of jute, tea and castor oil.

RECOGNITION OF RAJPUTANA UNIVERSITY DEGREES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 26, said:

The Government of India have decided, in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission, to extend the provisional recognition accorded in April 1948 for one year to the Degrees in Arts, Science and Agriculture of the University of Rajputana, up to December 31, 1949.

The Government of India have also decided in consultation with the F.P.S.C. to recognise the B. Com. Degree of the University of Rajputana as equivalent to the B. Com. Degree of a recognised University for purposes of appointment to Services and posts under the Government of India. The recognition of this Degree also will be provisional up to December 31, 1949 in the first instance.



A peasant uses the new plough evolved by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute

NEW TYPE OF PLOUGH EVOLVED

THE Indian Agricultural Research Institute of the Central Ministry of Agriculture has evolved a new plough which with a single pair of bullocks is capable of doing twice the work done by the normal *desi* plough.

The new plough is simple in construction and consists of the bottoms only of two standard *desi* ploughs, suitably coupled by means of an iron framework and pulled by a single central beam. The ploughs are so spaced that identical furrows are cut and they carry out in one operation that much of work which would be performed in two operations by the standard plough.

The new plough is comparatively light, its weight being approximately 50% heavier than the Desi plough. Trials given to the plough in the Agricultural Research Institute showed that the draft did not exceed 260 lbs. as against the normal draft of 155 lbs. of a Desi plough. The additional draft of the new plough is not likely to be heavy for bullocks as experience has shown that so far as ploughing is concerned bullocks are usually underloaded. Tests carried out at the institute show that an ordinary pair of bullocks can operate this double plough without undue extra effort.

The output of work and the quality of ploughing will also automatically be improved. Seasoned ploughmen who have used the new plough are enthusiastic about it and state that it is easier and less tiresome to operate due to its stableness when in work.

Besides its simplicity in construction the new plough is comparatively economical—a consideration which is particularly important for the people who will use it. Compared to its capacity of doubling the output of work, the cost of construction is not more than 50 per cent. of that of a single plough and the machine can be easily repaired or even constructed by the village blacksmith or carpenter.

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Finance on April 20 said:

The public are reminded that as the sanction of the Reserve Bank is necessary to make remittances to Foreign countries, any firm, business house or individual desirous of engaging employees from outside India, whether in a salaried capacity or on a commission basis or as partners or otherwise, should first apply to the Reserve Bank to ascertain whether it is prepared to allow remittances to their countries of domicile of the salaries of such employees or part thereof which they may wish to remit.

The granting of passport visas to foreigners to enter India does not by itself entitle them, if they secure employment in India, to remit any portion of their rupee salaries to countries outside India.

AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY RESEARCH

I.C.A.R. Annual Report

RESEARCHES on rice, wheat rust, barley, maize, citrus fruits and commercial varieties of potatoes were the special features of the activities of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during 1947-48, according to the annual report of the Council recently published. On the Veterinary side, bovine tuberculosis, rinderpest, foot and mouth disease of cattle, nutritional deficiency and Ranikhet disease of poultry were particularly investigated and some useful results obtained.

Research on rice showed that green manuring helped production better than by keeping land fallow for a certain period. Growing of *juar* prior to paddy was found injurious to the paddy crop and the report suggests that this practice should be avoided. Research on new varieties of paddy showed that Chinese varieties gave very heavy outturn, viz., 60 to 70 maunds per acre.

Thirteen hill varieties of wheat were selected for experimenting on their capacity of resistance to yellow rust. Two varieties have been found to be resistant. A few other varieties which seemed to be resistant to yellow, black and brown rusts were also discovered. Research on barley for evolving rust-resistant varieties was continued.

Fruit Research

With regard to fruits greater stress was laid on research work on citrus fruits. Root-stock trials for *Sathgudi* orange and the common acid lime were undertaken which helped in finding out the optimum season for budding. Root grafting of mango was successfully evolved for the first time.

At Simla over 200 hybrids approaching the common commercial potatoes, both in tuber, size and yield, were evolved. Some hybrids have established their superiority as frost resistant types. The sprouting method of growing potato is proving of immense use both in experimental and multiplication work.

Veterinary Research

To investigate the incidence of bovine tuberculosis a large number of cattle was tested. Investigations showed the percentage of infection rather high. It was also found that the PPD (a serum) which was prepared at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute could be effectively introduced as a diagnostic product for the detection of tuberculosis.

In the United Provinces desiccated goat tissue powder vaccine for rinderpest was tried. It was found that even under adverse conditions the vaccine remained viable from 10 to 17 days and it provided immunity to animals for a period of 7 months. The pill vaccine was also tried and it was found that in frigidaires, pills retained potency for one month. They were found to confer a satisfactory immunity lasting for 17 months. Research work on foot and mouth disease was continued and useful vaccines conferring satisfactory immunity to hill bulls, sheep, goats and guinea pigs were evolved.

Ranikhet disease was found to be the commonest and deadliest scourage of poultry. During the year, more than 2½ lakhs of poultry were vaccinated in various Provinces and States. The majority of the vaccinated birds developed satisfactory immunity.

Nutrition

On the nutritional side, experiments at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute showed that with *vanaspati* there was 15 to 25 per cent less absorption of carotene as compared with ghee. Vanaspati was also found to lower the absorption rate of calcium and phosphorous.

The comparative feeding value of straws of wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, and paddy on milk production was investigated and it was found that the feeding value of paddy straw in Hariana cows is superior to other straws and is followed in order by wheat, barley, bajra and jowar straws. It was also found that alkali treated straw augmented milk production in cows.

MORE EMPLOYMENT OFFICES IN BIHAR

The Government of India have sanctioned a scheme for the establishment of 11 District Employment Offices in Bihar. There are at present 4 Employment Exchanges in that Province, including the Regional Employment Exchange at Patna, which were considered quite inadequate for a province with an area of 69,745 square miles and a population of 36 millions.

The object underlying the new scheme is to bring Exchange facilities within easy reach of employers and unemployed in areas separated by long distances from the existing Exchanges. These District Employment Offices will be worked in close collaboration with the Provincial Government, who have agreed to divert the staff attached to the District Information Bureau to the new District Employment Offices. This staff will be reinforced, if necessary, by some of the personnel employed in the Employment Exchanges.

A significant feature of this scheme is that while it extends considerably the field of the Employment Service in Bihar, it does not involve any additional expenditure so far as the Central Government are concerned. It may be mentioned in this connection that the U.P. Government have lately opened 20 District Employment Offices entirely at their own cost.

Clearance Arrangements For Imported Foodgrains

A PRESS NOTE issued by the Ministry of Food on April 21 said:

To examine the existing procedure regarding the import of foodgrains with special reference to the possibility of improvements and economy in regard to the shipping, clearance, handling, transport, weighment and storage of foodgrains at the ports, the Government of India have appointed a committee with Mr. Ratilal Mulji Gandhi as Chairman and the following members: Mr. Deoji Rattansey of Bombay, Mr. K. Mitter, Docks Manager, Port Trust, Calcutta, Mr. D. S. Erulkar, Controller of Indian Shipping, Bombay and Mr. B. P. Bhargava, Chief Director of Purchase, Ministry of Food, Member-Secretary.

The Committee will examine (a) the procedure adopted at different ports for clearing foodgrains ships including handling, bagging, weighing, standardizing and despatching of the cargo received in bulk or bags, in relation to the conditions prevailing and facilities available at different ports for berthing of steamers, storage of cargo, labour etc. and suggest improvements (b) arrangements for transport of foodgrains from docks to godowns and suggest improvements in relation to local conditions and facilities available (c) the storage of foodgrains at different ports and report on defects and suggest improvements, in relation to storage accommodation available and possibilities of building godowns (d) the charter party terms secured for foodgrains ships and suggest amendments which should be attempted to be secured and (e) the freight charges paid by the Government in relation to the rates paid by the trade, report whether more favourable rates could be secured, and if so, to suggest ways and means for securing such rates.

The headquarters of the Committee will be at New Delhi, but it will visit such ports in India as it considers necessary for examining conditions prevailing at those ports. The Committee will also co-opt representatives of important interests as and when necessary.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR DOCK LABOUR

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Labour on April 19 said:

The Government of India have decided to set up an Advisory Committee comprising of an equal number of representatives of the Government, the Dock Workers and the employers of Dock workers at the major Ports in India and have addressed the various organisations in the matter.

The Advisory Committee is constituted under Section 5 of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment), Act, 1948 and its functions are to advise upon such matters arising out of the administration of the Act or any scheme made thereunder as the Government may refer to it for advice.

LORD BOYD-ORR'S VISIT TO INDIA





Lord John Boyd-Orr, former Director-General of the F.A.O., visited India recently to make a special study of the problem of food production in the country and advise the Government of India on methods to increase production. (Above) Lord Boyd-Orr photographed with H.E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari at Government House, New Delhi. (Right) Lord Boyd-Orr watches a mechanic at work in the workshops of the Central Tractor Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture in Delhi.



Lord Boyd-Orr photographed on arrival at Palam aerodrome, New Delhi. (L. to R.) Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman, Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Lady Boyd-Orr; Shri K.L. Panjabi Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Miss Datar Singh; Lord Boyd-Orr; Shri S.Y. Krishnaswamy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, and Mrs. Panjabi.

BIHAR AND MADRAS ZAMINDARI ABOLITION BILLS

THERE appears to be an impression in certain quarters that there has been some kind of discrimination in the handling by the Governor-General of the Zamindari Abolition Bills of Bihar and Madras, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 26.

It added: It may be recalled that the Madras Bill which was submitted by the Governor towards the end of December 1948 received the assent of the Governor-General early in April, whereas the Bihar Bill which was submitted by the Governor much earlier viz in July 1948 was returned in March 1949 with a message asking for its reconsideration by the Provincial Legislature on certain lines. In actual fact, however, there has been no discrimination, and the Governor-General's action follows advice on certain consistent principles.

The difference in treatment has arisen because of the different provisions of the two Bills. The Bihar Bill sought to vest in the Province all zamindaris within a period of six months after the Act came into force. It was estimated that the compensation payable to the zamindars in terms of the Bill was well over a hundred and fifty crores. The Bill provided that the compensation would be paid in the form of cash or in bonds or partly in cash and partly in bonds, the bonds to be negotiable and repayable over a period of 40 years.

A financial transaction of such a large scale was not within the means of the Provinical Government and even if it were so, it would have had an adverse inflationary effect. The message of the Governor-General in effect asked the Provinical Legislature to amend the Bill so as to allow outright acquisition of zamindaris only to the extent to which it was practicable for the Provincial Government to pay compensation in cash.

The Bihar Government has been advised separately to acquire zamindaris by mutual consent in cases in which the proprietors were willing to accept compensation in non-negotiable bonds and for the rest they are proceeding with a Bill to take over the management of zamindaris.

Madras Bill

Compared to Bihar, the scale of operations in Madras is a small one as the total estimated cost of compensation is only 12½ crores of rupees, which is well within the resources of the Provincial Government itself. Even so, the Madras Bill enables the Government to proceed by suitable stages and not all at once. The financial objection to the Bihar Bill did not therefore arise in respect of the Madras Bill. Further, the Madras Bill has left it to be determined by rules as to the manner in which compensation is to be paid. In conveying the assent of the Governor-General the Government of India have asked that they should be consulted before the rules are finalised.

The Bihar Bill, as submitted for assent, vitally affects the working of mines in the Province. In view of the magnitude of mining operations in Bihar it was felt that the mining clauses of the Bill must follow the policy of the Central Government. Accordingly the message of the Governor-General suggested amendments in the Bill so as to achieve the above object. By comparison, the magnitude of the mining operations in Madras is very small. Even so, the Madras Government has been asked to submit certain draft rules to the Central Government so as to ensure that their policy is in accord with that of the Centre. It will thus be seen that there has in fact been no differentiation in the handling of the two Bills.

Reorganization of Co-operative Movement

AMALGAMATION of the existing Co-operative Associations into one Central Association and the establishment of a Central Council to advise the Ministry of Agriculture in co-operative matters have been suggested by a Committee appointed last year by the Government of India to report on the co-operative organization, finance and other allied matters.

The Committee was set up in pursuance of the recommendations of the Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies held in Madras in 1947 and was presided over by Shri R.G. Saraiya, Chairman, Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Representatives of the Central Ministry of Agriculture, Registrars of Provincial Co-operative Societies, representatives of the Co-operative Banks and prominent non-official workers in the field of co-operation were members. The report of the Committee is being examined by the Government of India.

Central Body

The Committee has recommended that the three All-India Associations at present in existence namely, The All-India Co-operative Institutes' Association, The All-India Provincial Banks Association and The Co-operative Insurance Co-operative Association should be amalgamated into one body to be known as the Indian Co-operative Association.

The two All-India Co-operative Conferences, one official and the other non-official; are likewise to be merged to form one Indian Co-operative Conference to be convened by the Association.

With a view to ensure greater co-ordination between the government and the non-official co-operative opinion, the establishment of a Central Co-operative Council consisting of nominees of the Co-operative Association and the Government has been suggested. This Council, it has been proposed, will act as an advisory body to the Central Ministry of Agriculture.

The report makes a comprehensive survey of the present requirements of short-term co-operative finance and recommends certain amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act in order to enable the Bank to render more effective assistance to the co-operative movements. Extension of the period of accommodation (i.e. advancing of loans) to one year, widening of the scope of loans so as to include industrial co-operatives and the acceptance of demand promissory notes of Co-operative Societies or Central Banks as collateral security for loans are some of the important recommendations in this connection.

Amendment of Old Act

Another suggestion which has been made is that the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912 should be amended. With the advance of the Co-operative Movement in all directions since the Act was passed it is felt that several of the provisions of the old Act have become obsolete or insufficient. It has been suggested that the Provincial Governments should take up the question of amending the old Act keeping in view their past experience and future needs of the movement.

Some changes in the method of preparation of statistical statements relating to the Co-operative Movement that are published periodically by the Reserve Bank of India have also been suggested.

PROTECTION TO ARTIFICIAL SILK INDUSTRY

The Government of India's Resolution on the Indian Tariff Board's Report relating to continuance of protection to the Artificial Silk and Cotton and Artificial Silk Mixed Fabrics Industry was published on April 18, in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary). The Tariff Board has recommended continuance of protection for a period of two years at the present rates of duty.

The Government has accepted this recommendation. The Indian Tariff Act has been amended to secure extension of the period of protection.

The Government of India have decided that "The Lawrence Royal Military School, Sanawar (Simla Hills) East Punjab," which is now maintained by the Ministry of Education, as a residential school, will henceforth be known as "The Lawrence school, Sanawar (Simla Hills)" said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on April 16.

SARDAR PATEL'S MESSAGE ON INAUGURATION OF AHMEDABAD RADIO STATION

"RADIO is a great means of moral uplift. It is not an end in itself, but a mighty means which, if properly used would prove of immense help to the people of India," said Sardar Patel in a message on the occasion of the inauguration of the Ahmedabad Station of All India Radio on April 16, 1949.

Sardar Patel said:

"Citizens of Ahmedabad, with the inauguration of the Ahmedabad Station, A.I.R. has now 15 Stations all over India. During the last year 9 new Stations have been started. All these Stations in a sense are temporary as it will take some time before the major equipment and its necessary accessories for the long range development arrive and are installed. In the meantime, the Government has used equipment which it had at its disposal to provide broadcasting facilities to the various large cities of India. Among these, Ahmedabad was given its place.

"Ahmedabad is a great industrial centre with a large working class population. This station will, therefore, provide such facilities to this class, which will enable them to develop their talents and take their part in the programmes. I hope the millowners also will extend their fullest co-operation to this work.

"Ahmedabad is an old city and in a way its prosperity is due to its industries. Yet the great fame that it has acquired outside India in the last 25 years is not so much because of its industries but because Mahatma Gandhi made it his residence and founded here his Sabarmati Ashrum. This new Station will fully avail itself of the heritage of Gandhiji. It is a matter of great pleasure to note that the inaugural programme of this Station will include Bhajan recitation by the inmates of the Ashram.

"Gandhiji himself was closely associated with broadcasting. During his stay in Delhi, broadcasting helped his mission considerably. His prayer addresses were daily relayed by All India Radio and they benefitted the whole country. Radio is a great means of moral uplift. It is not an end in itself, but a mighty means which, if properly used, would prove of immense help to the people of India.

Long-Range Plan

"I hope the people of Gujrat will take the fullest advantage of this new Station, particularly the working classes and those living in undeveloped areas. I also hope that the Municipal Committee and the citizens of Ahmedabad would provide them with the necessary listening facilities. Under the long range plan a bigger transmitter would be installed at Ahmedabad, making it a bigger broadcasting centre. Ahmedabad will then broadcast programmes for the whole of Gujarat. I hope once again that the citizens of Ahmedabad will derive the fullest benefit out of this new Station. Jai Hind."

Insured letters up to a maximum value of £200 may now be forwarded to Yugoslavia.



Pandit Nehru inaugurated the "Mera Bachpan" programme of the External Services of All India Radio on April 9. The programme is intended to introduce prominent persons of India to Indian children overseas. Here, the Prime Minister is surrounded by children who had a free and informal talk with him.

RAJAJI'S MESSAGE TO EIRE

His Excellency the Governor-General sent the following message to His Excellency Mr. John T. O'Kelly, President of the Republic of Eire, on the occasion of the establishment of the Republic of Eire.

On this occasion of the establishment of the Republic of Eire it gives me great pleasure to send to Your Excellency and to the Government and people of Eire the cordial greetings and good wishes of India.

RECORDING OF 'GITA' VERSES

A recording of verses from the Bhagwad Gita has been made by the Ethnic Folkways Records and Service Corporation, 117 West 46th Street, New York. An English rendering of the Sanskrit text by Dr. T. M. P. Mahadevan, Visiting Indian Lecturer at Cornell University, precedes the recital of the Sanskrit text.

The verses selected from Chapter II of the Gita define a man of wisdom as "one who is free from petty desires and querile wants, who revels in the eternal self and not in the things that perish. He is not depressed by sorrow nor elated by joy. He is not a victim of passions like fear and anger, deadly hate and narrow love. He does not pursue the path of pleasure and become a slave of his sense-organs.

"Unlike the fickle-minded man who goes whithersoever his whims carry him, the man of wisdom has perfect mastery over himself, self-possession and self-control. He is awake in the spirit and asleep in the world. Just as the waters of the different rivers enter the ocean, which, though full on all sides, remains undisturbed, so the wise man of spirit, even though surrounded by allurements, stays unperturbed and ever in perfect peace."

The Gita said to be written between 2,500-250 B. C. is in the form of a dialogue between Sri Krishna and Arjuna on the relationship of man to his fellow beings and to God, and contains the quintessence of all Hindu philosophy.

INDIA'S MINISTER TO IRELAND

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, India's High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, has been appointed as Minister for India to Ireland, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on April 17.

He will hold this office in addition to his present office as High Commissioner in London.



Shri R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, photographed on arrival at Dum Dum airport Calcutta, on April 12

SHRI R. R. DIWAKAR ON PURPOSE OF PUBLICITY

"TO us in Free India, no language within our borders is foreign and no province distant. Every citizen in India must get to know more of every province and every language and of every religion in India. That is the only way to realise the common bond of our great broadbased ancient culture" said Shri R.R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, in a broadcast from the Calcutta Station of All India Radio on April 20, 1949.

Shri Diwakar said:

I have undertaken to speak to you to-night about "the Purpose of Publicity" and the way to achieve it. But before I take up the subject, I must thank the people of Assam and Bengal for the lavish hospitality they showered upon me, in this my first visit to their Provinces. Both of them have undergone fiery ordeals only recently and are still facing some very difficult problems.

It must, however, be said to their credit that they are facing all odds very bravely. Our sympathy always and our co-operation, where and when necessary, must go to them unreservedly. We must remember these are our Frontier Provinces and we have to look upon their problems as our own. Our interests, social, economic and political are one and indivisible. Distances and superficial differences such as those of language and others ought not to matter.

Publicity and Propaganda

To us in Free India, no language within our borders is foreign and no Province distant. Every citizen in India must get to know more of every Province and every language and of every religion in India. That is the only way to realise the common bond of our great broad-based ancient culture. That alone can enable us to live and work together for the common interests and advancement of all of us.

Now about publicity. I am deliberately using the word 'publicity' and eschewing the word 'propaganda'. The latter has gathered round itself very undesirable connotations. Totalitarian regimes have been responsible for its acquiring such bad reputations. And specially when propaganda is carried on in support of a party or of power politics, it loses all balance and verges on hysteria. In the hands of dictators, it assumes the form of dope which dulls the normal intelligence of men and women warping their very power of judgement.

Publicity is quite a different thing. It seeks to serve truth by giving real information, correct information and information in time. It wishes to spread knowledge about facts and stimulate healthy discussions, thus paving the way for the effective functioning of real democracy. For, the essence of democracy, is decision by quiet and unhampered discussions based on reliable data and action according to the decision by a majority.

No Substitute for Action

Publicity should not, however, be mistaken for a substitute for action or achievement. Publicity always immediately precedes something doing or follows something done. If nothing is doing or done, publicity would sound hollow and lose credit as well as value.

The purpose of publicity is to make known to the public the real state of things as it exists or happens, or to inform them as to what is done or sought to be done. It is said that truth always gains everything by publicity and falsehood loses all by it. Evil stands to lose all its support by exposure while good gets the approbation it deserves and added accession of strength. This philosophy of publicity is based on the fundamental belief of mankind that a man inherently loves and upholds truth and detests and discards falsehood.

The question of information and publicity is now no longer merely a matter of local or even national interest and importance. It claims today international attention, and freedom of information has become the concern of U.N.O. All nations are thinking in terms of seeing that there is free flow of correct information throughout the world. It is obvious, therefore, that publicity has very high and important purpose and those who are called to the task have naturally a great responsibility.

I am not speaking here only from the point of view of the Government of the day, Central or Provincial. I refer here to all those who are engaged themselves in the art of publicity. Their number is patently vast and their responsibility is proportionately heavy. In our own country all of us have to serve a new and great democracy and help to enble it to discharge its functions. Democracy in India has not only to defend itself, to put its own house in order and to justify its existence, but also to play its proper part in the effort to establish peace in this distracted world.

Recently, thanks to science, the media of publicity have also increased and they are constantly expanding their scope of activities. The Press, Radio, Film, are all there already and are daily coming out with fresh devices. Television too promises to become common none too soon all over. Apart from various other uses of these media, they are all today being used for publicity purposes. Thus the literate and illiterate, distant and near ones, are all approachable through the ear or eye, through the spoken or the written word, through picture or talkie.

In certain matters, it has been realised that the picture speaks a more universal language. While something spoken or written is understood only by those who know that particular language, a picture can make itself understood to all those who have eyes and to all those who might be speaking any one of the 2,700 languages in the world.

Thus, the picture may be said to be the Lingua Franca of humanity. In a way, it can be said under certain circumstances that photographs are more a faithful depiction of happenings than any language is capable of presenting. In view of all these facts, it is the duty of publicity and those who handle it to utilise to the fullest possible extent all media available for the great purpose.

Government Publicity

So far as the Government is concerned, its activities in the field of publicity are naturally limited. All popular Governments elected by the people of the land function as big organisations which have certain duties to perform and certain responsibilities to discharge. Government Publicity Departments are limbs of these organisations. Therefore publicity, public relations and information regarding numerous activities of the Ministries, explanation and interpretation of policies and plans taken up by Government are the main tasks of Government publicity.

But there is the question of reaching vast masses of India in more than a dozen languages. Further, there is the question of publicising numerous other healthy activities of the vast army of men and women, social workers, associations and bodies that are engaged in the task of serving the country in a number of ways. All this work in addition to other things is expected to be done by the Press and other organs of publicity in the land. Looked at in this perspective, the problem of publicity assumes the form of a mighty cooperative effort by all these media in the common interest of progress and prosperity of the people.

Since the high purpose of publicity should be to help people to arrive at proper decisions by conveying to them correct information, all engaged in this task have to work together and see that the common purposes are fully achieved. There is always in this, as in other matters, a gap between aims and achievements, but what matters is honest endeavour and if one has done that, the consciousness of having done our duty saves us from disappointments and pushes us onward to fresh efforts.

I need not emphasise here how journalists, authors, artists, publishers, cinema proprietors and others who are engaged in similar tasks can, while fulfilling their functions contribute to the right kind of publicity and help the new born democracy of India to do its duty properly and efficiently. This can be possible only if there is peace in the land and all anti-social elements are under the fullest control and none are allowed to pursue violent or subversive activities.

For, democracy is a plant that cannot prosper in an atmosphere of violence. It believes in the law of reason and not of force. I only wish and hope that in days to come we shall not only be alive to our great responsibilities but also be able to perform our duties as conscientiously as any other people in this world. We shall then have the pride and right to say that we are contributing our own mite to the building up of this great nation on sound lines and according to great traditions.

PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL FILMS

With a view to promoting the use of Audio-Visual aids for instruction in schools as well as for Social Education, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, has set up a Central Films Library and an Audio-Visual Education Unit. The Education Ministry is also considering a scheme to undertake, in co-operation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the production of educational films as a pilot project.

The Ministry of Education has also received many representations from private film producers requesting advice and support in their programmes for the production of educational films. With a view to encourage private enterprise in this field as much as possible, it has been decided to offer all possible help to commercial concerns undertaking the production of educational films.

A panel of experts is being set up for the scrutiny of scripts for such films. Whenever requested to do so, the Ministry of Education will refer the script of any film prepared by a firm to a member of the Panel for scrutiny, advice and suggestions. The cost of the scrutiny will be borne by the firm concerned.

The Government of India feels that such expert examination of the script before the production of the film will be of great value to the private producers by enabling them to avoid expenditure on unsuitable films. The object of the scrutiny will be to adjust the films to educational needs and the requirements of particular age groups of pupils.

The Ministry of Education will also arrange for the previewing of finished films and where the script and the completed film have been approved, the firm concerned will be authorised to mark the film as having been approved by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Steps to Prevent Juvenile Delinquency

TO consider the growing evil of juvenile delinquency and the measures for its prevention and cure, a meeting was held on April 29 in the Ministry of Education under the chairmanship of Prof. Humayun Kabir Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Dr. (Miss) K.H. Cama of the All India Association of Social and Moral Hygiene, New Delhi; Mr. J.P. Gupta, Superintendent, Children's Aid Society Home for Boys, Delhi; Mrs. Saudagar Singh, representing the Reformatory School, Delhi; Mr. W.P. Singh of the Delhi Association for the Care of the Destitute; Mr. N.M. Patnaik, Chief Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi; Mrs. Kaushalya Pahwa, Magistrate, Delhi Juvenile Court; Lt. Col. Barkat Narain, Director-General of Health Services, Delhi; Mr. L.R. Sethi, Deputy Educational Adviser, Government of India; and Mr. S.S. Mathur, Director of Education, Delhi.

The meeting considered the growing evil of juvenile delinquency and was of the view that while there had been some progress in the setting up of juvenile courts and reformatories, their functions had not been adequately differentiated from those of penal institutions. It was considered desirable that such institutions should treat juvenile delinquency from an educative viewpoint and the emphasis should be shifted from punishment to training and rehabilitation of the children.

The meeting also felt that the activities of the different institutions working on the problem should be co-ordinated. It recommended that an institution should be set up in Delhi comprising of a Social Court, a Remand Home, separate homes for boys and girls with facilities for vocational training and an after-care organisation to help in resettling children.

A.I.R. ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 25 said:

The following have been appointed as members of the Advisory Committees for the various stations of All India Radio:—

CALCUTTA STATION: Dr. H.C. Mookerjee, and Shri Arun Chandra Guha.

LUCKNOW STATION: Dr. Dharam Prakash, and Begum Aisaz Rasul

MADRAS STATION: Shri Ram Nath Goenka.

DELHI STATION: Shri R.B. Vijayavargi.

TIRUCHIRAPALLI STATION: Shri V. Ramaiah.

medi cine to be utilised under the scheme, the relationship of the Corporation medical organisation to the provincial medical organisation and the question as to whether the scheme should be developed on the basis of a salaried full time service with prohibition of private practice or through the panel system by utilising the services of private practitioners.

I do not propose to express any opinion on these matters but I earnestly hope that the deliberations of the Council will be so guided as to promote decisions which will facilitate the creation and development of the industrial medical organisation on sound lines.

I wish you every success in your endeavour to find ways and means to serve a community which have so far not received their due share of proper care and attention in the sphere of health."

Earlier Dr. C. L. Katial, Director-General of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation welcoming the Hon'ble Health Minister said that the Medical Benefit Council would form an important link between the Provincial and Central Governments and the Corporation.

COUNCIL'S DECISIONS

The Medical Benefit Council of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation concluded its two-day session on April 22, under the chairmanship of Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India.

The Council discussed the mode of operation of the scheme of providing medical benefit under the Act and decided that the administrative medical officer of the Province should be made by the Corporation its own Regional Commissioner. He would be assisted by medical staff who would exercise the necessary control.

It further decided that the allopathic system of medicine should be adopted to provide medical benefit in the first five years of the scheme.

A Sub-Committee consisting of Dr. A.C. Chatterjee, Director of Health Services, West Bengal, Lt.-Col. M.G. Bhandari, Surgeon-General of Bombay, Dr. A.C. Bannerji, Director of Health Services, United Provinces, Lt.-Col. D.P. Nath, Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bihar, Shri Rajani Mukerjee, Employees' representative, Dr. R.A. Amsur and Dr. V.M. Albuquerque Medical Commissioner, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, was appointed to report on the standard of medical benefit to be provided under the Act, maintenance of medical and surgical equipment at dispensaries and consider the draft agreement to be made between the Corporation and Provincial Governments regarding provision of medical benefit.

The Medical Benefit Council consists of 21 members with the Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, as Chairman. The heads of Provincial Medical Departments are represented on this Council. Its functions are to advise the Employees' State Insurance Corporation on matters relating to the administration of medical benefit and investigate complaints against medical practitioners in connection with medical treatment and attendance.

FREIGHT POLICY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

Rates Tribunal Appointed

MR. N. S. Lokur, Chief Justice, Kolhapur High Court, has been appointed the first Chairman of the Railway Rates Tribunal, with Messrs L.M. Roy, Bar-at-Law, Allahabad, and Sauripmsad Mohapatra, Advocate, Orissa High Court, as Members. Mr. S. R. Kalyanaraman Deputy General Manager, M. & S.M. Railway, has been appointed Secretary to the Tribunal.

The setting up of a Railway Rates Tribunal is an important step in the development of the freight policy of Indian Government Railways. The establishment of a Tribunal with statutory powers to fix rates and to decide complaints was recommended as far back as 1921 by the Acworth Committee. The recommendation was not accepted in its original form; but in 1926, by an executive order, a Railway Rates Advisory Committee, consisting of a President and two members—one of whom was a representative of commercial interests and the other of railway interests—was constituted.

This Committee did not have the authority of a statutory body, even though its decisions were generally accepted by the Railway Board. Its scope was limited by the fact that the Railway Board reserved the right of determining whether a complaint should be referred to the Committee or not.

With the extension of State-management to almost all major railway systems in India, the need for an independent judicial body to entertain complaints relating to unfair discrimination of unreasonable freight rates, became evident. The recent reorientation of the Indian Railways goods rating structure made the need more urgent. In November 1947, Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Transport, told the Indian Parliament that there was a good case for "an unbiased examination of railway rates by an independent judicial body with a much wider scope than the present Rates Advisory Committee and having a mandatory and not merely an advisory jurisdiction."

Panels of Assessors

The establishment of a Railway Rates Tribunal was authorised by the Indian Parliament in September 1948. The Tribunal as laid down in the Act will consist of a President and two Members all of whom must have a high judicial standing. To assist the Tribunal, two panels of assessors will be constituted, one representing trade, industry and agriculture and the other, railways. The opinions of the assessors will not, however, be binding upon the Tribunal, from whose decisions there will be no appeal.

The Railway Rates Tribunal is authorised to entertain complaints that Railway Administrations are exercising discrimination, quoting unreasonable rates, attaching unreasonable conditions to rates, or are unreasonably refusing to quote a station-to-station rate. The Tribunal alone will have the powers to reclassify any commodity in a higher class though such powers will not be exercised except upon application by the Central Government.

Increase or reduction in the level of class rates, schedule rates, terminals or other charges will be made only by the Central Government. Both the Tribunal and the Central Government will have powers to reclassify any commodity in a lower class; but the classification of a previously unclassified commodity will be done by the Central Government.

The Tribunal will deal only with freight rates. The scale of charges for the carriage of passenger luggage, parcels, military traffic, railway materials, stores, and demurrage charges, are excluded from the jurisdiction of the Tribunal except when a specific reference is made to it by the Central Government.

WORKING OF RAILWAY COLLIERIES

The Government of India have constituted a Committee to enquire into the working of Government Railway Collieries, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 21.

The Committee will have six members including the Chairman, Shri B.P. Singh Roy. Other members are: Shri J.N. Mookerjee; Shri R.L. Malaviya, Member, Constituent Assembly; Shri S. M. Banerjee, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance (I. and C. Division), Calcutta; Mr. J. Morris, Chief Accountant, M/s Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.; and Mr. L.S. Corbett, Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board.

The Committee will examine the methods of working in the Railway Collieries and their volume and cost of production as compared with private collieries in the vicinity. They will also recommend to Government what steps should be taken to overhaul the working of Railway Collieries, to increase production and to reduce the cost of production.

POSTAL PARCELS FOR ITALY

Normal parcel service has now been resumed to Italy, the rates of postage being Rs. 3-0-0 for a parcel weighing up to 2 lbs., and varying rates up to Rs. 11-13-0 for those over 11 lbs. and up to 22 lbs. This service is subject to the Exchange Control and the Export Control Regulations imposed by the Government of India. Insurance and cash on delivery services are not available.





C.-IN-C. OPENS ANTI-MALARIA EXHIBITION—Gen. K. M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, opened an Anti-Malaria Exhibition in Delhi on April 19. (Above) The Commander-in-Chief is spraying DDT on a model of a mosquito. (Left) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, evinced keen interest in the microscopes on show at the Exhibition.



Gen. Cariappa, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and other military officers examine a sand model depicting various methods of malaria control

EDUCATION OF MASSES THROUGH RADIO

Shri R. R. Diwakar's Address at Gauhati

A TEN kilowatt transmitter which would enable people in all corners of Assam to listen to radio programmes would be installed at Gauhati in the course of next few months, announced the Hon'ble Shri R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, at Gauhati on April 16.

The Minister, who after spending two days in Shillong arrived in Gauhati on April 16, was speaking at a reception organised in his honour by the local journalists' association at the office of the Daily Assam Tribune. Unless there was increase, he pointed out, in the number of receiving sets in the province full benefit of that powerful transmitter would not be available to the people. Just as great river Brahmaputra flowing through Assam would be of no use to the people unless water from it was taken to the fields through canals and pumps, better transmitting station would also be of little avail without adequate provision of listening facilities.

Community Sets

The people who were well-off should, Shri Diwakar continued, make gifts of community receiving sets to villagers in same spirit as they sent donations to charitable institutions or presented books to public libraries. India, the Minister regretted, although came fourth in the world in importance as far as frequency of transmission and other technical points were concerned, her position is second at the bottom of the list of broadcasting countries in regard to number of radio sets.

Referring to the problem of educating the masses, the Minister urged upon the educated people to pass their knowledge to as many number of people as possible. Keeping knowledge confined entirely to own-self was as anti-social an act as hoarding wealth for one's own enjoyment. Condemning the spirit of exclusiveness which he described as "intellectual capitalism" amongst a section of India's learned people, Shri Diwakar emphasised that intellectual bank balance of every educated Indian should be open for drawing cheques upon less fortunate people around him.

Earlier Shri Diwakar visited local Kasturba Ashram where nearly thirty women workers including few from tribal areas were receiving training in social service and basic education. He went round different sections of Ashram and saw reeling of silk yarns from cocoons.

Expressing his appreciation of the most useful work the Ashram is doing, he pointed out that no Government in the world was in a position to carry out single handed all comprehensive programme of social service. Whatever Government did must be supplemented by voluntary non-official efforts too.

The visit to Assam Mahila Samity provided the Minister similar first hand knowledge of what Assam's women were doing for social upliftment. The Samity had one hundred branches and 42,000 members on its role.

Shri Diwakar also visited Gauhati Museum and Historical and Antequanan Studies where he was shown valuable collections of ancient sculpture and manuscripts. A manuscript of one hundred fifty years old history of Assam written by the former Prime Minister of Aham kings and multicoloured copy of book written on bark of tree were of special interest.

GANDHI MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN U.S.

Indian students of Michigan State College, East Lansing, have presented 250 dollars to the college president, Dr. John A. Hannah, for starting a Mahatma Gandhi Library.

The sum is only a beginning toward further collections. The India students' Association on the campus expects to add to it annually through the contributions of new Indian students as they arrive and through collections to be raised every year, with a view to adding current books on India periodically.

This will be the second library founded in memory of Mahatma Gandhi in that country. The first was opened at Cornell University on February 28, 1949.

A proposal for the teaching of the Hindi language at East Lansing is also stated to be receiving the authorities' consideration.

The Government of India's Resolution on the Indian Tariff Board's Report on the continuance of protection to the Sericulture Industry was published on April 25 in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary).

The Board has recommended increases generally in the rates of duty and suggested that the industry should be given protection for a further period of 3 years. The Government has accepted these recommendations and a Notification is being issued under Section 4(1) of the Indian Tariff Act.

The Government of India have decided that a ten per cent concession in school fees for a second child and a twenty-five per cent reduction for each subsequent child should be allowed by the Principal, Lawrence School, Sanawar, on application, for the period they are simultaneously at school, provided no child qualifies for one of the scholarships proposed to be awarded to deserving but needy students.

RAJAJI'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE TO QUEEN JULIANA

His Excellency the Governor-General has sent the following message to Her Majesty Queen Juliana of the Netherlands The Hague, on her birthday which fell on April 30, 1949:—

On behalf of the Government and people of India I have great pleasure in offering Your Majesty felicitations on your birthday.

15,000 DOLLARS WORTH BOOK COUPONS FOR INDIA

THE Ministry of Education, Government of India, has been appointed by UNESCO as the distributing body for the Book Coupons in India. India has been allotted Book Coupons worth $15,000. The allotted Coupons in several denominations together with order forms and necessary literature have been received in the Ministry.

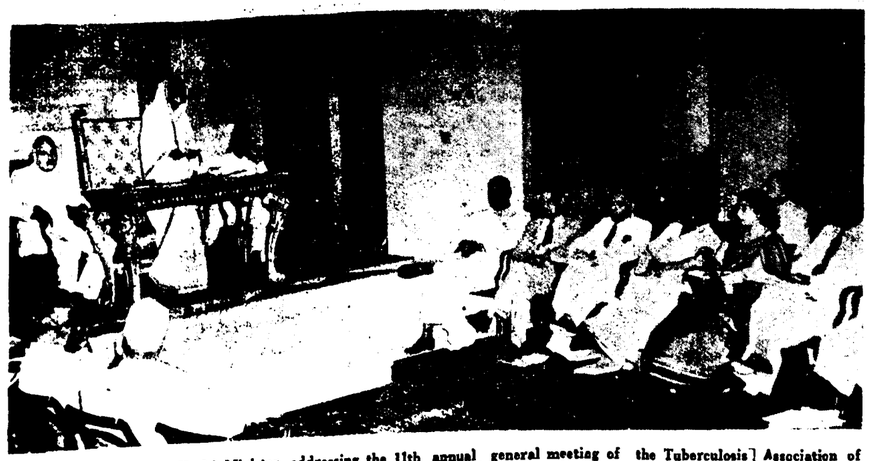
It is proposed provisionally to allocate Book Coupons worth $8,000 to all Universities and worth $4,000 to Scientific and Cultural Organizations and worth £2,000 to Government of India Libraries and worth $1,000 to individuals. It is intended to distribute coupons equally among all institutions and individuals.

The UNESCO Book Coupon Scheme is proposed as a means of facilitating purchase of Educational, Scientific and Cultural publications across national frontiers and is designed especially to meet existing difficulties due to currency restrictions, which 'soft' currency countries experience in obtaining publications from 'hard' currency countries.

The Scheme is designed to enable 'soft' currency countries to purchase internationally valid Coupons from UNESCO for distribution to institutions and individuals of the country. The Coupons which are to be used for the payment of publications purchased abroad, are redeemable in the Currency of the supplying country, through UNESCO.

During an experimental period which will last until the end of 1949, Book Coupons will be on sale in China, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Poland and the United Kingdom only. In addition a limited free distribution, financed by UNESCO's 1948 Fund for Educational Reconstruction will be made in Australia, China, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Philippines and Poland.

The Government of India have appointed Mr. Jamshed B. Vesugar as Ambassador of India in the Argentine, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on April 28, 1949.



Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, addressing the 11th annual general meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of India held at Government House, New Delhi, on April 20

T. B.'S TOLL OF ONE LIFE A MINUTE IN INDIA

Health Minister's Call to Fight Menace

"IT is frightening almost to contemplate that tuberculosis takes a toll of one life a minute in India. It attacks and kills without discrimination and the tragedy very often is that it is mostly the young who ought to be the wealth and mainstay of the nation, that become its prey," said Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, in her presidential address at the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of India held in New Delhi on April 20, 1949. "This disease is increasing with an alarming rapidity and it must be fought on all fronts," she added.

The Health Minister continued:

"Prevention is at all times better than cure and there is no doubt that the socio-economic condition of the people has got to be improved if we are to fight this disease with any degree of success. In order to provide for a higher standard of living, better houses, adequate nutrition and healthy recreation are essential. The spread of the disease must be controlled. But today with the overcrowding and the lamentable paucity of hospital beds and sanatoria for tuberculosis patients, it is impossible to prevent the spread of infection.

Voluntary Organisations

"The Bhore Committee rightly pointed out that it is the responsibility of the State to provide for every infective case of tuberculosis and for their hospitalization. But we have to acknowledge with regret that we are today unable to fulfil this obligation. Schemes for home isolation and the help of voluntary organisations are essential to assist the patients and their families. The country is grateful to voluntary organisations like the Ramakrishna Mission, the Marwari Relief Society and Christian Missions and other philanthropists and organisations interested in social welfare who continue to come to the aid of Government in order to supply the terrible lack of hospitals and sanatoria. I should like this help to increase as time goes on.

"We may not look always to Government in the matter of the care of sick and suffering. Indeed welfare services have a large part to play and they can bring in that human sympathy and understanding which is often better than medicines and which, in my long experience of social work, is specially needed by sufferers from tuberculosis. After-care colonies, the provision of pure milk, warm clothing and home visits in the crowded areas of our cities are means of service which it should be the duty of every citizen to undertake. There must be an organised anti-tuberculosis campaign in which social workers can definitely play a noble part.

B.C. G. Campaign

"I hope it may be possible to train the required type of workers in adequate numbers and perhaps even to maintain properly equipped and staffed anti-tuberculosis services.

"I hope it may be possible also in the not too distant future to carry out a tuberculosis survey in our country. There is no doubt that special factors such as social customs, habits, ignorance and economic and environmental conditions—all have a bearing on the incidence of a disease which flourishes on such soil.

"I would like to say one word about the B.C.G. campaign because there seems to be a certain amount of misinformed criticism in regard to its efficacy, Apart from the Scandinavian countries who have tried it out on a mass scale with sound results during the last decade, the World Health Organisation has undertaken to test 20 million children in the war-devastated countries and, where necessary, vaccinate them with B.C.G. The first large scale use of it in Britain is going to be for the protection of nurses, medical students and doctors who are exposed to constant risks of infection in their jobs. These scientifically minded countries would not advocate the use of the vaccination unless they were fairly assured of its merits.

"There is no doubt that the Tuberculosis Association and its sister branches in the Provinces have placed the problem of tuberculosis in its proper perspective before the Governments and the people of this country.

"I do hope the work of this Association will grow from strength to strength and that we shall not lag behind any other country in combating this fell disease.

"I need hardly assure the Association of the ready help and guidance which the Health Ministry of the Government of India will always place at its disposal".

Chairman's Speech

Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, Chairman, Tuberculosis Association of India, presenting the report of the Association for the year 1948, said:

The total bed strength in the country for the admission of tuberculosis patients is in the neighbourhood of 8,000 while our estimate of persons requiring such

DEVELOPMENT OF SILK INDUSTRY

Dr. Mookerjee's Speech at Bangalore

"INDIA is one of the few countries where Silk Industry originated in the distant past. Our Silk Industry is centuries old. We should expect therefore that it should not only satisfy our own requirements but also give us a very substantial volume of exports," said the Hon'ble Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister of Industry and Supply, Government of India, in his inaugural speech at the first meeting of the Central Silk Board held at Bangalore on April 28, 1949.

Dr. Mookerjee said:

Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in offering you a cordial welcome to this, the first meeting of the Central Silk Board. Unlike a conference which meets and dissolves, this Board will be the organ of permanent association and co-operation between the Central Government, the Provincial and State Governments of the principal silk producing areas and experts in the field of sericulture and the different branches of the silk industry. It is a statutory body with its own funds and its own executive.

While the Government of India and the Provincial Governments will welcome the advice of this Board on all matters relating to the silk industry, the Board must be very much more than a mere advisory body. As in the case of other cottage industries, the primary responsibility for the development of the sericulture and the silk industries must continue to be borne by the Provincial and State Governments.

But the responsibility of this Board must extend beyond the mere making of recommendations. This Board is the joint organisation of the Central Government and the Provincial and State Governments and of the industry itself. It must not only recommend and exhort but undertake specific and concrete plans of work in all spheres in which co-operative activity is necessary and desirable.

Fundamental Problems

This is the first meeting of the Board. A part of our time has therefore to be given to certain formalities and to questions of internal organisation. We must now elect a Vice-Chairman and a Standing Committee. We have to decide on the appointment of a Secretary and of other staff. We must consider our draft rules. But, the most important part of our work today will be to chalk out a programme of work for this Board.

In order to do this we must have a clear understanding of the fundamentals of our problems. I do realise that when we come to think of the details the problems of the sericulture and the raw silk industries are intricate and are often highly technical. The problems of the sericulture industry are bound up with those of rural and agricultural economy. The development of mulberry cultivation, the improvement of the mulberry bush and the mulberry tree as regards the yield of leaves and their nutritional content are problems of the agricultural science. Our silk worms are usually extremely poor as regards the quality and the quantity of the silk content or their cocoons. The improvement of the race of silk worms which is the central problem of sericulture is a difficult and intricate problem for the biological science. The prevention and the control of silk worms' diseases, which often mean ruin to the silk worms' rearer, is both a problem of pathologists and of administrative organisation.

The improvement of reeling and standardisation of raw silk again is a technical problem but also involves a problem of economic organisation involving as it does in many cases shift of production from the hand reelers' home to a small scale factory or filature. There is also the economic and organisational problem of the marketing of raw silk. The Provincial and the State Governments have been dealing with all those aspects of the matter. The Board must in due course review the steps which have been taken by the Provinces and the States, the further steps which they propose to take in future and decide how it can best assist to co-ordinate and supplement their efforts and undertake on their behalf activities which require a joint effort.

Foreign Competition

While we must consider all this in due course, it is necessary that we must start with a clear understanding of the main problems before us. India is one of the few countries where the silk industry originated in the distant past. Our silk industry is centuries old. We should expect therefore that it should not only satisfy our own requirements but also give us a very substantial volume of exports. While during the last fifty years or so China has more than doubled her exports, Japan has increased by about four hundred per cent and Italy by about fifty per cent, our exports have dwindled to almost nothing and what is even more serious our industry meets not more than sixty per cent of our own requirements. Our internal requirement of raw silk is estimated to be about four million pounds. Before the last war we were producing only about 16,00,000 pounds of raw silk. During the war a very great effort was made to increase production and production has now increased to about 24,00,000 pounds of raw silk. But there is still a very large gap between production and demand.

The other serious feature is the excessively heavy cost of production of raw silk. While the cost of indigenous production is estimated to be as high as rupees thirty per pound, silk from Japan and Italy can be imported into India for less than half of this price.

The Government of India fully recognise the serious threat which imports would in these circumstances mean to the indigenous industry. They are also aware of the important role which is played by sericulture and the raw silk industry in the rural economy of extensive areas. In the present circumstances the only way of keeping the industry alive is to give it a large measure of protection. The Government of India have therefore accepted the recommendation of the Tariff Board and agreed to place on import of raw silk a protective duty which will amount about one hundred and fifty per cent. At the same time a heavy protective duty such as this can only be a temporary measure. The protective duty cannot be maintained for ever. One obvious effect of this will be to place silk fabrics beyond the reach of a large section of the consumers. If the silk industry has to survive, its production must be increased, quality improved and cost reduced.

I would like to say a few words about an aspect of our problem which the Board will examine in due course. The quantity of raw silk which is in filatures has increased during the war. But by far the larger proportion of our silk is still reeled by hand. We should undoubtedly make all possible efforts to improve the technique of hand reeling. But there is obviously a limitation to what can be achieved on the simple spinning wheel. At the same time the diversion of reeling to privately owned filatures will seriously disturb the economics of the industry and replace the independent charkha reeler by a class of filature labour.

The establishment of filatures by the Provincial and the State Governments, where labour is recruited from among hand reelers and employed under fair conditions is being adopted in some areas. Reelers may be also organised in co-operative societies and establishments of filatures may be owned by such societies. I understand this is the type of organisation which has been advocated in China. I believe one of our Provinces has already started a similar experiment. Further, if filatures are to be established they should be located as far as possible in the rural centres of the reeling industry and we should avoid their transfer to urban areas. Sericulture is and should remain a rural industry.

Co-operative Organisation

I would stress the importance of co-operative organisation not only among reelers but also among rearers and weavers. If rearers, reelers and weavers are organised in their own co operatives, the marketing of cocoons and raw silk can be undertaken by such co-operatives with proper arrangements for the grading of cocoons and the testing and grading of raw silk. If the co-operative societies are established on a sound basis and if they receive the necessary financial and other assistance, twisting plants should be owned by reelers' co-operatives and dye-houses and processing factories established by weavers' co-operatives.

There is another question of a general character to which I may refer. Under the Act, as it stands now, the functions of our Board are limited to the sericulture and the raw silk industries. I have received representation that the weavers of silk should also be brought under the scope of the Board. There is much to be said for this point of view because the weaving industry is after all the consumer of raw silk. On the other hand sericulture alone would present numerous technical and other problems to the Board and I do not know if we will be well advised at this stage to extend the responsibility of the Board to the weaving industry.

As I have already said, the development of sericulture depends to a very large extent on agricultural, biological and pathological research. The Government of India have a central research station. Provincial and State Governments have also their own organisations. It is necessary that these research activities should be co-ordinated by the Board, the Board should decide how it can supplement and assist the work that is already being carried on and that the result achieved should be pooled for the benefit of the industry all over India. It seems to me that the work of the Board in this direction would be assisted if the Board were to set up a scientific sub-committee which may include one or two prominent scientists, who though not directly connected with sericulture may give us the benefit of their advice on the fundamentals of the methods which we should adopt.

Need for Trained Personnel

Provincial and State Governments need trained officers for their sericulture departments. But there are as yet no arrangements for systematic training. The Board may ultimately have to think of a Central Training Institute. But it seems to me possible even now to organise a fairly satisfactory course of training on an inter-Provincial basis by utilising the existing institution.

It is also necessary for us to have a few highly trained sericulture experts. I would suggest that the Board may consider the award of a few scholarships for higher training in the sericulture institutes of Japan, France and Italy. The best results will probably be achieved if the scholarships are awarded to selected officers who are already working under a Provincial or a State Government. It may be possible for us also to invite a team of foreign experts to visit our country for a short period and to advise us on some of the basic problems which confront us.

The field of work before the Board is as large and varied as it is difficult and complex. On the lead given by it will depend not only the prosperity of a considerable section of our rural population but also the prospect of development of one of India's major industries. I invite the co-operation of you all in the early fulfilment of this great task and I assure you of the active support and co-operation of the Government of India.

In a brief speech responding to Dr. Mookerjee's speech, Sri K.C. Reddy, Chief Minister of Mysore State, indicated the willingness of the Mysore Government to have the headquarters of the All India Silk Board located within their State as suggested earlier by Dr. Mookerjee.

The members of the Board elected Shri N. Rama Rao of Mysore State, as Vice-Chairman for a period of one year and Shri S.K. Chaudhuri as Secretary for a period of three years.

Development of Handloom Industry

THE Government of India have constituted a Standing Handloom Committee of the All-India Cottage Industries Board to replace the All-India Handloom Board. The Standing Handloom Committee consists of representatives of the provincial and State Governments, non-official weavers' representatives from all areas, representatives of the handspinning (khadi) industry, representatives of the Textile Mill industry and of the handloom processing industry, representatives of the Ministries of Industry and Supply and Commerce and other experts.

Khadi Industry

The first meeting of the Committee was held in New Delhi on April 10 and 11, under the chairmanship of Prof. N.G. Ranga. The meeting was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply.

In his inaugural address Dr. Mookerjee stated that the Government were anxious to assist the handloom industry in all possible ways as also to co-operate with Khadi organisations in order to bring about development of the khadi industry.

The Committee considered the problems of the khadi and the handloom industries in all aspects and made recommendations as to the development of the khadi industry with financial and other assistance from the Central and the Provincial Governments.

The Committee have also recommended increase of yarn supplies to weavers, import of fine yarn for the benefit of the handloom industry, adjustment of production programme in spinning mills in accordance with the requirements of the handloom industry, rapid development of weavers' co-operatives, distribution of yarn, accessories, dyes etc. to weavers through co-operative societies, the marketing of handloom cloth in India and abroad, quality control over exports and the establishment of training and research institutes.

They have also made recommendations for the utilisation of the Handloom Development Fund, which the Central Government have started with an initial grant of rupees ten lakhs.

Insured letters up to a maximum value of £200 may now be forwarded to Hungary, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on April 26.

FISCAL COMMISSION APPOINTED

THE Government of India has appointed a Fiscal Commission to examine the policy that has been followed by Government with regard to protection of industries since 1922, when the last Fiscal Commission reported, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 20.

It added: The Commission will also make recommendations as to the policy that should be adopted in future in regard to protection or assistance to industries.

A review of these matters now is essential, specially since the country's partition; even otherwise, conditions—both national and international—have changed materially. Government gave certain assurances to industries that were started or developed during the war, and the long-term policies in regard to these have to be settled.

Economic conditions, seriously upset by the war in this country as indeed everywhere else, have not yet reached a state of normality or stability. The Commission may, therefore, have to distinguish between short and long-term aspects of the problem in formulating its advice.

Further, in the light of the country's requirements, it will also have to consider how far it would be desirable for India to undertake international obligations of the kind involved in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or the Charter of the International Trade Organisation.

Personnel

The Fiscal Commission will consist of: *Chairman*: Shri V. T. Krishnamachari. *Members*: Dr. B. N. Ganguli, Shri B. M. Birla, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, M. C. A., Chaudhry Mukhtar Singh, Shri Khandubhai Desai, M.C.A., Shri Ambalal Sarabhai, and Mr. D. L Mazumdar (Member-Secretary).

Government may appoint further members as and when necessary. The Commission will have its headquarters at New Delhi. Provincial Governments and Administrations, firms, institutions, associations and persons who are interested or knowledge-able in subjects coming under the enquiry are requested to afford the Commission all the assistance and information that it may require.

RETENTION PRICES OF STEEL INCREASED

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 20 said:

After a full consideration of the report of the Tariff Board on the fair retention prices of steel produced by the Tata Iron and Steel Company and the Steel Corporation of Bengal, the Government of India have decided to increase with effect from May 1, 1949, the existing retention prices by about Rs. 18 per ton on the average. Detailed orders on this and other recommendations of the Tariff Board will follow in due course.

isolation is about 2.5 millions or there seems to be provision only for one among about 310 or 315 patients.

It has been urged that the organisation of home treatment, wherever facilities exist for it, should be pursued as an essential part of our anti-tuberculosis programme. But, as you are all aware, the conditions of overcrowding and insanitation that exist in the homes of the poor—single-room tenements are often occupied by two families consisting of 8, 10 or 12 individuals—make a satisfactory isolation impossible.

Our Technical Adviser, Dr. P.V. Benjamin, has long advocated that all existing beds in the country should, as far as possible, be reserved for poor patients. The rich can conveniently be isolated and treated in their own homes and, therefore, the reservation of the large proportion of hospital beds to the poor appears to be logical if the public health aspect of the problem is given due consideration.

Home Treatment Schemes

A large expansion of hospital accommodation for tuberculosis is essential. But such expansion is bound to take time and, in the meantime, the development of home treatment schemes in as many places as possible should be pursued with vigour.

I should like to refer to certain internal matters relating to our Association. An unfortunate controversy has arisen between the Governments of East Punjab and West Punjab over the division of the assets of the former provincial association of the Punjab. The Executive Committee of the Lahore Tuberculosis Association decided at an extraordinary meeting on July 31, 1947, that the assets of that Association should be divided between the two Associations to be formed in the provinces after partition. Decisions regarding the apportionment of the assets between the two provinces were also taken at the meeting. After the division of the province the West Punjab Government refused to give East Punjab its share which amounts to aoout Rs. 1,75,000. A suggestion made by the Governor of East Punjab that the matter be refforred to the Partition Council was not accepted by the Governor of West Punjab on the ground that the Partition Council dealt only with matters relating to Government while the Tuberculosis Association was a different body with its own funds.

This brings me to the larger question relating to the request made in May last year by Pakistan for a share in the assets of the Tuberculosis Association of India. It is understood that, at the meeting of the Partition Council held on December 7, 1947, it was resolved that for the purpose of inter-Dominion settlement the assets of only four Associations were to be divided and that the Tuberculosis Association of India was not one of these four Associations.

Pakistan's request for a share in the assets of the Tuberculosis Association of India was, however, examined sympathetically by Dr. Jivraj Mehta, in consultation with Lady Mountbatten, who was then our President. The Tuberculosis Association of India being a registered body, its assets do not come up for division either under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act of 1947 or under other provisions of law. The various provinces and States, which raised money in response to the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund Appeal in 1937-38, had received back 95 per cent of the collections made by them to enable them to initiate their own anti-tuberculosis activities and the areas now forming Pakistan had already received their shares. Further, in 1937-38, when the balance of Rs. 5 lakhs from the Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund was given to Lady Linlithgow for anti tuberculosis work in pursuance of her public appeal for funds, the entire amount was given to Baluchistan for the construction of a sanatorium. Thus Pakistan has already had more than her share of the total funds collected.

However, as a gesture of goodwill to Pakistan, Dr. Jivraj Mehta offered to recommend to the Committee to give Pakistan one-third of Rs. 10 lakhs received by the Association from the former Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the specific purpose of assisting ex-service tuberculosis patients. In making this offer Dr. Mehta asked the Pakistan Government to help this Association to realise the arrears due from the Pakistan Government and its units as well as to resolve the differences which had unfortunately crept in between West Punjab and East Punjab. The position as explained by Dr. Mehta to the Pakistan Government was endorsed by the Executive Sub-Committee in November, 1948. Pakistan's reactions to these proposals have not yet been received.

We all recognise that the work of the Association should be expanded as speedily as possible. Suggestions in this direction, which have already been considered, include the publication of a journal by the Association and the expansion of health education activities. The limiting factor, is, as in all other programmes of beneficient activity, inadequacy of funds. The possibility of raising more money by the institution of a 'flag day' accompained by the sale of special tuberculosis stamps or seals is under consideration.

MANGANESE ORE FIND IN C. P.

Geological Survey of India Report

RESERVES of manganese ore have been discovered at Tirodi, in the Balaghat District of the Central Provinces, by a party of geologists deputed by the Geological Survey of India, Government of India. Investigation was undertaken at the request of the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company which has been engaged in mining operations in the area for some time past.

Parties of the Geological Survey of India working in other parts of the country have reported the discovery of several large deposits of bauxite in western part of Sambalpur, Orissa; small occurrence of mangnesite near Ulipuram in the Salem District of Madras; and the occurrence of several seams of coal on the west bank of the Halso river in the Bilaspur District in C.P.

Brief references to these and other activities of the Geological Survey of India are made in its quarterly report for the period October to December, 1948. The report records that five parties continued investigation for oil in various parts of the country, *viz.* the Jawalamukhi area in East Punjab, Nawanagar State, Cutch, Kathiawar and the frontier tracts of Assam. Prospecting work continued during this quarter for bauxite deposits in the Belgaum District (Bombay); western part of Sambalpur (Orissa); and Patna District (Orissa). Prospecting for raw materials for glass and ceramic industries continued in the Jubbulpore Hoshangabad and Chhindwara districts of C.P. Investigation for gypsum also continued in Jodhpur State and Sirmur State (Himachal Pradesh).

The Geological Survey of India also carried out during this period geological investigations in connection with several river valley projects, such as, Bhakra, Kosi, Khoh, Pipri, Hirakud and Damodar.

Investigation of ground water resources of Godhra (Panch Mohals District, Bombay); the water supply position of Sujalpur in Bhopal State; and electrical prospecting for water in Jodhpur State were some of the other features of the Geological Survey of India activities.

The Department prepared 45 reports during this period on various investigations carried out by its officers, and its Mineral Information Bureau attended to 681 enquiries from India and abroad.

The annual Field Training Camp for training geologists was held from November 15, 1948 to January 4, 1949 and 22 newly appointed officers of the Geological Survey of India as well as ten university post-graduate students were trained.

POSTAGE RATES FOR PAKISTAN

A Press Note issued by the Director. General of Posts and Telegraphs on April 20, 1949, said :

The Posts and Telegraphs Delegation of the Government of India led by Shri H. L. Jerath, Senior Deputy Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, returned to Delhi from Karachi after finalising the Inter-Dominion Postal rates.

It has been mutually decided that the existing rates and arrangements based on Inland Postal rates should continue till March 31, 1950.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Inaugurates Medical Benefit Council

"IT is in the country's interests to ensure that the industrial community is afforded every assistance for maintaining a good standard of health without which we can never hope to attain the high level of production so vital to our progress.", declared the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, Government of India, inaugurating the first meeting of the Medical Benefit Council of the Employees State Insurance Corporation on April 2[illegible] in the Council of State Chamber, New Delhi.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said: It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be present here today and to associate myself with the inauguration of the Medical Benefit Council. Six months ago we saw the establishment of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation which will be responsible, under the provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act, for the organisation of social security to workers with incomes below Rs. 400/- a month, partly by the provision of medical care and partly by cash payments in respect of sickness and disability and also in the case of women of maternity. It is good to feel that pregnant and nursing mothers will get maternity cash benefit of 12 as. per day for 3 months. This is indeed a very great step in the right direction.

Today we are witnessing an important stage in the development of the work of the Corporation, namely, the establishment of the Medical Benefit Council which is the body responsible for guiding the creation and maintenance of the medical organisation under the scheme. This organisation is to be promoted jointly by Provincial Governments and the Corporation and I am of opinion that the potentialities for advancing the health and welfare of the people as a result of our medical programme are so great that we are really entering on a new era in the development of health services for the country.

Object of Scheme

At its commencement the scheme is intended to serve only industrial employees who number about 2.5 millions in perennial factories. These in India generally come from the rural areas and therefore find themselves wholly divorced from the surroundings to which they have been accustomed in the past. Overcrowding, insanitation, lack and poorer quality of certain essential articles of food such as cereals, vegetables, milk and fruits, to which they have greater access in the rural areas, all contribute to reduce their vitality.

The temptations of urban life also add their share towards producing ill-health in these workers. From the point of view of promoting industrial development, there is no gainsaying the fact that it is in the country's interests to ensure that the industrial community is afforded every assistance for maintaining a good standard of health without which we can never hope to attain the high level of production so vital to our progress.

The medical benefit which is proposed to be conferred on workers through the scheme will constitute a considerable advance on the existing facilities for medical care for them. In the first instance it is proposed to inaugurate mainly an out-patient service with adequate staff and equipment, which will mark a definite advance on the services now available to the general population.

In addition however, to this out-patient service there will be provision for domiciliary visits by the doctor and the nurse to the patient's home when he or she cannot conveniently come over to the dispensary for receiving medical attention, as also hospitalisation for them.

Health Education

I am glad that the Act provides for an extension of medical benefit to all classes of workers including those employed in offices, commercial concerns and even in agriculture and mines. There is also provision for extending the medical service to the members of the families of workers. I do sincerely hope that the preventive aspect of health work will receive full and active consideration at the hands of the Corporation.

I must lay the greatest possible emphasis on health education. Gandhiji was right when he said that man falls ill because he disobeys some fundamental law of nature. Ignorance of the laws of life is one of our main enemies.

Home visiting should therefore, provide valuable opportunities for the health staff not only to treat disease but also to assist the parents and children to learn gradually the elementary laws of health and to train themselves for the practice of them. Those engaged in health work must, therefore, be just as much social workers as technical experts, bringing into their work that spirit of service and that human understanding which will contribute not only to the physical but also to the mental well-being of the workers.

The medical personnel must be the best friends of the workers to whom the latter can turn at all times for advice and guidance. The provision of adequate ante-natal and post-natal care as well as skilled attention during confinement to women workers will be another important aspect of the health programme. Here again I hope that the preventive aspect of medical care made available to these women will be duly borne in mind.

A great responsibility lies on Provincial Governments. Medical treatment is to be provided to all insured persons by them, the Corporation bearing 2-3rds of the cost. To put up dispensaries within easy reach of the employees, to provide proper hospital accommodation for them and generally to ensure a high standard of efficiency will be the burden of the Provincial Governments.

It is therefore evident that the success of the scheme depends largely on the level of efficiency that the Provinces will maintain and the co-operation that they will give to the Corporation. I sincerely hope this will be forthcoming. They must ensure that the foundations of the new organisation are well laid and that the scheme does not founder on the rock of inefficiency or of false certification.

An essential factor for the success of the scheme as I have already emphasised, is to see to it that the worker is handled sympathetically by the medical officer at the dispensary or in the home and that he is given as full medical care as is possible under the conditions of the scheme. It is equally essential that the process of certification should be carried out conscientiously. On this will depend the financial stability of the organisation.

If the scheme is to develop on sound lines and is to bring within its scope increasingly larger sections of the community, it is essential to ensure that false certification is eliminated from the very beginning. As the Corporation bears the major share of the cost of the scheme, it will be equally its responsibility to insist that an adequate standard of medical service is maintained by the provincial authorities and that certification is carried out efficiently.

National Health Service

The utmost spirit of harmony and the fullest possible co-operation between the Corporation and provincial health authorities, I repeat, are essential for success. And while speaking of standards of efficiency and integrity I would like to stress the need for making this new service attractive to medical personnel. Without fair emoluments it is not possible to expect them to maintain the standards we require of them.

I am quite certain that India cannot afford to see this new medical service for workers, that is now being inaugurated, fail under any circumstances. If properly developed and extended, the organisation ought in due course, to embrace within the range of its operations 80 to 85 per cent. of the total population and should thus pave the way for the establishment of a national health service in which all members of the community will receive adequate medical care, irrespective of their ability to pay for such service. It is an ideal for the fulfilment of which it is worthwhile to strain every nerve.

I find that the Council has before it a long agenda with certain items on which decisions may not be easy. These include the question of alternative systems

FAIR DEAL TO HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT FACTORY WORKERS

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee's Appeal for Co-operation

ADDRESSING a gathering of more than 6,000 workers of the Hindustan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore on April 27, the Hon'ble Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister for Industry and Supply, Government of India, announced that the Board of Directors of Hindustan Aircraft Limited had decided to grant all the demands of the workers' organization regarding dearness allowance, leave and holiday rules, etc.

The Minister pointed out that, during the last 18 months, the Board had constantly been improving the prospects of the factory workers. "More than a year ago", he continued, "the Board announced a bonus scheme which costs the company nearly five lakhs of rupees. About a year ago, I intimated to you that the Board of Directors had sanctioned a sum of three lakhs of rupees for the purpose of improving the terms and conditions of your service. Now today that sum of Rs. 3,00,000 has increased to nearly Rs. 7,30,000 for payment of dearness allowance alone.

"In addition to this, on the recommendations of the Pay Committee, as also on an independent examination of the problem we have improved your leave and holiday rules so that a large number of people who are working here can be satisfied that they will not be harshly dealt with in case of emergency. Thus, as your Secretary has just now told you, we have decided to treat the workers who have one year of service, subject to their work being deemed to be satisfactory, as monthly-rated workers and not daily-rated workers as before. You will therefore appreciate that the company has done all that it could possibly do, so that it could ive you a just and fair deal."

Team Spirit Urged

"It is now your turn to respond to the gesture," said the Hon'ble Minister, and he appealed to the workers to evolve a team spirit and an organised discipline among themselves which would enable them to achieve as much efficiency and work as was being achieved by similar workers in other parts of the world. This was particularly necessary he urged, because the country which was now politically independent was faced with greater responsibilities than ever before and was placed in a position when she would have to compete with other countries in the production of aircraft, etc.

He added that reports of all Observers, foreign as well as Indian, had testified to the excellence of skill and high technical qualifications of the workers in the factory. Particularly the impressions carried by both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister of India of the work done in the factory, he said, had been complimentary.

The Hon'ble Minister indicated that the strength of the factory's personnel, nearly 6,100, was more than was needed for the work undertaken by the factory at present, but he also indicated that certain schemes of expansion now under consideration by the Board might shortly be carried out.

Earlier Dr. Mookerjee, accompanied by Shri A. Ramaswami Mudaliar and Mr. J. R. D. Tata, the other two Directors of the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, went round the factory's workshop and inspected the various construction, design and repair projects undertaken by the factory.

PATENTS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

The Patents Enquiry Committee held its third meeting on April 16, 1949, under the chairmanship of Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand. Among those present were Shri Gurunath Bewoor, Mr. N. Barwell, Mr. S.P. Sen, Dr. S.D. Mahant, and Mr. K. Rama Pai.

The Committee considered the report of a small Sub-Committee on the desirability of including elementary Patent Law in some part of University curriculla and also the report of Mr. K. Rama Pai, the Official Secretary, on his recent tour in Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Trivandrum, Cochin, Bangalore, Mysore and Hyderabad during which he was able to have un-official contacts with Institutions and individuals to whom the general questionnaire had gone out.

The Committee then took up the remaining parts of the agenda and resolved that it would submit an interim report to Government. The interim report would make specific recommendations with regard to the desirability and feasibility of enacting of a short amending statute to provide further and better safegurds against 'abuse' of patent protection than are to be found in the existing Statute.

The Committee also discussed the question of patent rights in commodities which in their nature belonged to the categories of food and/or medicine. It was decided to begin the framing of the interim report forthwith.

The Government of India have decided to extend up to June 30, 1949, the existing arrangements for payment to refugee pensioners of advances of pensions, pending their transfer. The extension will apply to those pensioners who were drawing their advance of pension on or before September 30, 1948.

Machine Tool Factory to be Set Up in India

NEGOTIATIONS for an agreement with the Oerlikon Machine Tool Works Buehrle and Co., Zurich-Oerlikon, Switzerland, for the establishment in India of a factory to manufacture machine tools have been successfully concluded.

The capital cost of the factory is estimated at Rs. 12 crores and the value of the production at Rs. 7 to 8 crores a year. The factory is expected to be completed within a period of four years.

The agreement provides *inter alia* that the Swiss firm will render all technical assistance in the matter of erection of the factory, the training of Indian personnel and direction and supervision of the production of the factory for twenty years from the date the production starts. They will also have a small financial interest in the project.

The Swiss firm will train Indian workmen, engineers and other technical personnel required for the factory in Switzerland. The Government of India will meet only the travelling and living expenses of these trainees and no fees for training will be charged.

Training School

The firm will also set up a training school in India for the purpose of training Indian workmen, engineers and other technical men required for the factory and provide the necessary expert personnel and equipment to train such men.

They will endeavour to train Indian personnel in such a way that within a period of ten years from the date of the starting of the factory, there would be sufficient number available to hold not less than 85 per cent of the technical posts in the factory.

NO ENQUIRY INTO EXCESS PROFITS

A recent newspaper report that the Finance Ministry has undertaken an enquiry into the question of excess profits accruing to the textile industry during the period of decontrol is without foundation, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on April 23.

It added: Profits made by the textile industry and traders during 1948-49 will come up for assessment in regard to income-tax and business profits tax in the normal course during the current year, 1949-50.

The assessing officers will, naturally, bear in mind the fact that very high prices were charged on the lifting of controls and large profits must have accrued.

INDO-POLISH TRADE AGREEMENT

"INDIA is determined to meet her dollar and other hard currency deficits by developing her trade with 'softer' currency countries", said a spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce on the occasion of the signing of a Trade Agreement between India and Poland in the Ministry of Commerce on April 22.

The agreement was signed by Mr. C. C. Desai, Commerce Secretary, on behalf of India, and His Excellency Mr. Joseph Nowicki, Leader of the Polish Trade Delegation, on behalf of his country. It is the eighth of its kind to be signed by the Dominion of India in recent times.

Main Terms

Under the terms of the Agreement, India expects to obtain a large number of commodities such as lithopone, coal tar dyes, cement, newsprint, softwood in scantlings, steel constructions, centrifugal and Worthington pumps, machine tools, textile machinery, miscellaneous tools, water meters, cast iron pressure and soil pipes and fittings, zinc sheets and dust, galvanized buckets and ware, furniture, fitting, electrical implements and motors of over 30 H.P., cables, transformers of large size, optical instruments and raw films.

Many of these commodites are at present being imported from the U. S. A. or other hard currency areas. The value of these commodities is approximately Rs. 2 crores. There is also a likelihood of Poland being able to supply reasonable quantities of barley to India.

Exports

Exports from India will include raw jute, raw cotton—Assams and Comillas—shellac, mica, myrobolan extracts, canes and rattans, cow hides, groundnut and groundnut oil, kyanite, black pepper, tea and coir fibre and yarn—valued at more than rupees one crore.

These items are in addition to those which Indian business men are at liberty to export to or import from Poland within the framework of the laws and regulations of the Governments concerned.

Both the Governments have agreed to afford all reasonable facilities in order to secure that the ships of the two countries carry as large a proportion as possible of the trade between India and Poland.

Poland is also willing to offer railway equipment to India, and an assurance has been given that when global tenders are invited for the supply of locomotives, Poland will have every opportunity of competing with other countries from which tenders may be received. Main consideration in this connection would be prices, delivery terms and India's foreign exchange position.

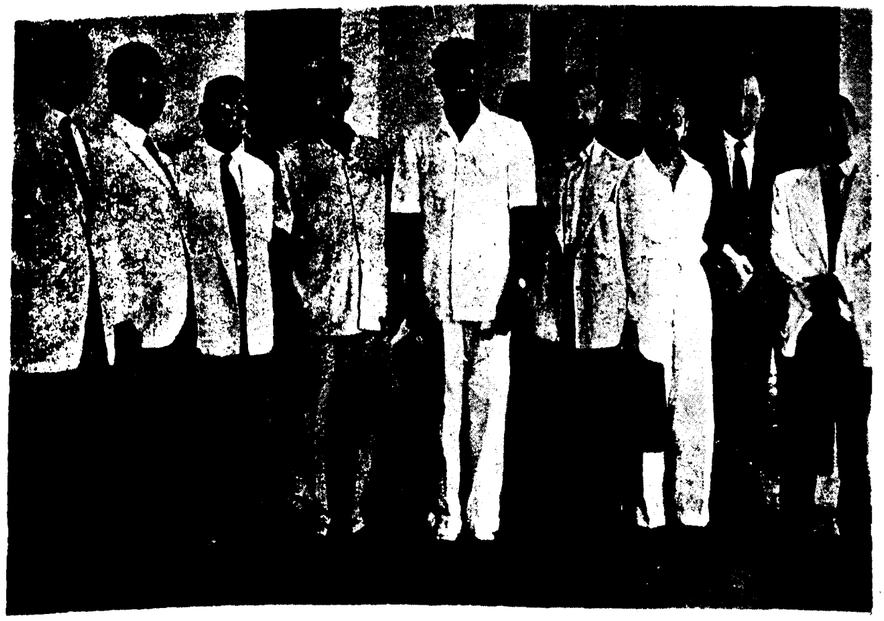
The Agreement, which is subject to ratification by both Governments, is for a period of one year.

EXPORT OF MILL-MADE WOOLLEN SHAWLS

The Government of India, in pursuance of its policy to liberalise exports, has decided to decontrol the export of mill-made woollen shawls, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 22.

Owing to the improved supply position of soda ash, it has also been decided to permit the export of this commodity by manufacturers and direct importers to all destinations, including Pakistan, up to June 30, 1949.

Applications for export will be entertained by the Deputy Chief Controllers of Exports, Calcutta and Bombay, and the Export Trade Controllers at Madras and Amritsar.



The Egyptian Trade Delegation which came to India for negotiations with the Government of India photographed on arrival at Palam aerodrome, New Delhi, on April 26. Among those who received the delegation at the aerodrome were M. Ismail Kamal Bey (fourth from left) Egyptian Ambassador in India, and Mr. V. C. Trivedi (fifth form left) Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

PANDIT NEHRU'S MESSAGE TO DISPLACED PERSONS

ON the eve of his departure for London on April 19, to participate in Commonwealth Premiers conference the Hon'ble the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, addressed a special message to the displaced persons in India. Following is the text of the message:

On the eve of my departure, undertaking a long journey and going out of the country, I should like to say a few words to the refugees or the displaced persons in India. Their lot has been a hard one and no problem has given us more anxiety than the problem of rehabilitating them. The problem was colossal and unique and if we failed to solve it with rapidity, it was not due to any lack of effort, though it may have been due to our inexperience and the lack of resources at our command. In any event that is a vital and urgent problem for all of us.

So far as the Government is concerned it is anxious and eager to do everything possible to rehabilitate these brothers and sisters of ours. But it must be realised that, in the nature of things, this vast problem cannot be settled completely in a short space of time. It cannot be settled at all satisfactorily, unless there is every effort and every co-operation between the Government, the various other agencies and the displaced persons themselves.

Indeed it is the attitude and the co-operation of these displaced persons that will make all the difference. I trust therefore that there will be this co-operation and an understanding by all of us of each other's difficulties. It does little good for us to blame each other instead of applying ourselves to the big task before us.

Biggest Handicap

Daily I have met many of these displaced persons who have come to me for relief or solace. Sometimes I have been able to help them a little, sometimes not. I shall be away now for some weeks and I shall not see them, but I wish to assure them that I shall be thinking of them and this great problem. I know that my colleagues here are applying themselves with all their energy to the solution of this problem.

The biggest handicap for us has been the delay in coming to an agreement about evacuee property. Indeed I would say that this is the biggest problem between India and Pakistan and if this was removed, other problems would gradually find their place. I think we can truthfully say that we have tried our best to get an agreement in regard to evacuee property and the delay is none of our making.

It is true that it is not an easy problem to tackle. Nevertheless we have to do it. We have made some progress and I hope that in future more satisfactory results will follow. In any event we shall continue to try our utmost to find an agreement on this vital issue affecting so many people. We have already taken some steps towards helping those who have come here and who have property in Pakistan.

I am going away to face big issues, which may well affect the future of our country and Asia. But while I may be far away, I shall be constantly thinking of our problems at home and among them, very specially, about this refugee problem.

The Governor General has appointed the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Thakurdas Vasanmal Thadani, a Judge of the Assam High Court, to act, until further orders, as Chief Justice of that Court in the vacancy caused by the retirement of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice R. F. Lodge.



The inmates of the Lahore Shed Refugee Camp, Delhi, presented a Guard of Honour to Pandit Nehru when he visited the camp on the women's and children's day on April 10. With the Prime Minister are Mrs. John Matthai and Shri Mohanlal Saksena, Minister of State for Rehabilitation

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED LAWYERS

THE Government of India had some time ago requested all Provincial Governments to move their High Courts to relax their enrolment rules so as to enable displaced legal practitioners from West Pakistan to practise in those High Courts or courts subordinate to them. It was requested that the usual sanad fees for enrolment be waived in their case.

The replies of some of the Provincial Governments have now been received. The position briefly is as follows:—

Bombay: To facilitate the enrolment of refugee lawyers from Pakistan, the Bombay Bar Council has decided that advocates from the Chief Court of Sind at Karachi who are L.L.Bs. of the Bombay University under the new rules will be enrolled without their having to produce the Bar Council certificates as required under clause (1) of Rule (1) of the Enrolment Rules provided that they have practised for five years at the Bar of the Chief Court. There is no difficulty about the enrolment of advocates from Lahore High Court as they are eligible for enrolment under the rules provided they have had a standing of not less than one year. In addition, the Bombay High Court has exempted the refugee advocates from payment of fresh duty under article 30 of Schedule I of the Indian Stamp Act.

West Bengal: The Calcutta High Court has assured that the applications of displaced lawyers from Western Pakistan for enrolment are being treated sympathetically.

East Punjab: Necessary steps to help the displaced advocates and pleaders regarding enrolment in the East Punjab High Court and waiving of the stamp duty leviable on an instument of entry as an advocate of that High Court have already been taken.

In U. P.

The United Provinces: The question of amending the Legal Practitioners' Act, the Bar Council's Act, the Stamp Act and other legislation for giving facilities to displaced lawyers for enrolment as advocates without payment of the prescribed fees is under consideration of the U.P. Government. It is stated that necessary steps are being taken to ameliorate the condition of the displaced lawyers who have come to that province for giving them a footing in the profession.

The Government have also relaxed the age limit to enable young displaced lawyers to compete at the examination for the U.P. Civil Service (Judicial Branch).

The Central Provinces: In Nagpur High Court there is no difficulty in getting the displaced lawyers enrolled. They have been exempted from payment of the stamp duty.

Bihar: Provision already exists in the rules of the Patna High Court to give relief to the displaced lawyers who wish to be enrolled as advocates of that High Court. Displaced lawyers have been exempted from payment of the stamp duty. Steps have also been taken to amend the rules of the courts subordinate to the Patna High Court for the same purpose.

Madras: The matter is under consideration.

The Federal Court: The Federal Court Rules 1942, have been suitably amended and the judges of the Federal Court have now powers to enrol a displaced lawyer without insisting on prior enrolment in a Provincial High Court in the Dominion of India.

SARDAR PATEL'S STATEMENT

(*Continued from Page 464*)

to His Majesty the King who will merely remain a symbol of our free association as he would be of other members. There is no break in our membership of the Commonwealth. We continue as member and with other members we remain united as free and equal members.

So far as our constitution is concerned it will remain republican both in internal and external sphere. You will notice that the King's headship of the Commonwealth is limited to being symbol of the free association of its independent member-nations.

Momentous Decision

Both India and other members of the Commonwealth have taken a bold and momentous decision. Only mutual goodwill and friendliness can make the association which we have now decided upon enduring. Let us hope that all of us will work this association in this spirit. We have all taken this step in hope and with faith in *bona fide* of each other. The future will show how far that hope and that faith can be fulfilled.

Finally let me say a word about the part which our Prime Minister has played in securing these decisions. To a large extent, the result achieved is his personal triumph. He has worked hard and earnestly for getting India's attitude on this question fully appreciated and it is a tribute to the place he commands in the eyes of the international world and to his earnestness and ability that the decision which has now emerged makes full allowance for the constitutional position of India as we all visualise it.

Study of Geophysics in India

A five-man committee to draw up a planned programme of geophysical studies in Indian universities and in scientific departments of the Government of India has been set up by the Central Board of Geophysics which held its first meeting in New Delhi recently.

The Board also decided to approach the Government of India for five overseas scholarships for specialized training in geophysics during the current year, and for appointment at a later date of a liaison officer for liaison work between the Board and the universities and other institutes of university rank.

The Central Board of Geophysics was itself constituted in March, 1949 on the recommendation of the Planning committee for Geophysics to coordinate and develop the existing resources of the scientific departments and the universities in geophysics for research, field work and training of personnel. The Board is also expected to work for the establishment of a Central Geophysics Institute in India which would deal with post-graduate and post-M.Sc. teaching and research in geophysics.

"Earth Science"

Geophysics is the study by physical methods of the earth—land, water and air. It may be described as an integrated "earth science" which includes geodesy, seismology and tectonophysics, terrestrial magnetism and earth currents, geophysical prospecting, meteorology including atmospheric electricity, hydrology and oceanography.

The Central Board of Geophysics has eleven members, with Shri A.N. Khosla (Chairman of the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission), as its Chairman. Dr. E. Ermacon is the Secretary of the Board.

The Board at its first meeting also decided to request the Government of India to sanction the establishment of magnetic and seismographic observatories at Dehradun at a very early date.

A committee of seven members was set up to prepare plans of work regarding physical oceanography covering as large an area as possible of the Indian seas, giving particular attention to those regions where oceanographic information is meagre. The committee would also consider plans of work relating to biological oceanography.

The Government of India has decided to decontrol the export of Cinema talkie machines and spare parts thereof (indigenous), East India tanned cow and cow calf hides and East India tanned buffalo calf hides weighing less than 4 lbs. per piece, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 28.

Regulations governing Inter-Dominion railway traffic in supersession of the Indian Railway Conference Association Rules.

The Conference accepted the two reports of the official Committee which are at Appendix "A".

Payment of amounts due to India in respect of inter-changed traffic and other transactions with Pakistan (Agreement reached at Secretaries' level Conference in November, 1948).

It was agreed that Pakistan representatives should investigate why the N. W. Railway had not made payments in respect of the net amounts of items which had been accepted by them.

It was agreed further that a meeting should be held in Karachi at 10-00 a.m. on 12th April, 1949, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister, Finance, Pakistan, to discuss the question of non-accounting of traffic and inordinate delays in acceptance of debits on either side. The meeting would be attended by the following :—

India :—Representatives of Audit, Finance, and if necessary, Traffic.

Pakistan :—Chief Auditors of E. B. and N. W. Railway, the Financial Adviser. Communications and representatives of the Traffic Department, if necessary.

Hold up of the kit of opting staff going from one dominion to the other.

This subject which was not on the agenda was raised at the meeting by the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan. The Conference accepted the following report of the official Committee composed of Messrs. Bhandarkar and Nizamuddin :—

"Pakistan representative stated that he had supplied a list of 26 kit wagons of Pakistan opted staff with full particulars of booking (number of wagons, invoices, names of farwarding stations, etc.) to Mr. Dantyagi, Joint Secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation Ministry, India, on the occasion of December Inter-Dominion Conference held at Delhi. Pakistan would like to know the progress made in tracing these wagons.

It was agreed that lists with full particulars of wagon numbers, invoices, etc., should be supplied by Ministries of Railways of each Dominion to the other who will in conjunction with provincial and other authorities investigate the delay in releasing the kit. It was agreed that arrangements should be made to trace the kit and send it on to the destination.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION MATTERS

The Indian Delegation represented that great importance was attached to the items included in this Section and they were most anxious that they should be discussed at the earliest possible date. It was suggested, therefore, that these matters should be considered at a special Inter-Dominion Conference which should be called before the end of April 1949. The Leader of the Pakistan Delegation undertook to convey this suggestion to his Government immediately.

Setting up a forum in the partitioned Provinces of the Punjab for settling matters arising from partition but not covered strictly by the Partition Committee.

The Conference accepted the recommendation of the official committee. It was agreed :—

"(1) That a forum shall be set up to settle matters arising from the partition of the Punjab into the Provinces of East and West Punjab but not included within the sphere of the Punjab Partition Committee and in respect of which no other committee has been set up by the two Dominion Governments.

"(2) This forum will be an Inter-Dominion Committee consisting of—

"(*a*) members and advisers of the Punjab Partition Committee on either side, and

"(*b*) a representative of each of the two Dominion Governments.

"(3) The Implementation Committee under this Inter-Dominion Committee will consist of the present members of the Punjab Partition Implementation Committee. This Implementation Committee will implement the decisions.—

"(*a*) of this Inter-Dominion Committee ;

"(*b*) of any other Dominion Committee when specially asked to do so ; and

"(*c*) of the Inter Dominion agreements arrived at in November and December 1948 conference in respect of the following—

"(*i*) sales and transfers of shares.

"(*ii*) money due to evacuees from Government and quasi-Government bodies.

"(*iii*) third party claims of all kinds, claims of employees of local bodies and the Punjab University and claims of contractors.

"(4) The meetings of this Committee will be held alternately in East and West Punjab, at least once a month."

Border incidents on the East Punjab West Punjab Borders

The Conference accepted the recommendation of the Official Committee contained in their report which is at Appendix 'B'.

Inter-Dominion Meeting to discuss complaints from Pakistan regarding the transfer of Muslim Bank Accounts to Pakistan and complaints of Indian Banks in regard to difficulties experienced by them in Pakistan.

'It was decided that an Inter-Dominion meeting should be held at Secretariat level in Lahore on the 22nd and 23rd of April to discuss;

(a) The complaints from Pakistan regarding the transfer of Bank accounts of Muslims to Pakistan,

(b) the complaints of Indian Banks in regard to difficulties experienced by them in Pakistan;

(c) The question of the return of securities held by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank on behalf of the Co-operative institutions now located in East Punjab;

(d) transfer of funds and deposits in Co-operative institutions in West Punjab;

(e) transfer of funds and deposits in Co-operative institutions in East Punjab;

(f) transfer of funds and deposits in Co-operative institutions in the Patiala and East Punjab States Union, and Alwar and Bharatpur States;

(g) transfer of funds and deposits in Co-operative institutions in N.W.F.P., and States which have acceded to Pakistan; and

(h) disposal of shares held in Co-operative societies by displaced persons.

2. At this meeting representatives from the Provincial and States Governments as also of the two State Banks and other Banks should be invited to attend.

3. This meeting will also set up the necessary machinery for implementing the decisions that may be taken by it.

Division of Museum Exhibits

The Conference accepted the following proposals of the Official Committee—

The Museum Committee set up by the Inter-Dominion Conference in December 1948 to discuss the division of Museum exhibits between India and Pakistan was instructed to recommend the procedure of the division of those exhibits in accordance with the Resolution of the Partition Council accepted by both the Dominions. This Committee came to a definite agreement with regard to the exhibits from the Taxila and the Harappa Museums, which was subsequently accepted by the Inter-Dominion Conference in December 1948. The only subject over which no agreement was reached between India and Pakistan was that of the antiquities from Mohenjodaro and Chanhudaro.

" In considering this outstanding matter, both the Dominions of India and Pakistan have every wish that a decision shall be made upon a basis which will provide a firm foundation for future goodwill and collaboration between the Archaeological Departments of the two Dominions. With this end in view, both Dominions agree to accept a 50/50 division of the Mohenjodaro and Chanhudaro collections, on the following condition:—

(1) That for this purpose the collection of 2049 antiquities from Mohenjodaro held on loan by the Central Museum at Lahore is grouped with that held by the Archaeological Department of India; the two collections named to be divided equally by the Director-General of Archaeology in India and a representative of Pakistan.

(2) That as comprehensive a duplicate collection as possible of objects from Taxila (terracottas, pottery, ornaments, coins, etc.) be given to India by Pakistan, the list to be prepared jointly by the Director-General of Archaeology in India and the Archaeological Adviser to Pakistan.

(3) That Pakistan waives all claim to any share of the skeletal material from Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

It is also agreed that casts or other reproductions of unique and important specimens in the share of each Dominion shall be made available to the other, according to requirements, within a year of the date of the actual handing over of the respective antiquities.

If the above formula is agreed to, with the approval of the respective Governments, it will be open to the National Museums of India and Pakistan to take up the question of the further exchange of specimens on the basis of mutual cultural approach without any restrictions of Museums.

In view of the above agreement, the Conference decided that the share of Museum exhibits allotted to the two Dominions should be transferred immediately to the Dominion concerned. As regards the exhibits held by the Royal Academy in London, the exhibits allotted to each Dominion should now be handed over by the Royal Academy to the representatives of the appropriate Dominions in London absolving the India Committee of any responsibility in the matter. It was agreed further that the exhibits of the Lahore Central Museum allotted to East Punjab by the Arbitral Tribunal should be handed over by the West Punjab Government to the East Punjab Government immediately.

Ban imposed by the Government of Pakistan on the movement of Indian Sweepers from Pakistan to India.

The two Leaders discussed the matter which will be pursued separately.

PAKISTAN ITEMS

Claims of the Provincial Governments against the undivided Government of India.

No agreement was reached and the item was postponed.

Hyderabad Securities

It was agreed that the decision should be recorded as follows:—

According to Pakistan no agreement was reached; according to India it was found that no agreement was possible.

Rs. 5 crores withheld by the Government of India from Pakistan's share of the cash balance of the undivided Government.

In the interests of harmonious relations between the two Dominions it was agreed not to probe further into the question of retention by India of Rs. 5 crores being part of the cash balances allocated to Pakistan. It was further agreed that no useful purpose would be served by further examination and that the amount should be adjusted against normal outstandings against Pakistan.

Transfer of Post Office Savings Bank Accounts and Certificates from convention States in India to Pakistan.

The Conference accepted the following recommendations of the official Committee :—

"Deposits in postal savings banks of convention States and cash certificates issued by them do not form the liability of undivided India and cannot be brought into the arrangements for Indian Savings Bank and Cash Certificates. These convention States (Jind, Gwalior, Chamba, Nabha and Patiala) are all located in the Indian Dominion.

"In regard to these States it was agreed that the D.G., Pakistan should call for claims form displaced persons in that Dominion and forward the full particulars to the D.G., India. The latter should verify the claims with the States concerned, get the Savings bank accounts closed, collect the amount due and remit it to the D.G., Pakistan for distribution to the claimants. The Pakistan Government need not send the Pass Books to India but should indemnify the Government of India for any mistakes in Payment. So far as cash certificates are concerned, it was agreed that claims should first be collected by the D.G., Pakistan and the procedure for their disposal settled at a future meeting."

Government of Pakistan's requirements of surplus Stores ex-America, United Kingdom and other surpluses and shipment of 4 Gorman Reparation Plants lying in Bombay.

These items were discussed before the meeting of the Conference by representatives of the Government of Pakistan with the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of I. & S. and it was decided not to consider the matter further at the Conference.

Divisio Survey of India assets

The Conference accepted the report of the Official Committee which is at Appx. 'D'.

Pakistan's share of Civil Aviation Equipment.

The Conference accepted the report of the Official Committee which is at Appx. 'E' with the modification that Pakistan should be given the five "Tiger Moth" aircraft which the Civil Aviation Department is to receive from Army Headquarters and that for the remaining "Tiger Moths" due to Pakistan payment will be made in cash.

GENERAL

The Conference accepted the report of the official Committee (Appendix 'F') regarding the implementation of the November 1948 Agreement.

2. It was agreed that it would greatly facilitate discussions if items together with brief memoranda are sent out by each Dominion to the other Dominion in sufficient time, ordinarily not less than a week before every Conference. A Dominion need not wait until the actual date for a Conference is fixed but should send out its memorandum as soon as it has decided to have the items in question considered at an Inter-Dominion Conference.

3. It was agreed that the agreement should be ratified by the two Governments and their ratification communicated to each other by April 18, 1949.

APPENDIX 'A'

Subject :— Reports of the Official Committee on the subject of regulations governing Inter-Dominion railway traffic in supersession of the Indian Railway Conference Association Rules.

The Committee consisted of

India

Mr. V. P. Bhandarkar.
Mr. P. M. Joseph.

Pakistan

Mr. Nizamuddin.
Mr. Abbasi.

REPORT I

The Pakistan representatives stated that they had already expressed their views in detail on the subject in their letter of March 29, 1949, to the Railway Board. India. After discussion of the modifications proposed by Pakistan in the draft rules prepared by India, agreement was arrived at in respect of all the items except the one relating to the method of realising freight charges for through and cross traffic. Indian representatives stated that they wanted time to consider the suggestions made by Pakistan in this connection.

REPORT 2

Rule 7 of the draft rules which provides for all traffic being pre-paid was further discussed by us with special reference to the proposal made by Pakistan that a special combined "Paid"—"to pay" system should be introduced, under which freight will be prepaid in the case of Inter-Dominion traffic up to the border, traffic moving on the "to pay" system for the remaining portion of the transit. For the present, even under this system exception will have to be made in the case of traffic which is compulsorily prepaid and cross traffic between the two Dominions, *i.e.*, traffic originating and terminating in the same Dominion, but carried over a part of the route across the other Dominion.

This proposal would reduce to a great extent the question of Inter-Dominion debits and credits. India welcomed the proposal subject, however, to a detailed examination of the legal and accounting difficulties, if any, that a change of the kind proposed would involve. It was felt that these consider-

PROPOSED DAM ON TUNGABHADRA

Committee Recommends Survey of Site

THE Hampi Ruins Committee appointed by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) met at Hospet on April 23, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. R.R. Diwakar. It approved one of the plans of Madras Government regarding the diversion of the Tungabhadra canal through Hampi (site of the relics of the ancient Vijayanagar Empire—fourteenth century A.D.) near its south eastern boundary.

The Committee consisted of, besides the Chairman, Dr. C.R. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, Mr. A.N. Khosla, Chairman of the Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission, Mr. N. P. Chakravarti, Director General of Archaeology, Government of India, Mr. G. Sundaram and Mr. N. S. Tirumalai Iyengar, Chief Engineer of Electricity and Additional Chief Engineer, respectively, Government of Madras and assisted by Mr. K. R. Srinivasan, Superintendent of Archaeology.

The Committee inspected on the spot the alignment of irrigation and power canal and three alternative sites chosen by the Madras Electricity Department for forebay in south-eastern corner of Hampi ruins. As Hampi ruins are of national importance and the site, which would be under water when dam is built, has remains and vestiges of archaeological and historical value and further as the site has not been so far excavated and its importance assessed, the Committee recommended, while adopting alternative schemes proposed, that the Archaeological Department must survey and excavate in and round about the site chosen and indicate in the light of finds thus disclosed if any modification was necessary in the plan already drawn.

Cost of Excavation

The cost of such an excavation and dismantling and suitable reconstruction of any objects of archeological value would be borne by Tungabhadra Project.

The formal ceremony of laying the first concrete on the site of the proposed Dam on the Tungabhadra was performed on the same day, when as it happened, the Hon'ble Mr Diwakar and Mr. A.N. Khosla were present, they were requested to initate the ceremony; other participants being Mr. N.P. Charkravarty and the engineers of Madras and Hyderabad engaged on the Scheme.

Schemes for Refugee Colonies in Delhi

The Ministry of Rehabilitation has various schemes for setting up colonies for refugees in and around Delhi, such as the Northern Extension Area, Shadipura, Jangpura, etc.

These colonies will need schools, maternity and child welfare centres, dispensaries, and hospitals. Philanthrophic persons and associations interested in starting such institutions should kindly write to Dr. Tara Chand, Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Rehabilitation, New Delhi, mentioning the type of institution they would like to help in starting, locality where they would like to do so and finances they can make available.

In the refugee colony in the New Delhi Northern Extension Area, Pusa Road, the need for starting schools has become most urgent and the Ministry of Rehabilitation would particularly invite correspondence in respect of this matter. A site for constructing a school is available immediately in this colony.

Telegraphic communication with Tientsin, Peiping and Nanking in China has been suspended with immediate effect, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on April 27.



Shri R. R. Diwakar (second from left) Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, inspecting the dam site for the Tungabhadra Project

ADJUSTMENT OF PENSIONS AND TRANSFER OF CASH CERTIFICATES

India-Pakistan Agreements Ratified

DECISIONS on a number of issues, including adjustments of pensions, transfer of cash certificates, machinery to deal with incidents on the East Punjab—West Punjab border and division of museum exhibits and Survey of India assets are covered by the agreement reached at the Inter-Dominion conference held in New Delhi from April 2 to 4, 1949, between representatives of India and Pakistan.

Following is the text of decisions which have been ratified by both the Governments :

Adjustment of pensions paid provisionally in both Dominions.

The Leader of the Indian Delegation said that as a result of the discussions, he was prepared to agree to the following arrangement :—

"In the case of Central pensions payable in one Dominion on the date of the partition and transferred to, or provisionally paid in the other Dominion after August 15, 1947, it was agreed that all pensions, which had been transferred upto December 31, 1947, or provisional payments of which had been authorised by December 31, 1947, by the other Dominion should continue to be paid by the latter Dominion and should be finally adjusted in the financial settlement between the two Dominions. All other pensions will continue to be paid by the Dominion in which it was payable or was being paid on the date of the partition and if payment of any such pension is made in the other Dominion the paying Dominion should recover the payments from the Dominion liable for the pensions.

"It was also agreed that formal transfers of pensions of all displaced persons, whether receiving provisional payment or not, should be completed within a period of 6 months."

This was acceptable to Pakistan.

Arrear payment pertaining to plan period—payment by Pakistan of the amount received by her from the United Kingdom on this account.

The Leader of the Pakistan Delegation undertook to examine the matter and to write to the Leader of the Indian Delegation by the end of April, 1949.

Financial adjustment for transfer of cash certificates between the two Dominions after partition.

It was decided that for cash certificates transferred from one Dominion to the other after the partition the adjustment through the debt settlement should, as already decided by the Partition Council, be confined to transfers up to March 31, 1948. For subsequent transfers the liability will continue to be that of the Dominion in which the certificate was registered on the date of the partition, and the Dominion to which the certificate may be transferred after March 31, 1948, will recover the discharge value of the certificates as the certificates are discharged. It was also decided that facilities for transfers should be allowed up to 30-6-49 after which date no application for transfer should be entertained by either Dominion. Both Dominions should take steps to give wide publicity to this arrangement during this month.

Question of payment for the agreed quantity of food supplied by India to Pakistan army.

The official committees reported that after discussion amongst them the following telegrams had been sent by Mr. Qadir to Karachi :

"For Mumtaz Hussain, Finance Ministry from Abdul Qadir.

"Food Ministries of both Governments discussed the Question of payment for food supplied by India to Pakistan Army and except for a small difference the quantity of food supplied is accepted by Food Ministry Pakistan. Our Food Ministry has now informed India, that the claims should be settled by Defence Ministry. Ijaz Ahmed told me he had discussed and agreed to payment for accepted quantities. Please state whether we should agree to the payment."

The Pakistan representative later stated that he discussed the matter on telephone with Karachi and as a result of which he agreed to make the payment in accordance with the quantities accepted by the Pakiston Food Ministry. The actual payment will be made as soon as their Financial Adviser, Military Finance has verified the amount. Pakistan undertook to settle the item before the end of April, 1949.

Payment by Pakistan for her share of H. M. G. defence stores already supplied to her.

The Leader of the Pakistan Delegation after studying the note which was given to him by the Leader of the Indian Delegation, setting out the decisions already reached on this subject said that he wanted certain verifications to be done at Karachi. The matter was accordingly postponed.

Non-remittance by Pakistan to India of sale proceeds realised in Pakistan on surplus stores (Agreement reached at Karachi on 6th-8th May, 1948).

The Leader of the Pakistan Delegation said that he did not know whether any sales had taken place but that he would have the matter checked up by the Pakistan Auditor-General to see what sales had taken place and what sums were due to India for remittance, and if any sum had to be remitted why it had not been remitted.

Supply of ply wood timber from East Pakistan to India.

The Conference took note of the fact that the Pakistan Government had issued a notification on March 31, 1949, decontrolling the export of soft wood (including plywood timber).

Question of removal of restrictions on export of wool from Pakistan to India.

The Conference accepted the following recommendation of the official Committee :—

"It was explained by the Pakistan representatives that there was no restriction on the export of wool from Pakistan to India, as all that had been done was to make the export of wool not only to India but to all destinations subject to licensing and that Licences were being freely granted to applicants. The Indian representatives mentioned that Indian woollen mills were apprehensive of the possibility of restriction of supplies from Pakistan to India and suggested that India would require at least 5 millions lbs. of long staple wool per annum from Pakistan for consumption in India. The Indian representatives suggested that they would watch the trend of imports from Pakistan to India upto the end of June, 1949, and would then take this matter up with the Pakistan Government, if necessary. Meanwhile the Pakistan Government also might consider if they could not decontrol exports of wool to India."

Slow movement of petrol from Karachi to East Punjab.

The Pakistan representatives explained that since the East Punjab Railway had started returning overdue N. W. Railway tank wagons, Petrol and oils were being loaded without any restrictions, and during March 1949, 61 tank wagons were loaded. If the Indian Railways continued to return empty tank wagons promptly and maintained a reasonable turn round, Pakistan would be able to carry petrol and oil to the same extent, on an average, as was done during the period March-July, 1948, *viz.*, 6, 20, 160 gallons per month.

Slow movement of petrol from Chittagong to Tripura on account of custom bonding difficulties.

It was explained by the Pakistan representatives that bonding arrangements had now been made at Chittagong and no difficulties should, therefore, be experienced by Tripura in obtaining its supplies.

India would have to be thoroughly examined.

It was therefore agreed that both sides would examine the proposal further, and put up detailed suggestions for consideration at the next meeting of the Railway Standing Committee. Both sides would exchange notes embodying their views well before the Lahore meeting to enable final proposals being drafted at that meeting.

2. If however, it is found that there are insurmountable difficulties in adopting the proposal, or the proposal is not immediately practicable, both sides agree to the amendment of draft Rule 7 to provide for the following exceptions subject, in the case of Pakistan, to the concurrence of their Financial Authorities:—

(i) "Cross traffic" between the two Dominions as defined in the preceding para, and

(ii) Coal moving on Government or Railway account.

There will be no insistence on prepayment in the case of these two classes of traffic. All other goods traffic will be booked 'pre-paid.' The amendment to the draft rules necessitated by the exceptions mentioned above will be finalised at the Lahore meeting if the proposal in this paragraph is adopted.

APPENDIX 'B'

Report of the Official Committee on the subject of border incidents between East and West Punjab.

The Committee consisted of :—
Mr. Fida Hussain —Pakistan
Mr. Sachdev — India.

(1) The position regarding border incidents between East and West Punjab was again reviewed and it was agreed that the decisions already arrived at in the Inter-Dominion Conference of 6-14th December, 1948, in regard to border incidents between East and West Punjab should be implemented forthwith in letter and in spirit.

(2) To achieve this end, detailed instructions shall be issued by the two Governments of East and West Punjab by April 15 at the latest emphasizing the need for frequent meetings between the Inspectors-General of Police of East and West Punjab accompanied by District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police concerned, institution of joint enquiries into all serious incidents and and their review at the monthly conferences, and in particular, instructions shall be issued:—

(a) That F.I.Rs of all border incidents shall be exchanged between the two I.Gs., these being sent by name. The I.G. of the other province would also be entitled to call for any case diaries and make any suggestions or remarks which would receive full and personal consideration of the other I.G.

(b) When a border raid or incident occurs, the Superintendent of Police shall inform his opposite number by wireless signal immediately. This will enable the opposite Superintendent of Police to take immediate steps to have the particular incident investigated properly and to take any preventive measures he may consider expedient in those areas where such raids showed an increase.

Each district will nominate one official who would receive all such signals from the opposite side, keep a proper record and bring it to the notice of the Superintendent of Police for necessary action.

(c) Station House Officers, Inspectors and Gazetted Officers posted to border police stations or in supervisory charge of them should, as far as possible, be officers who have the confidence of the other side. If a Superintendent of Police loses confidence in a border Station House Officer on the other side or has any complaint or lack of co-operation from him he will forward his complaint to the Superintendent of Police of the district concerned and the Station House Officer should then be transferred away from the border.

(d) Strenuous and effective efforts shall be made to restore property stolen or persons abducted in such border incidents. This is imperative in the case of abducted persons, particularly women.

(e) When a raider has been definitely named or identified in any particular incident, strong and effective action shall be taken against him.

(f) List of persons who are notorious for committing border raids should be exchanged between the Superintendents of Police of the border districts concerned and strong and effective action shall be taken by the home police against the person complained against.

(g) Collective penal action in the shape of collective fines or otherwise shall be taken against such villages as are found to have organised or connived at the commission of border raids.

(h) Every effort shall be made by the S.Ps of border districts and the gazetted officers under them to establish cordial relations with their opposite numbers in these districts.

(i) Facilities shall be provided in the form of permanent permits, etc., to S.Ps. and gazetted officers of border districts to enable them to meet their opposite number frequently and at a short notice.

(j) The Inspectors General of Police will submit a monthly report of their work to their respective Governments for their onward submission to the Dominion Governments.

(k) Copies of these instructions shall be exchanged between East and West Punjab Governments immediately after issue.

(3) A warning shall be repeated by the Two Provincial Governments to the local border police, Home Guards and National Guards, etc., asking them to stop giving any direct or indirect assistance to the raiders on both sides. Similar warning should be issued to the military along the border by the two Dominion Governments. Where, as a result of the monthly conferences of the two I.Gs., it appears that the military and police personnel are involved in the raid, immediate disciplinary action shall be instituted by the Provincial or the Dominion Governments concerned, and

(4) The two Provincial Governments shall again take steps to publicise these decisions along the border areas so that miscreants and raiders on either side know that effective steps shall be taken against them in the event of their participation in such activities.

APPENDIX 'D'

Report of the Official Committee on the subject of division of the Survey of India assets.

The Committee consisted of—
India
Mr. K.L. Panjabi
Brigadier G.F. Heaney.
Pakistan
Mr. A.M. Khan.
Major R.C.N. Jenney.

1. Stores and equipment of Defence Services which were with the Survey of India on the date of Partition and for which payment was not made by the Survey of India before the partition shall be divided in the same proportion as other Survey of India Stores.

The payment for Pakistan's share of these stores will be made in the following manner:—

(a) The book value of these stores will be determined by a Joint Committee consisting of the Surveyors General of India and of Pakistan.

(b) This Committee will also determine what stores are to be classed as Defence Services Stores.

(c) The book value as estimated by the Committee shall be further modified on the lines of the formula adopted in the Sterling Agreement of July 1948, between India and the United Kingdom.

(d) The final value of all items will be distributed among the major items in proportion to the book value of the latter. The Committee will determine what items will constitute "major items" but they are estimated to be about 20.

(e) Payment will be made in block Sterling (No.2 Account) by the Government of Pakistan within 30 days of the receipt of each consignment and will cover the value of these major items as determined under clause (d) above.

2. The Government of India agree to release to Pakistan immediately 33⅓ per cent of the printing paper and cent per cent of the other stationery due to Pakistan. The question of the release of the rest of the printing paper will be considered along with the question of despatch of tentage and other expendible stores due to India from Pakistan.

3. The Government of India agree to

furnish Pakistan with copies of Appendics P, Q, R and Z within one month. Apart from these Appendices other appendices which are still due will be furnished to the Government of Pakistan as soon as possible.

4. It is agreed that the Surveys of India and of Pakistan will release as soon as possible all original records and map stocks relating to areas falling wholly in India and Pakistan, respectively.

5. The Government of India will nominate an officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, who will assist in securing railway wagons for the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan, on their part, will take similar steps in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Health for the purposes of securing quick despatch of stores due to the Survey of India.

APPENDIX 'E'

Report of the Official Committee on the subject of Pakistan's share of Civil Aviation equipment.

The Committee consisted of :—
Mr. J.K. Kuranjia (Pakistan Government.)

Mr. K.V. Venkatachalam (Government of India.)

At the time of partition, it had been agreed that a certain proportion of the Tiger Moth aircraft engines and long range tanks, which were due to be returned by the Air Forces to the Civil Aviation Department, India, should be given to Pakistan. On the basis that the number of aircraft due was 51, the share of Pakistan was calculated to be 13. Since the partition, Air Headquarters, India, have made available to Civil Aviation, India, 15 Tiger Moths. Future deliveries are uncertain.

It has however been made clear by Air Headquarters, India, that it would not be possible for them to return all the 51 aircraft and that in respect of those which they would not be able to return, they would make a cash payment at the rate of Rs. 10,000 per machine. As regards engines and long range tanks, Air Headquarters have not yet accepted liability. In any case in respect of these, the equipment will not be returned but only an appropriate cash payment will be made.

2. It has been agreed in discussion by the Indian and Pakistan representatives that against the allotment of 15 machines already made to Civil Aviation, India, 5 are due to Pakistan. The Pakistan Government are in very great need of trainer aircraft and if these 5 could be made available to them immediately, it would be a very great assistance.

It was agreed, therefore, that of the next batch of Tiger Moths to be allotted to Civil Aviation, the first five should be made available to Pakistan, of which four are understood to be almost ready for delivery at the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore. The D.G.C.A., India, would be instructed to inform R.I.A.F. and H.A.L. that these aircraft should be given to Pakistan. Further allotment would depend on the actual deliveries made by R.I.A.F. to D.G. C.A. India, and Pakistan's share will be in the same proportion as had already been agreed to and deliveries from each future allotment should be made on that basis.

In respect of the aircraft and engines not actually returned by A.H.Q. necessary financial adjustment will have to be made between the two Governments. An attempt should be made to ascertain from Air Headquarters, India, the number of aircraft they are likely to make available to Civil Aviation out of the total of 51.

3. In regard to the link trainers, these were not items of assets but were only disposal stocks. Actually the D.G.C.A., India, has not purchased any link trainers from disposal stocks. The point as to the transfer of the link trainers from Karachi to Calcutta on the eve of partition is being further examined in consultation with the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

APPENDIX 'F'

Review of the Implementation of the November 1948 agreement.

Report of the Committee consisting of Messrs. H.M. Patel (India) and A. Qadir (Pakistan).

1. In regard to the claims for pensions, provident funds, and leave salary of Provincial and State Government servants and servants of local bodies who have migrated from one Dominion to the other it was agreed that the following action should be taken.—

(a) Both the Dominions should set up immediately a separate Central Organisation to receive and arrange for the speedy disposal of these claims.

(b) Both Dominions should make a widespread announcement in the Press by April 15 inviting claims to be sent to the organisation mentioned in (a) above by a prescribed date—May 15, 1949.

(c) The Central Organisation should tabulate these claims and pass them on to the Central Organisation of the other Dominion for verification.

(d) Arrangements should be made for the urgent verification of these claims by the appropriate authorities in the Dominion on which the claims are made. Special priority should be given for this work and a time limit fixed for reporting on them. After verification the necessary formal authorities should be obtained by this Central Organisation from the Accounts Officers concerned and passed on to the Central Organisation of the Dominion from which the claims were received. The latter should endorse these authorisations to the paying Accounts Officers who will pay the claims and arrange to recover the payments from the other Dominion in accordance with the procedure that may be agreed upon from time to time by the Auditors General of the two Dominions. Payments due from local bodies and States will be recovered from the Dominion Government concerned.

(e) The Central Organisations will correspond direct with each other and will progress the speedy settlement of these claims.

(f) The procedure above will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the refund or release of security deposits.

(g) The above arrangements will not for the present apply to claims arising in the two divided Provinces of the Punjab and Bengal and the local bodies in those Provinces but will apply to States in those Provinces.

(h) The question of extending this arrangement to cover other claims (like claims for pensions not sanctioned) will be considered some time later.

II. The progress of the exchange of the G.P. Fund accounts of Central Government officers was still very slow and it was agreed that the two Auditors General should be requested to have the transfers completed by the end of June, 1949.

III. The verification of claims of third parties for supplies and services to the undivided Government was still held up owing to the difficulty of sending vouchers and documents in support of the verification. It was agreed that India should arrange to depute officers to the accounts offices in Pakistan to speed up the verification of the claims and the two Auditors General should consider measures for expediting payments.

NON-MUSLIM TRUST PROPERTY

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on April 16 stated :

Government of India are collecting details of non-Muslim Trust Property—religious, educational, charitable and cultural—left behind in Western Pakistan.

Persons who are in any way connected with these Trusts are requested kindly to furnish details in regard to the object of the Trusts, their practical working, character of the management, location and estimated value etc., to Mr. R.C. Gulati, Secretary, Trust Property Committee, Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, 'P' Block Hutments, Room No. 39(A), New Delhi.

Copies of Trust Deeds, if available, may also kindly be sent to him.

With effect from April 18 it has been decided to utilise the air services of Bharat Airways for the conveyance of air parcels intended for delivery for and posted at Kanpur, Lucknow, Allahabad, Benares and Patna.

Parcels for and from the Provinces of U. P. and Bihar will generally be expedited by the utilisation of the above services.



The capture of Chawa Ridge and the Battle of Mugwe in Burma were celebrated by the Dogras near Naushera on April 16. Here, Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh is inspecting the Dogras on parade

EXPLOITS OF DOGRA BATTALION

THE capture of Rajauri by Indian troops a year ago was recalled when to celebrate its successes in Burma and in Jammu and Kashmir, a Battalion of the Dogra Regiment held a ceremonial parade recently at its headquarters in the beautiful shaded valley south of Naushera.

Addressing the officers and men, the GOC, Maj-Gen Atma Singh, who took the salute, expressed warm appreciation for Dogra troops, who, he said, were gallant fighters.

The Dogra Battalion, which was raised on October 1, 1940, has seen active service in Waziristan, Assam, Burma, Indo-China and at Macassar in the Celebes. When Indian operations began in Kashmir, the Dogras arrived in Jammu.

During the Burma campaign four years ago, the Battalion's biggest achievement was the capture of Mugwe on the Irrawaddy on April 16, 1945. It was after overcoming stiff opposition put up by the Japanese that the Dogras entered this strategic town.

On April 8 last year, the same battalion formed the spearhead of the Indian offensive launched to capture Rajauri. The Dogras moved out of Naushera at night and attacked the raiders at the Barwali ridge, eight miles north of Naushera on the way to Rajauri. In the face of heavy enemy fire, the Dogras continued to press forward and ultimately captured this almost inaccessible feature. The raiders were now on the run and Indian troops, assisted by tanks, quickly took the village of Chingas. Before they reached Rajauri on April 12, the enemy had fled from there.

Great Courage

During the battle for the Barwali ridge, there was an incident indicative of the great courage and bravery of the Dogras. Subedar Hira Singh, a senior JCO of the leading company of the Dogras, who lay mortally wounded, refused to be evacuated until he had seen his company attain its objective. Although one of his legs had been broken, the Subedar crawled to a vantage point and went on directing his men until they had taken the feature.

It was also during the same attack that two Dogra sepoys displayed outstanding gallantry and great devotion to duty by evacuating wounded comrades and supplying ammunition to forward positions under intense automatic and mortar fire from the enemy.

INDIAN ARMY TO HAVE GUARDS BRIGADE

The Indian Army in the near future is to have a Guards Brigade in the same way as the British Army has a Brigade of Guards which contains such renowned Regiments as the Coldstream, Grenadier, Scots, Welsh and Irish Guards, and is considered the cream of the British Army.

The Indian Guards Brigade is to be formed by the conversion and re-organization of three existing Infantry Battalions from famous regiments like the Punjab Regiment, the Indian Grenadiers and the Rajputana Rifles and later may incorporate Cavalry and Armoured Units. For the time being these Battalions will be affiliated to the Regimental Centre of the Rajputana Rifles at Delhi, where the Brigade Headquarters will be located.

In addition to the honour of being the first of its kind in the Indian Army, the Guards Brigade will have the privilege of inaugurating the "all class mixed" system in the Indian Infantry and Guards Battalions will be organised on this basis down to the lowest sub-unit, which is the section.

Recruitment to the Guards Brigade will be open to all nationals of India irrespective of caste, creed, religion and province, and Gurkhas will also be eligible. Volunteers have been called for from among serving soldiers of all Infantry Regiments of the Indian Army and Units of the Brigade will be brought up to strength by fresh recruitment.

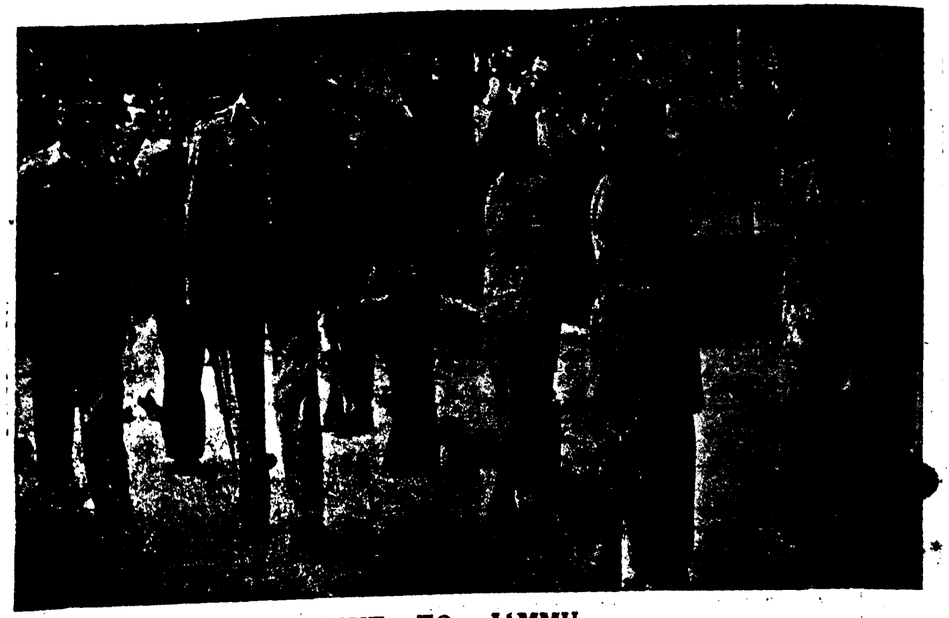
Height limits for the various Battalions of this Brigade are 6 ft. and over for the 1st Battalion, 5 ft. 6 inches to 6 ft. for the 2nd and 5 ft. 8 inches to 5 ft. 6 inches for the 3rd Battalion, for which Gurkhas of 5 ft. will also be accepted.

It is hoped to introduce full dress (ceremonial) for the Brigade at a future date.

The Government of India have recently announced that when a deceased Indian Commissioned Officer leaves behind more than one widow (legally married), they would be prepared to consider the division of the pension admissible to the family among all the widows, having regard to the circumstances of each case.

In cases where one of the widows is receiving the full amount of pension, the other widow or widows may apply for a share to the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence (Pensions Branch), Old Secretariat, Delhi.

Family pensions granted to the widows of JCO's and other ranks of the Army, Warrant Officers and ratings of the RIN and master warrant officers, warrant officers, and airmen of the RIAF are also subject to division if the competent authority concerned is satisfied that a widow does not contribute towards the support of the parents of the deceased or refuses to share the pension proportionately with other widows of the deceased.



GEN. CARIAPPA'S VISIT TO JAMMU



Gen. K.M. Cariappa, Commander-in-Chief, Indian Army, recently visited Jammu where he inspected Maharani Seva Dal Girls on parade. He saw demonstrations by the Seva Dal in bayonet training, machine-gun firing, grenade throwing and jungle warfare. Among those present were Maj.-Gen. Roy, H.H. the Maharaja and Maharani of Jammu and Kashmir.

(Above) The C.-in-C. inspecting the girls of the Maharani Seva Dal on parade.

(Left) A young girl giving a demonstration of bayonet charging.



H. E. Dr. Oldrich Chyle (second from left) Czechoslovak representative on the United Nations' Commission for India and Pakistan, photographed on arrival at Palam aerodrome, New Delhi, on April 28

Vol. 24, No. 254, INDIAN INFORMATION, June 1, 1949.

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 B. L. Sharma, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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Cover Picture : The Taj Mahal, Agra.



Pandit Nehru photographed at Willingdon aerodrome, New Delhi, on his return from London after attending the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference

DECISIONS OF COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

PANDIT NEHRU'S BROADCAST

"I am convinced that far from injuring the honour or interest of India, the action I took in London has kept that honour bright and shining and enhanced her position in the world," said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in a broadcast to the nation on May 10, 1949.

Pandit Nehru said :

Three days ago I returned to Delhi after attending the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London. It is right that I should report to you about this meeting which resulted in a fateful and historic decision. That decision will have to be placed before the Constituent Assembly for their approval.

It will also be considered by the All India Congress Committee, which has been the torch-bearer of India's freedom these many years. It is for these great and representative organisations to give the final verdict of what was done by me and others in London last month.

You have already read the declaration embodying the conclusions reached by the London meeting. The impression that I have gathered since my return is that the vast majority of our people have welcomed this decison, though there are some who have criticised in strong language what I did and have even called it "a great blunder," and "an outrage on the national sentiments of the Indian people."

During a fairly long career in India's service I have often been accused of errors and mistakes, but I have never yet been charged with doing anything which was against the honour and self-respect of India or her people. It is a serious matter, therefore, if even a few persons, whose opinions I value, should consider that I have committed an outrage.

I want to tell you that I have not the least doubt in my mind that I have adhered in letter and spirit to every pledge that I, in common with millions of my countrymen, have taken in regard to the independence of India during the past 20 years and more. I am convinced that far from injuring the honour or interest of India, the action I took in London has kept that honour bright and shining and enhanced her position in the world.

Though the critics are few, I would rather address myself to them than to the much larger number of my people who have already expressed their approval. I can only imagine that these critics are labouring under some misapprehension, or are under the impression that something else has been done in secrecy, which has not seen the light of day.

I wish to say that nothing has been done in secret and that no commitments of any kind limiting our sovereignty or our internal or external policy have been made, whether in the political or economic or military spheres. Our foreign policy

INDIAN INFORMATION

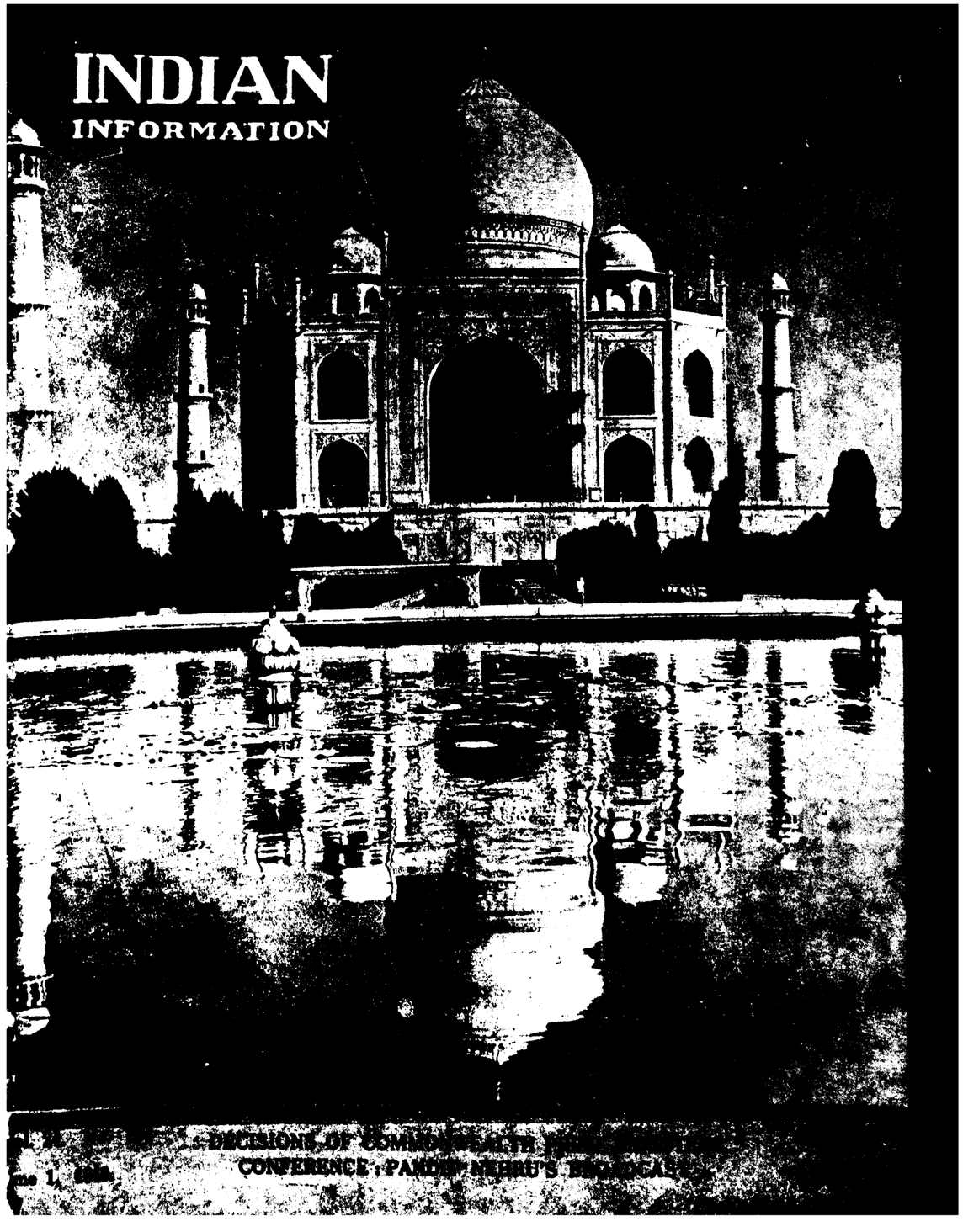
Regd. No. D-25.



DEFENCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO BULANDSHAHR

Sardar Baldev Singh, India's Defence Minister, recently visited Bulandshahr where he met ex-servicemen, performed the opening ceremony of a rest house for soldiers and distributed awards to disabled soldiers and widows of men killed in action. The Defence Minister also unveiled a life size photograph of Mahatma Gandhi. (Above) Ex-servicemen being presented to Sardar Baldev Singh. (Below) The Defence Minister inspects a Guard of Honour provided by the Girls' Rifle Club, Bulandshahr.





Bharatpur and Dholpur to be Integrated with Rajasthan Union

A PRESS COMMUNIQUE issued by the Ministry of States on May 4, 1949, said :

In their communique on April 4, 1949 the States Ministry announced the formation of a Committee consisting of Shri Shankar Rao Deo as Chairman and Shri R. K. Sidhwa and Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsinghka as Member for ascertaining public opinion in such manner as they deemed fit on the question whether the States of Bharatpur and Dholpur should be merged with the U. P. or should, alternatively, be integrated with Rajasthan. The Committee have now submitted their report and their findings and recommendations are given below :—

Findings

"As a result of all the evidence taken and opinion elicited by interviews and visits to villages, we have come to the conclusion that the Congress group as a body in both the States is for merger in the U.P.; in Bharatpur that view is held solidly by the entire Congress group all over the State but in Dholpur a few branches of the Congress organisation stood out and expressed themselves for integration with Rajasthan.

"Kisan organisations generally were for integration with Rajasthan and here also the view was more unmistakably expressed by the Kisan organisations of Bharatpur State and in a less emphatic and pronounced manner by those in Dholpur.

"We found evidence in some cases of the option or division of opinion going along lines of classes, *e.g.*, agricultural interests holding views opposed to those held by commercial interests and rural communities standing up against urban communities.

"Harijan groups in both the States belonging mostly to the Chamar class and calling themselves *Jatavs* were mostly for merger in U. P. as they felt that in Rajasthan they would continue to suffer from disabilities attached to their community.

No Communal Divisions

"Fortunatly we did not notice any sharp cleavage of opinion amounting to division on communal lines. The Jamiat-ul-Ulema in Dholpur which claimed to represent the Muslims in the State of Dholpur was for merger in Rajsathan. Very quick changes of opinion subsequent to the setting up of our Committee were also noticed in a number of cases of individuals as well as organisations, indicating the influence of more political propaganda and excitement and the absence of sustained thought and logic behind either opinion.

"The evidence produced before us tended to the effect that based on geographical continguity the parts in the two States which are adjacent to the U. P. favour merger in U. P. and for the same reason, many in the other areas of the two States would prefer integration with Rajasthan. Affinity through language which was argued in support of merger in U. P. by the Brij Bhasha regions in the two States adjacent to U. P. was advanced with equal facility and emphasis by those in regions contiguous and nearer to Rajasthan where Rajasthani, Marwari and Mewati or their blends are in use.

"As already stated above, agricultural interests line up solidly against commercial interests—the former, comprising most of the Kisans and smaller landowners and farmers on the one hand and the bigger Zamindars and Jagirdars on the other, were for integration with Rajasthan. By far the greater proportion of commerce and trade in both the States appears to be with U. P. rather than with other parts of Rajasthan and these interests appeared to be equally overwhelmingly in favour of merger with U. P.

"Again what struck the Committee was that many who advocated merger in U. P. derived support from the fact that merger in a stable and efficient administration satisfying the progressive aspirations of the people would help the comparatively backward peoples of the two States the sooner and more easily to attain modern standards in all directions.

Advocates of Rajasthan

"The same fact was indeed quoted as a deterrent by those in favour of integration with Rajasthan on the grounds that integration with the new Union would afford them ample scope to fashion a Government and administration suited to their peculiar aspirations and needs. Integration with Rajasthan they argued, would make it easy for them to develop at an equal pace with the rest of the Union. For this reason and also to satisfy the sentimental longing of a link with Rajasthan with which they were historically associated for long years in the past, they preferred integration with Rajasthan.

"On the whole we are of the view that the present majority opinion, such as it was in both the States and ascertained by the methods we had to adopt, is for integration with Rajasthan rather than for merger in U. P. though the difference was much more sharp in Dholpur than in Bharatpur. The Committee would in this connection make mention of the fact that they met the Rulers of both the States and found that though the Rulers did have personal views on the question set before the public of their States they were prepared freely to accept the popular will on the question."

"We do not feel sure that the present opinion elicited by us as indicated above would be the permanent and stabilised opinion on which a final and lasting decision should be based. On the other hand, we are clearly of the view that some time should be given for the people of the two States to think calmly and more clearly on reasoned lines about the various factors such as language and cultural affinities, economic and commercial grounds or other political and administrative reasons which should ultimately shape their decision on such an issue important not only to themselves but also to succeeding generations of the future.

"In view therefore of these four States, namely, Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli having been formed into a composite Union and so administered for some time and having regard also to the fact that Alwar and Karauli have already expressed themselves unanimously for integration with Rajasthan, we recommend for the consideration of the Government that for the present the two States of Bharatpur and Dholpur should also be integrated with Rajasthan and that sufficient time should be allowed for public opinion in the fullest sense to stabilise itself and for conditions being created favourable to the expression of a calm and reasoned opinion in which mere party affiliations or personal or group interests would have less colour.

"We have further recommended that when the Union Government is satisfied that such conditions obtain and if the people so desire, opportunity should then be given to them through a regular plebiscite or such other appropriate procedure which would ensure free verdict uninfluenced by mere party politics to continue in Rajasthan or opt out of it."

Government Decision

The Government of India are pleased to accept the recommendations of the Committee that for the present the two States of Bharatpur and Dholpur should be integrated with Rajasthan and that subsequently when public opinion in the States has stabilised itself and conditions are created favourable to the expression of a calm and reasoned opinion uninfluenced by mere party politics, an opportunity should be given to the people of these two States through such procedure as may be considered appropriate to express themselves on the question whether they should continue in Rajasthan or opt out of it and merge with the U. P.

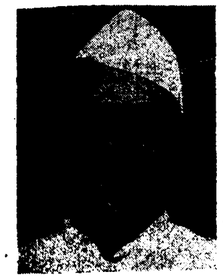
In accordance with this recommendations, the States Ministry will take steps for the integration of the entire Matsya Union with Rajasthan, but necessary provision will be made in the Covenant to permit the Dholpur and Bharatpur States, or either of them, to opt out of the Union at an appropriate time in accordance with such procedure as might be considered best in the circumstances.

The Government of India should like to acknowledge the assistance rendered to them by the Chairman and Members of the Committee in the difficult task of ascertaining public opinion in these States on such an important issue at such short notice and thank the Chairman and the Members for the clear and concise report which they have furnished

ONE MILLION HOUSES FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Shri Jagjivan Ram's Broadcast

BROADCASTING on May 5, from the Delhi Station of All India Radio, the Hon'ble Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour, Government of India, said: I propose to speak to you tonight about the Industrial Housing Scheme of the Government of India. This scheme has now been finalised and is going to be put into operation very shortly. It contemplates the construction of a million houses for workers in the course of the next ten years.



Shri Jagjivan Ram

The Government of India's new industrial housing scheme is by far the biggest plan of construction ever undertaken in India, and is also one of the biggest of its kind in the world, involving a capital expenditure of no less than 300 crores of rupees.

This plan conjures up the vision of the Indian worker, so long left to languish in neglect, discarding his hovel, and residing in a modern dwelling, which makes for comfort and healthy living. These new schemes represent an organised effort to liquidate the past and build up a glorious future.

The appalling conditions of housing in industrial centres, aggravated further by overcrowding and congestion, are well-known. In the first place, accommodation is available for a limited number of workers in the industries, and that too is very unsatisfactory. Whether you call it a hut, a *dhaura*, a *chawl* or *thata* it is only synonymous with sickening congestion, insanitation and gloom.

Workers and their families living in these slums have to pack themselves like sardines always exposed to disease and sickness. When I say this, I must mention some honourable exceptions among employers, who have provided workers' quarters of a reasonably decent standard. But, these exceptions only serve to prove the rule, *viz.*, that housing conditions in industries are, generally speaking, abominable.

Deep Social Malady

The Royal Commission on labour, the various Provincial Labour Enquiry Committees and other bodies have vied with one another in bringing out the inadequacy and unsatisfactory nature of housing available to industrial workers. These reports disclose a most painful story of neglect and suppression, and point to a deep social malady. The labourer's house, if he is fortunate in having one at all, is offensive to human dignity, and is an outrage on the elementary standards of decency.

There can be no denying the fact that there could be no hope of raising the standard of living of our workers, so long as they were compelled to live in places unfit for human habitation. If we are sincere in our profession of sympathy for the worker and if political freedom is to have any real meaning, a beginning has to be made with improvement in their housing conditions. Without it, I venture to think, there can be no hope of relieving the gloom of their life, and no chance of their upliftment.

Thus, the problem of industrial housing assumes the character of an urgent national problem demanding a high priority. We had, therefore, to make a beginning, here and now.

The Government of India announced their Industrial Policy in April 1948, in the course of which the proposal to construct a million houses in ten years was indicated. Under the finalised scheme, the ten lakhs of houses will be distributed as follows among the various industries—factories 7½ lakhs; Plantations—a little less than 2 lakhs; and docks, etc. ½ lakhs. This distribution is based on the number of workers under each category, who have not been provided with approved housing. A beginning is to be made with housing for factories and plantation labour only. The total cost under this scheme is estimated to be about 300 crores.

Centre's Contribution

The Central Government will contribute towards the capital cost to the extent of two-thirds, in the form of an interest-free loan, while one-third of the capital cost is to be contributed by the Provincial Governments. It will be provided to build up a sinking fund out of which the loan will be repaid in 25 years. The annual recurring cost on this project, inclusive of liability under the sinking fund, repairs etc., will come to Rs. 22 crores. The execution of the housing plan will be the responsibility of the Provincial Governments subject to the supervision of the Central Government. For this, the Central Government will maintain staff at their own cost.

Employers' contribution will be in the form of rent for quarters allotted to their workers and the rent so charged will not exceed 3 per cent of the total cost. The workers will also pay in the shape of rent for the quarters occupied by them. Originally, the idea was to recover 2½ per cent. of the total cost of building subject to a maximum of 10 per cent of the monthly earnings of a worker and the members of his family.

As a means of overcoming the present emergency caused by the acute and all-round shortage of houses, it is proposed to keep at least two earning hands in each house, so that rent to the extent of 10 per cent of the monthly earnings of each may be realised, subject to a maximum of 2½ per cent of the cost, per annum. The position will be reviewed after five years, when suitable adjustments will be made.

Minimum Living Space

One of our main headaches was to decide upon the plan of these houses. The guiding factor in determining the plan of the model house and its installations has been to ensure a minimum standard of comfort and decency for the masses of Indian workers, an inescapable minimum, the attainment of which must be insisted on, in all new housing schemes.

A typical modern working class house in Great Britain consists of one living room, 3 bed-rooms, a well-fitted kitchen, a bath room, a water closet, a store for coal, room for a bicycle and pram and a well-ventilated larder of reasonable size. Our financial handicaps and shortage of building materials rule out the emulating of Britain's example, at least, for a long time to come.

We have, however, tried to provide in our plans a fairly decent scale of accommodation in relation to standards prevailing in India. It is proposed to provide in the new houses, two rooms, a kitchen with storage space for food and fuel, an independent bath room, a lavatory, verandahs, preferably both in front and at the back and a courtyard in the case of single storey houses, which will be well served with supply of water and, where possible, with water-borne sanitation. Shelves will be provided in the kitchen for keeping utensil and built-in-shelves or almirahs provided in the main room.

Provision for Schools

Houses will not be built back to back and adequate ventilation will be ensured. Electric light will be provided as far as possible. This scale of accommodation may appear modest in comparison with that in some of the more advanced countries of the world but, having regard to prevailing Indian conditions, these houses must prove a boon to the occupants.

In fact, as compared to existing standards, they will ensure a decidedly better standard of comfort and amenity. There will be provision for schools, shopping centres, parks and playgrounds, community centres, dispensaries, community radio receiving sets, and libraries

PANDIT NEHRU TO VISIT U.S.A.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 12 said :

About a year ago the President of the United States sent to the Prime Minister of India an invitation to visit the United States at some time which would be mutually convenient. The Prime Minister was not able, however, to make the visit last year because of the press of official duties in India. Recently the President renewed his invitation through the American Embassy in New Delhi suggesting October as an agreeable time.

The Prime Minister has authorised the American Ambassador to India to report that he gladly accepted the invitation and looked forward to visiting America at the time suggested. He, of course, pointed out that it was impossible to make definite plans so far in advance but said that, unless unforeseen developments occurred, he had every hope of fulfilling the agreement.

This will be the Prime Minister's first visit to the United States.

has often been declared by me to be one of working for peace and friendship with all countries and of avoiding alignment with Power blocs. That remains the key-stone of our policy still.

We stand for the freedom of suppressed nationalities and for putting an end to racial discrimination. I am convinced that the Sovereign Indian Republic, freely associating herself with the other countries of the Commonwealth, will be completely free to follow this policy, perhaps in an even greater measure and with greater influence than before.

"Purna Swaraj" Achieved

We took a pledge long ago to achieve *Purna Swaraj* (complete independence). We have achieved it. Does a nation lose its independence by an alliance with another country? Alliances normally mean mutual commitments. The free association of sovereign Commonwealth nations does not involve such commitments. Its very strength lies in its flexibility and its complete freedom. It is well-known that it is open to any member nation to go out of the Commonwealth if it so chooses.

It must be remembered that the Commonwealth is not a super State in any sense of the term. We have agreed to consider the King as the symbolic head of this free association. But the king has no function attached to that status in the Commonwealth. So far as the Constitution of India is concerned, the King has no place and we shall owe no allegiance to him.

I have naturally looked to the interests of India, for that is my first duty. I have always conceived that duty in terms of the larger good of the world. That is the lesson that our Master taught us and he told us also to pursue the ways of peace and of friendship with others, always maintaining the freedom and dignity of India.

The world is full of strife today and disaster looms in the horizon. In men's hearts there is hatred and fear and suspicion which cloud their vision. Every step, therefore, which leads to a lessening of this tension in the world, should be a welcome step. I think it is a good augury for the future that the old conflict between India and England should be resolved in this friendly way, which is honourable to both countries.

There are too many disruptive forces in the world for us to throw our weight in favour of further disruption and any opportunity that offers itself to heal old wounds and to further the cause of co-operation should be welcomed.

I know that much is being done in parts of the Commonwealth which is exceedingly distasteful to us and against which we have struggled in the past. That is a matter to be dealt with by us as a sovereign nation. Let us not mix up things which should be kept separate.

It has been India's privilege in the past to be a meeting place for many cultures. It may be her privilege in the present and the future to be a bridge to join warring factions and to help in maintaining that most urgent thing of today and the future—the peace of the world. It is in the belief that India could more effectively pursue this policy of encouraging peace and freedom and of lessening the bitter hatreds and tension in the world, that I willingly agreed to the London agreement.

I associated myself with the decisions taken in London at the Prime Ministers' meeting in the full belief that they were the right decisions for our country and for the world. I trust that the Indian people will also view them in that light and accept them in a manner worthy of the stature and culture of India and with full faith in our future.

Let us not waste our energy, at this critical moment in the world's history, over empty debates, but rather let us concentrate on the urgent tasks of today, so that India may be great and strong and in a position to play a beneficent part in Asia and the world.

REPRESENTATION FOR MINORITIES

Advisory Committee's Decisions

A Press Communique issued by the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly on May 11 said :

Important decisions affecting minorities were taken at a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Constituent Assembly held on May 11, under the chairmanship of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad were present by special invitation.

The previous decisions of the Advisory Committee made in 1947 and accepted by the Assembly were that all elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures should be held on the basis of joint electorates with reservation of seats for certain specified minorities on their population ratio. This reservation was to be for a period of ten years, at the end of which the position was to be reconsidered.

There was to be no weightage, but members of the minority communities for whom seats were reserved were to have the right to contest general seats. The communities for whon seats were to be reserved were Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Indian Christians, the latter only so far as the Central Legislature and the Provincial Legislatures of Madras and Bombay were concerned. The question of Sikhs was held over for further consideration.

At the meeting held on May 11, the Committee felt that conditions have vastly changed since the Advisory Committee made their recommendations in 1947 and that it is no longer appropriate, in the context of free India and of present conditions, that there should be reservation of seats for Muslims, Christians, Sikhs or any other religious minority.

It was recognised, however, that the peculiar position of the Scheduled Castes makes it necessary to give them reservation for a period of ten years as originally decided. Accordingly the Advisory Committee, with one dissentient voice, decided on a resolution moved by Dr. Mukerjee, representative of the Christian Community that there should be no reservation of seats in the Legislature for any community in India except the Scheduled Castes.

Reservation for Scheduled Castes

The Committee also accepted the unanimous proposal made by the Sikh representatives that the following classes in East Punjab, *viz.*, the Mazhabis, Ramdasias, Kabirpanthis and Sikligars, who suffer the same disability as other members of the Scheduled Castes, shall be included in the list of Scheduled Castes for the purpose of representation in the Legislature.

Subject to this change, the report of the Special Sub-Committee appointed by the Advisory Committee to consider the problem of Sikhs was approved.

The decision taken today does not affect previous decisions regarding the representation of the tribal people in the Central and Provincial Legislature.



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Food and Agriculture Minister, addressing the Provincial and States Food Ministers' Conference held in New Delhi on April 30

DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 1951

Agriculture Ministers' Conference in New Delhi

A two-day Conference of Provincial and States Food and Agriculture Ministers opened in New Delhi on April 30, under the Chairmanship of Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food and Agriculture Minister. In his introductory remark., Shri Jairamdas Daulatram stated that the Conference had been convened to consider the problems of Kharif paices which had to be governed by three considerations: fulfilment of the plan of food self-sufficiency within the allotted period ending December 1951, a gradual reduction in the cost of living in which foodgrains played a very important part, and increasing the production of cotton to meet India's shortage of the commodity.

Food, stated Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, was a necessity the demand for which could not be postponed or curtailed, whereas in the matter of cloth, some adjustment was possible. This did not, however, imply that the country could afford to give up its goal of self-sufficiency in cotton, which had become necessary as a result of the loss of large areas under medium staple cotton to Pakistan. Within the next few days, the Government had to take a decision on the price of cotton, and it was necessary therefore to consider whether this should be increased and the likely effect of such an increase on the price of competing foodgrains.

Views of Provinces

It was, however, vital for the country not to be deflected from its objective of food self-sufficiency within the period fixed, and this programme should receive the highest priority. Provincial Ministers then indicated the views of their respective Governments on the items before the Conference.

The Minister from Bombay suggested ascientific enquiry into the costs of production in each area, which should govern procurement prices. He also suggested a uniform policy in the matter of procurement and prices, for the whole country. As a result of the increase in grain prices, procurement in Bombay had been very successful. Bombay did not favour an increase in the price of cotton.

Madras opposed any reduction in foodgrain prices as that would seriously affect their procurement as well as production.

The U.P. Minister did not think there was any likelihood of increasing cotton production in the U.P. by merely increasing its price while any substantial increase in cotton prices would disturb the present structure of the prices of foodgrains. In the last 20 years, the cotton acreage in the U.P. had progressively declined, the area released being diverted to food crops.

C.P. supported the suggestion made by Bombay for a scientific enquiry into the costs of production. If there was to be a uniform system of procurement, there should also be a uniorm price structure.

In the matter of cotton, the C.P. Minister's view was that there was no correlation between its price and that of foodgrains. The rate of increase in the prices of foodgrains and cotton had not been at the same rate.

Did You Know that . . . .

The total procurement of foodgrains in 1948 amounted to 24,84,000 tons, as against 18,42,200 tons already procured this year.

If India's 5 crores of date palms and palmyra trees were properly exploited, 50 lakhs of Indian families could be profitably employed.

The average annual production of the kharif foodgrains in India for the five years ending 1947-48 was 31,972,000 tons and of the rabi foodgrains 11,435,000 tons.

A subsidy of Rs. 26,52,00,000 is estimated to be paid by the Government of India during the financial year 1948-49, for providing the sale of imported foodgrains to the public at rates lower than cost price.

LORD BOYD-ORR COMMENDS SCHEME

Addressing the Conference on April 30, Lord Boyd-Orr, former Director-General of F.A.O. who was on a visit to India, paid a tribute to the Government's food self-sufficiency plan which he stated had been drawn up on correct lines. India had wrought many miracles during the past 18 months and if all worked hard, the target of 4½ millions of increased food production by 1951 might well be exceeded.

Political freedom, stated Lord Boyd Orr, had come to India, but it had only opened the door for the betterment of the people of this great country. The task before the Government of providing more food, more clothing and housing for the people was very great, but unless this was achieved, the great ideals of India which had given a new hope to the world, would disappear. He expressed the hope that within the next 10 or 15 years India would be able to double its production all round. This was not impossible, as India possessed great potential wealth.

Referring to the plan of food self-sufficiency within the next three years, Lord Boyd-Orr said that the Government had set before themselves a correct objective. It had, however, to be carried out with great speed and had to be implemented by the Provincial

naturally depends upon the supply of an adequate number of well-trained instructors and the Government has, therefore, started a Training Institute for Instructors near Bilaspur, in the Central Provinces. The Institute has a training capacity of about 400 in batches of 200 each. The training of Instructors in engineering trades has already commenced and the Institute will soon start the training of Instructors for teaching cottage and small-scale industries.

These training centres are situated in idyllic surroundings. Besides free board and lodging, there are other amenities in the way of sports, free medical attendance, library, games, etc. The *per capita* cost of technical training works out to Rs. 79 per month per head in presidency towns and Rs. 69 in non-presidency towns. For vocational training is about Rs. 67-3-0 per month. The *per capita* costs vary from year to year due to fluctuations in the number of trainees undergoing training, prices of foodstuffs, clothing and other necessaries.

Extension of Facilities

The expenditure incurred on the training scheme is an investment which will reap dividends in the years to come. Like expenditure on education the results will not be discernible immediately.

No definite target for training skilled workers has been fixed but it has been realised that the demand today far exceeds the supply—almost by four times and that unless the country has more technicians, there might be a bottleneck in the execution of the schemes of industrial development. A great degree of unemployment that exists today in the country can be attributed to the want of technical skill on the part of applicants seeking employment. About 85 per cent of the registrants at the Employment Exchanges, it is reported, belong to non-technical and unskilled categories.

The training schemes are being constantly adapted to the changing needs and varying conditions. New trades for which there is a demand are added from time to time to the list of subjects taught and the courses are also reviewed to keep them up-to-date. These training centres are expected to continue under the Central Government so that a uniform standard of training can be ensured for the whole of India.

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 12, the Government of India has decided to refer to the Tariff Board applications for protection received from the following industries: 1. Liver extract, and 2. Sago.

Firms or persons interested in any of these industries or in industries dependent on the use of these articles, and who desire that their views should be considered by the Tariff Board are advised to address the Secretary to the Board, Contractor Building, Ballard Estate, Nicol Road, Bombay 1.

LABOUR RELATIONS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

Joint Advisory Committee Set Up

THE Government of India have felt for some time the desirability of setting up a joint body for consideration of matters of common interest to management and labour on Indian Government Railways, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on May 5.

It added: In pursuance of their undertaking to the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in this connection and with a view to associating representatives of railway workers in the evolution of a labour policy for Indian Government Railways and the settlement of outstanding differences between railway employees and administrations, Government have decided to appoint a Joint Advisory Committee for dealing with the anomalies arising out of the application of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission and labour relations on Indian Government Railways, for a period of one year with effect from May 9, 1949.

The Committee will consist of:—

(1) four representatives of labour nominated in consultation with organised railway labour;

(2) four representatives of the Railway Board one of whom shall act as Secretary to the Committee; and

(3) an independent chairman to be nominated by the Ministry of Labour.

The Committee will, in the first instance, enquire into and make recommendation regarding the alleged anomalies in the application of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission to Railways. It will thereafter act as an Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Railways in all matters relating to labour policy and labour relations which may be referred to it by the Ministry of Railways or brought before it by any member with the consent of the Ministry. It will, however, be precluded from considering cases of individuals or matters relating to disciplinary action.

The Committee shall, at its first meeting frame rules for conducting its business which would be brought into force after Government have approved of them. Any subsequent change in the rules will similarly need the sanction of Government.

The Committee shall hold meetings as often as necessary. Meeting will be convened by the Secretary under instruction from the Chairman. Its recommendations on all subjects referred to it will be submitted to Governmnent, who will after due consideration, pass such orders thereon as they may consider proper.

The Government of India have decided to give a trial to a Standing Committee of this kind with the full hope that it will bring about a speedy and peaceful solution of all differences and establish complete understanding and co-operation between the railway employees and administration, so that the Indian Government Railways, which constitute the greatest national asset of India, may set an example of efficiency and co-operative effort to all other economic undertakings in the country.

Personnel of Committee

In another Press Note issued by the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) on May 6, 1949, the following persons were nominated to the Joint Advisory Committee:

(1) Mr. S. S. Jeejeebhai, Chairman of the Standing Industrial Tribunal, Calcutta (Nominated as Chairman by the Ministry of Labour).

(2) Messrs. R. Ramaswamy Ayyar, S. S. Gore, Y. P. Kulkarni and M. E. Bartley (Representatives of Railway Board).

(3) Messrs. R. A. Khedgikar, S. Guruswamy, P. Chatterji and Haribar Nath Shastri, (Representatives of Railway labour).

I. L. O. INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Indian Delegation to the third Session of the Inland Transport Committee of the I. L. O. which opened at Brussels on May 17, 1949, composed of the following:

The Hon'ble Shri H. Sitarama Reddi, Labour Minister, Madras, (Leader) and Shri G. J. Malik, Second Secretary to the Indian Embassy at Brussels (Government representatives); Shri M. R. Chinoy, Messrs. F. M. Chinoy & Co., Ltd., Bombay, and Shri Maganlal H. Shah, The Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay, (Employers' representatives); Shri M. K. Ostwal, Poona, and Shri Fateh Narain Singh, Patna, (Workers' representatives).

Ordinary (uninsured) postal parcels can now be transmitted to Bulgaria *via* U. K. the rates of postage varying from Rs. 4-9-0 for a parcel not exceeding 2 lbs. in weight to Rs. 16-7-0 for those weighing up to 22 lbs., according to a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, May 5.

TRANSPORT PLANNING AIDS PRODUCTION

Improved Wagon Utilisation : Bombay Dock Traffic Stepped Up

THE steady improvement in the transport of goods by rail and the results of the comprehensive planning of the movements of certain major industries like steel, textiles, cement, coal, sugar, etc. are reflected in the record wagon loadings on Class I Railways of 5,59,257 in March 1949, as compared with 4,92,431 during the corresponding month of the previous year.

It will be recalled that the Central Board of Transport, at its meeting held in November 1948, accepted that certain topmost national priorities or objectives should be satisfied in full by a hundred per cent transport provision. These national objectives in relation to transport should, *inter alia*, subserve the achievement and maintenance of full production and distribution in industries accepted to be of national importance.

It was decided that steel, textiles and cement should be the three basic industries to start with for which hundred per cent transport facilities should be provided. Such provision cannot in all cases be related immediately to installed capacity. Where the output is retarded owing to other factors, endeavours will be made to attain full production as quickly as possible, and in the meantime transport provision will be made on the basis of practicable levels of production having regard to all relevant factors.

Basic Industries

The scheme of full transport provision for these basic industries was brought into force from January this year. Under the scheme, targets of transport requirements for these industries are to be prepared in advance for each quarter, the progress in implementation being watched by the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport from week to week.

A review of the working of the scheme during the first quarter of 1949 has indicated a very satisfactory fulfilment of the target. Out of 3,84,621 bales of textiles, 3,82,799 bales were moved, representing 99.6% fulfilment.

As regards steel, current production was completely cleared and the accumulated stocks in respect of Tatas was brought down from 61,000 tons on December 31, 1948, to 54,000 tons on March 15, 1949, of which 35,000 tons represent the usual floating balance. The Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport was prepared to clear the remaining 19,000 tons in 19 days by running one special train a day but this offer was not accepted.

Except in the case of cement factories depending on railways over which the Railway Board have no control, the performance has been 100 per cent in respect of the other factories.

A series of meetings was held in March 1949 when the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport examined the movement programmes for these industries for the second quarter of 1949 both in regard to clearance of finished products and the inward movement of raw materials and fixed wagon quotas so as to ensure full transport provision.

The working of the scheme has shown that in a number of cases, demands are unnecessarily inflated leading to the wastage of transport resources. The importance of drawing up realistic programmes has been emphasized on all the industries concerned. It may be stated that at the meeting of the Standing Committee of Central Board of Transport held in March 1949 to consider the transport requirements of the textile industry it was reported, by the representative of the Textile Commissioner that unless four special trains of coal were laid on immediately, there was grave danger of some of the mills closing down or their shifts being reduced from three to two or one. Arrangements for running these coal specials were made accordingly, but the specials were not called forward by the Textile Commissioner.

Movement of Sugar

Another major industry in respect of which comprehensive plans were drawn up by the Standing Committee relate to sugar. The movement of sugar has been a difficult traffic problem, but during 1947-48, as a result of detailed planning satisfactory transport facilities were provided.

The total quantity of sugar to be moved from April to November 1949 was indicated by the representatives of the Indian Sugar Syndicate to be 5,20,000 tons, after taking into account the carry-over for the next season. The programme was examined in detail, and after eliminating cross-movements and movements involving long hauls, the Committee fixed quotas to be brought into force forthwith, their factorywise and routewise distribution being made by the Indian Sugar Syndicate in consultation with the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Gorakhpur.

In view, however, of the contractual obligations, the stocks already sold by the factories were allowed to be moved to their original destinations irrespective of the zonal scheme on necessary details being furnished to the Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities concerned. Within the overall quotas for the season, the Committee decided that special trains should be run as and when convenient for the Railways and as capacity offered.

During March, sugar loadings on the O.T. Railway reached the high figure of 208 wagons per day as against the target of 198 wagons. This performance has since been improved upon in April when a record was set up with a daily loading of 225 wagons.

In view of the prevailing scarcity conditions in Gujarat, Saurashtra and Cutch, the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport has given the highest priority for the movement of food and fodder to these areas. Food and fodder at the rate of three special trains a day are being sent into the Ahmedabad area on account of the Bombay Government. About 8,000 wagons of hay have been moved on their account to the same area from January to April this year. In addition, approximately 140 wagons of hay a day are being moved into Bombay.

Food and Fodder Movements

From January to April this year, 6,000 wagon-loads of foodgrains and gram have been moved into Saurashtra and 1,400 wagon-loads into Cutch. Of the 16 special trains planned for the movement of fodder during April 1949, the Saurashtra Government was able to take advantage only of 9 train-loads.

As a result of the recent discussions made at Indore, arrangements have been made to move one metre-gauge train-load of hay a day by the all-rail route from Indore to Saurashtra and half to one train-load a day from stations in Madhya Bharat and four special trains from the C.P. to the same destination.

About 2,000 wagons of hay have been moved to Cutch during the period January to April 1949 by the rail-cum-sea route, and in addition 9 special trains of hay and concentrates have been run. A co-ordinating authority has now been appointed for co-ordinating and expediting the movement of fodder required in the scarcity areas of Saurashtra, Cutch and Baroda.

The Ministry of Transport have sanctioned liberal allocations of petrol to various Provinces and States specifically for speeding up the movement of foodgrains and fodder.

Bombay Dock Traffic

As part of the general drive to improve all aspects of the working of the Bombay Port, it has been decided to earmark one special train a day for the movement of dock traffic into the Ahmedabad district. This scheme was brought into force from April 20, 1949, and a review of the movements during the six days ending April 26, 1949, shows that on an average 118 wagons per day were loaded against the previous loading averaging between 52 to 64 wagons per day.

During this period of six days, 8,500 tons were cleared and more could have been cleared had the shipping agents been ready to take full advantage of the facilities provided and cranage facilities adequate at the unloading points.

Of the tonnage of cargo lying in the

Ministers. The destiny of India was in their hands, and the success which they would achieve would demonstrate to the world, the capacity of Indians to fulfil the great ideals which they had placed before themselves.

In conclusion he advised the country not to place too much reliance on outsiders. The task which they had set before them had to be done mostly by Indians themselves, though foreigners like himself would always be glad to give them guidance and advice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the greater part of the session on May 1 the Conference discussed the food production plans of the provinces and States. There was an exchange of views and experience regarding food production plans in the different areas, and suggestions were made to stimulate efforts for achieving the goal of freedom from imports of foodgrains by December 1951.

It was generally stressed that the two main bottlenecks of supply of materials such as iron, steel, cement and coal, and facilities for movement of these materials should be removed. The provincial Ministers expressed their confidence that with the co-operation of the Central Government the 1951 target could certainly be achieved. They strongly urged that the necessary resources and transport facilities should be made available by the Central Government to enable the provinces to achieve the target.

Kharif Grain Prices

In respect of kharif grain prices, the Conference was of the opinion that it was too early to determine the level of prices for 1949-50. Its recommendation was that prices for Kharif grains should be fixed after the prospects of the crop were known.

The Conference generally agreed that all encouragement should be given to grow better varieties of cotton and cotton prices should be fixed in a manner which, while bringing into cultivation lands which were under cotton, but are at present lying fallow, would not divert land from foodgrains to cotton. The cotton prices should be fixed and announced when the prospects of the crop were known, i.e. at about the same time as the prices of foodgrains.

On the subject of a scientific enquiry into the cost of cultivation, it was agreed that the Government of India should undertake this as early as possible, though it was recognised that this was likely to take some time. Pending the result of such investigation, the present system of fixing prices after considering the conditions prevailing in different areas, the desirability of reducing the cost of living and the paramount need for increasing food production, might be continued.

In his concluding remarks, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram suggested that provinces and States should let the Central Government know within the next two or three weeks their requirements of materials and transport. This would enable them to chalk out a definite plan. He exhorted the Ministers to renew their determination to achieve food self-sufficiency within the period fixed, and see that the challenge which they had given to themselves was met. Among those who attended the Conference were the Agriculture Ministers of Madras, the U.P. Assam, Bombay, West Bengal, East Punjab, Mysore and P.E.P.S.U., the Food Ministers of Bombay, C.P., Bihar, East Punjab, Travancore, Cochin, P.E.P.S.U., Rajasthan, Mysore, West Bengal, Saurashtra, Matsya; the Development Minister of Orissa and the Deputy Food Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg, Bhopal and Hyderabad were represented by officials.

INDIAN INFORMATION

With effect from July 1, 1949, 'Indian Information' will cease publication. The last issue of the journal will be the issue dated June 15, 1949. A few of the more important features in 'Indian Information' will appear in 'March of India', published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

We thank our readers in India and abroad for the support extended to 'Indian Information'. Unexpired subscriptions will be refunded to regular subscribers who have registered with the Production Manager, 'Indian Information.'

EAST PUNJAB'S FOOD PRODUCTION PLANS

THE food production plans of the East Punjab Government and the steps that have to be taken to accelerate their implementation were discussed by the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, with the Premier and the Ministers of the East Punjab Government at Simla on May 6.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram's visit to Simla was the first of a series of such visits which he proposes to undertake to all Provinces with a view to ensuring that the food production plans of the Provincial Government are executed promptly and that they are not hampered by avoidable difficulties.

Three major plans of the East Punjab Government were discussed, namely (a) Construction of 30,000 surface percolation wells (b) Construction of 1,050 privately owned tubewells in 3½ years and 1,500 Government-owned tubewells in five years and (c) reclamation of 1 lakh acres of cultivable waste land each year.

Essential Raw Materials

It was explained that while labour and skill were available in the East Punjab to undertake the work, considerable difficulty was being experienced because of short supply of essential materials like iron, steel, cement and coal.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram asked the East Punjab Government to supply to the Centre immediately a list indicating their firm requirements and said that the matter would be discussed at a meeting of the representatives of the Central Ministries of Industry and Supply, Transport, Finance, and Agriculture and the maximum quantity available would be supplied.

As regards construction of tubewells, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said that under the present rules a Central subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost was admissible and within this limit the Central Government would consider favourably East Punjab's requirements for financial assistance. He added that tubewells should be constructed only in areas which were not likely to be covered by the multipurpose river valley projects, when they materialise. Surface wells could, however, be constructed even in these areas as it was not desirable to lose the immediate advantage that would accrue from them, in view of the target for food self-sufficiency being fixed in 1951. It was also agreed that 4 5ths area irrigated by tubewells as well as percolation wells should be sown with food crops.

Land Reclamation

The East Punjab Government's representatives said that their target for land reclamation was 5 lakh acres during the next five years, at the rate of 1 lakh acres per year and that it was not possible to accelerate the work further. The Hon'ble Minister suggested the need for proper planning on all these aspects of developmental work and observed that a map containing the location of proposed surface wells, tubewells and the lands to be reclaimed should be prepared quickly.

Finally, in order to give proper directives and to create the necessary sense of urgency, the Hon'ble Minister suggested the setting up of a sub-committee of the East Punjab Cabinet on the lines of the Economic Committee of the Central Cabinet, to deal with food production programme of the Province. The suggestion was accepted.

He also emphasised that the schemes of increased food production should enjoy high priority for the allocation of necessary finance and the Premier and Ministers of East Punjab assured that the progress of the schemes would not be hampered because of financial reasons.

Norway has been allotted a quota of 430 tons of Indian jute goods for the half year ending June 25, 1949.



Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Food and Agriculture Minister, addressing the second annual convocation for the award of diplomas to students of the Statistical Training Courses of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research held in New Delhi on May 4

STATISTICIANS' PART IN FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY PLAN

Agriculture Minister's Address

"ONE of the biggest ventures on which the Government of free India have embarked, one of the biggest challenges which the Government of India have accepted is to deliver India from the bondage of foreign food by 1951," declared the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India, addressing the second Annual Convocation for the award of diplomas to students of the Statistical Training Courses of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at New Delhi on May 4.

In this big task, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said, the statisticians had an important part to play as only by proper planning, based on adequate data, it would be possible to realise the target fixed and ascertain the results of work done.

All-round development of Indian agriculture on a scale which was necessary in India required extensive planning on a scientific basis, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said. He urged upon the alumni to participate in this national work in a spirit of humility and simplicity—in the spirit in which Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest man that the World has seen in many centuries, undertook his stupendous task of freeing India from her bondage.

The Hon'ble Minister complimented the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the good work that the Council had done in spite of many difficulties and paid a special tribute to Dr. P.V. Sukhatme, Director of the Training Courses whom he regarded as a statistician of international reputation.

In the unavoidable absence of Sardar Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Shri S.M. Srivastava, Secretary of the Council, read the welcome address of the Vice-Chairman. Sardar Datar Singh in his address said that the I. C. A. R. Statistical Training Course provided training for two groups of students. The First Group consists of research workers in agriculture and animal husbandry sciences, whose primary interest is not statistics but for whom statistical methods are important tools of research.

Statistical Training

The second group comprises of those whose primary interest is statistics and who wish to earn their living as professional statisticians in the agriculture and animal institutes and departments of agriculture and animal husbandry. The first group of students, who are usually officers deputed by the Provincial Governments for Statistical training, has a shorter course extending over a period of 4½ months. Eighteen officer-students from Provincial Governments who have had training during the year received certificates.

For students of the second group who will take to Statistics as a profession, two courses of training are prescribed, namely, (1) the certificate and (2) the Diploma courses. A student of the Certificate Course is expected to acquire mastery over the fundamentals of statistical science and its application to agriculture.

A student of the Diploma Course is expected to acquaint himself with methods of advanced and original research. The requirements of the Diploma Course which can be taken only after a student has completed the Certificate Course are of the same standard as that of the Doctorate Degree of a University.

He announced that the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations were proposing to set up an International Training Centre in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research of training of delegates from Asian countries in census methods in connection with the forthcoming F.A.O. Agricultural census.

Dr. P.V. Sukhatme, Statistical Research Officer of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Director of the Training Courses, in his annual report said that apart from theoretical training, study tours were also arranged in various Research Institutes with a view, to enabling the students to see for themselves the type of research problems which they were likely to deal with in their prospective assignments as professional statisticians.

The Hon'ble Minister distributed the Certificates and Diplomas to the successful students. The Randhawa Gold Medal for the student who topped the list of successful candidates in the Certificate Course Examination was awarded to Shri B.V. Sukhatme and the Randhawa Gold Medal for Diploma Course was awarded to Shri P.N. Saksena.

and reading rooms, for the benefit of workers resident in each compact area.

Extremely urgent though the scheme is, some critics may argue that if workers have been satisfied with their lot all these years, where was the particular hurry about it, especially, at present when India is in the grip of inflation, and we have more pressing problems to face.

This betrays short-sightedness and a deplorable lack of understanding. These critics seem to forget that if inflation is to be checked, the country's production must be stepped up. For the stepping up of production, it is essential to create confidence among workers and to convince them of our *bona fides*.

The worker is to be assured of his rightful share in the wealth that he produces. Today he demands a concrete proof of our professions to raise him from the present sub-human level. This scheme constitutes an earnest of determination of the Government to improve the lot of the worker.

The Government of India are determined to make a success of this scheme with the co-operation of the Provincial Governments and employers. And to me, personally, nothing could be more pleasing than one of my cherished dreams coming true. I long for the transformation which will make our working class vigorous and self-respecting element of our population, conscious alike of its rights and responsibilities.

Houses for Coalminers

While there are some who want us to limit our pace, there are others, who would like to force it. They may plead that this scheme, grand and radical though it may look, would exclude from the scope of its benefits, a large section of Indian workers, who are not comprised either in the factory or the plantation group. In this connection, I may state that a separate scheme for building 50,000 houses for coalminers is already being worked in the coalfields, and new houses are coming up.

The Railways have their own building programme. Moreover, we cannot be oblivious of the fact that progressive action taken for the betterment of labour in one field, inevitably reacts on other fields also, till there is hardly any sphere which is left unaffected. It is our earnest desire to bring about an allround amelioraion by progressive stages.

While I contemplate with satisfaction on the silent revolution that is coming about, I cannot get over a feeling of pain when I think of the vast masses of agricultural labour, who constitute, by far, the largest, and still, the most depressed section of the Indian working class.

I must confess it with a deep regret that in spite of a strong desire on the part of Government to improve their lot, we have not been able, due to the baffling complexities and colossal magnitude of the problem, to bring relief to agricultural labour, as quickly as I would like it.

However, plans have been chalked out, and work has already started for an enquiry into the condition of Agricultural worker. As soon as the report of the Enquiry is received steps will be taken to improve their lot.

It should be remembered that what we are doing is only the first and not the last step. The present plans represent our immediate and not the ultimate objective. We have made a beginning in the right direction, and with the cooperation of the Provincial Governments and employers on whom rests a heavy responsibility, it will be possible to vouchsafe to the worker not only the comforts and amenities to which he is entitled, but also that human dignity, which has most unjustly been denied to him.

While we must rejoice on the good news that I have just unfolded, let us not forget that workers of a free country have a heavy responsibility to bear. We have to fight inflation with the weapon of production. So, production, more and ever more production, still remains our target and the supreme need of the hour. The whole country looks to you, workers, for relief from the crushing weight of a high cost of living. Workers in most industries have already given earnest of their anxiety to pull their weight and to play their part in the present emergency. I must congratulate them for helping the country out of the present difficulties.

AMENDMENT TO CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT

DURING the last Budget Session the Indian Parliament passed two Bills both of which were sponsored by a private member, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Law on May 1, 1949.

It added: These are, a Bill further to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, and a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. When assented to by the Governor-General they will introduce substantial changes in the law relating to solemnisation of child marriages and in the criminal law relating to kidnapping, rape and matrimonial misbehaviour.

The first Bill raises the minimum age of marriage for girls from 14 to 15. The minimum age for boys remains unchanged at 18. The punishments provided in various sections of the Child Marriage Restraint act are increased. Thus a male above 18 but below 21 who contracts a child marriage may be sentenced to simple imprisonment for 15 days or a fine of Rs. 1,000 or both. The punishment for a male above 21 who contracts a child marriage is enhanced to simple imprisonment for a period which may extend to three months, and the court may in addition impose a sentence of fine, the amount of which is left to its discretion.

In the case also of parents, guardians and other persons and functionaries performing, conducting or directing child marriages the punishment is increased from one month's simple imprisonment or Rs. 1,000 fine or both, to simple imprisonment which may extend to three months and an additional liability to fine, the amount of which will be at the discretion of the Court.

The existing provision which empowers courts to take security from complainants under the Act is omitted by the Bill.

Under the second Bill, taking or enticing boys under 16 and girls under 18 (the present age limits are 14 and 16) out of the lawful guardianship of such minors will constitute the offence of kidnapping as defined in section 361 of the Indian Penal Code.

Sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, she being under 15, or with any other girl under 16 whether with or without her consent, will constitute the offence of rape under section 375 of that Code. The Bill, however, provides by an amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code that no court shall take cognizance of the offence of rape, where it consists of sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife—(a) if more than one year has elapsed from the date of the commission of the offence or (b) if the marriage took place before the Bill comes into force and the wife at the time of the marriage was not under 13.

Far-Reaching Changes

Perhaps due to an oversight neither of the two Bills contains a commencement clause, and consequently all the amendments made by them in the existing Code and Act will come into operation on the day on which the Bills receive the assent of the Governor-General. It has been represented to Government that the general public ought to be given at least a few months' warning before these far-reaching changes are brought into force, especially since the marriage season among certain communities has just begun and a large number of people have arranged for the marriages of their daughters on the assumption that the minimum age limit will continue to be 14. In this connection, it may be recalled that the "Sarda Act" was brought into force six months after it was passed.

In these circumstances it has been decided to submit these two Bills for the assent of the Governor-General in the middle of July next with a view to their becoming law and coming into force on the July 15, 1949. The Government of India consider that the intervening period of two and a half months will be sufficient for all communities and individuals to familiarise themselves with the amended provisions of the law and to adjust their affairs accordingly.



Trainees learning the winding of armature and circuit

The training of craftsmen is an integral part of industrial expansion in the country. The present need of the country for trained technicians is in the neighbourhood of 30,000, per year whereas only about one-third the number was forthcoming in the past two or three years. To remedy this deficiency, the Government of India are running 450 training centres which provide training in technical and vocational trades.

BUILDING UP THE ARMY OF TECHNICIANS

WHEN the blue prints for India's post-war plans were being prepared, it was feared that "during the initial stages of post-war development, men rather than money will be the limiting factor." This factor became more evident as the plans commenced to be executed. An increase in the number of skilled workers, it was averred, would give a fillip to industrial expansion in the country.

The Government of India initiated a Technical and Vocational Training Scheme in 1946 and started centres all over the country. The results have not been spectacular but progress has been steady; with a capacity to train 20,000 persons per year, the centres have so far turned out 15,000 young men and women who will strengthen the army of technicians so necessary for the industrial development of the country. These persons, wherever employed, constitute the reserve force on whom Government will depend to draw upon in any crisis or national emergency.

450 Training Centres

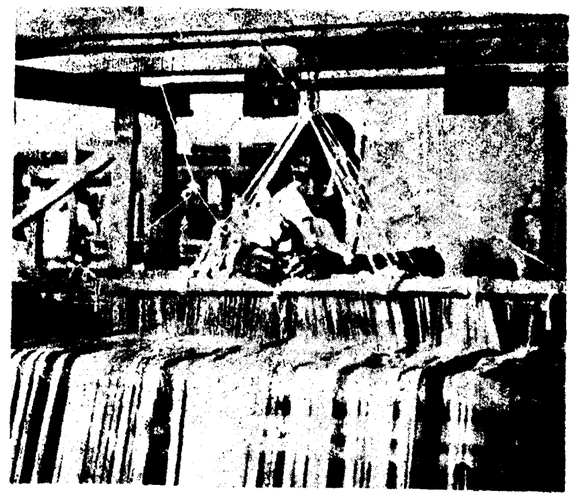
There are today 450 Government training centres scattered all over the country in which about 19,000 trainees are being taught or apprenticed to one or other of the technical or vocational trades. The syllabus in the former covers about 50 engineering and building trades while in the latter training is provided in nearly 100 occupations and crafts connected with cottage and small-scale industries, commercial occupations and large-scale non-engineering industries. The training they receive will equip them to find employment with a measure of confidence in their own ability.

But neither the existing number of technicians nor those undergoing training is sufficient for the country's present requirements. It is estimated that Government and private industry require 30,000 skilled workers per year. Thus, one of the most important problems facing the country is to expand training facilities. There is, however, no dearth of raw human material. The Government has on the waiting list 7,000 persons anxious to take advantage of the training.

These training schemes were originally started for ex-Serviceman but later were extended to displaced persons from Pakistan, of whom 10,185 are undergoing training today. In some Provinces where the Provincial Governments have agreed to bear the additional recurring cost, training centres have been thrown open to civilians. It is expected that when the present training schemes expire in July 1950, a new scheme will be put into operation, adapted to the repuirements of civilian trainees on the lines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Technical Training in 1945.

In addition to these schemes, there is an Apprenticeship Scheme under which training is given in production work under factory conditions. At present there are 2,554 apprentices undergoing training in textile mills. For disabled ex-Servicemen special training is given to equip them, despite their disablement to earn a livelihood in some independent trade which requires skill but little capital outlay.

The success of the training scheme



A trainee weaving a towel in the textile section of a training centre

GOODWILL MISSION TO BAHRAIN AND KUWAIT

Report on Living Conditions of Indian Employees

THE Goodwill Mission from India consisting of Shri C. S. Jha, of the Ministry of External Affairs, and Prof. Mohd. Habib, of the University of Aligarh, which visited the Persian Gulf recently, has submitted its report to the Government of India.

The purpose of the Mission was to study the living conditions, the terms of employment and treatment accorded to Indian employees of oil companies in the Persian Gulf. The Mission also looked into economic and commercial trends with a view to maintaining, and if possible, strengthening the close economic and commercial ties between India and the Persian Gulf.

The Members of the Mission, who visited the Persian Gulf in December 1948, took the opportunity to convey to the Shaikhs of Bahrain and Kuwait the greetings and good wishes of the Government and people of India and to extend to them assurances of abiding friendship. His Highness the Shaikh of Bahrain received the members of the Mission with traditional courtesies.

The Mission presented to His Highness a written address and in the conversation that followed, the Shaikh referred to the excellent relations between Bahrain and India and stated that he considered Arabs and Indians to be of one family. He added that "there is no distinction of any kind between the different elements of the population of Bahrain and the same will be the case in future."

At Kuwait, the Mission presented an address to His Highness the Shaikh who expressed his gratification at the visit of the Mission and the cordial greetings of the Government of India. He hoped that the visit of the Mission was only the beginning of new contacts between India and Kuwait.

Cordial Relations with Arabs

The Mission, in its report, has recorded that they were impressed by the friendly and cordial relations that exist between Indians and Arabs both in Bahrain and Kuwait where Indian business houses are of long standing. They handle most of the foreign trade in the Persian Gulf. Most of the Indians speak the Arab language and maintain good social relations with the Arabs.

India has had trade relations with the Persian Gulf for long. The Persian Gulf till import from India textiles, tea, coffee and leather goods. The main item of export from the Persian Gulf has been pearls. The Indian merchants who met the Mission emphasised the possibilities of further development of India's trade with the Persian Gulf. They said that trade with the Persian Gulf ports had considerable importance and effective measures were necessary to maintain India's pre-eminent commercial position in the area.

They have also suggested new items which India might export including manufactured leather goods, hosiery, soap, Mirzapur carpets, aluminium manufactured wares and Indian curios, particularly carved ivory and camphor wood.

In Kuwait, there is a large "dhow" manufacturing Industry. These are sailing boats with an average capacity of 200 tons, extensively employed for coastal trade. For their manufacture, timber and sailing cloth had been coming from India. Of late these had not been coming and the industry was put to considerable difficulties. There is also a demand for hardware.

The Mission in its report says that the whole of the Persian Gulf area is throbbing with activity and gives promise of intense future development. To maintain and increase its trade and to share in the future commercial prosperity, India, it is suggested, should have trade agents both at Bahrain and Kuwait.

There are about 500 Indian employees in Bahrain and about 580 in Kuwait employed in the oil companies, and the Mission examined in detail their working conditions. In addition, there are artisan classes, both in Bahrain and Kuwait, almost entirely drawn from Indians and Pakistanis. There are about 2,000 of them in Kuwait, roughly in the proportion of 60 per cent from Pakistan and 40 per cent from India. They are employed as carpenters, electricians, mechanics, welders, machinists and operators. There are also other domestic employees from India in both the States.

Members of the Mission contacted the management of the oil companies and impressed on them the need for ensuring that Indian workers received the consideration befitting the nationals of a free country. Detailed grievances relating to the terms of contract, leave rules, accommodation and general treatment of the employees were brought to the notice of the management.

In particular, the Mission urged that a representative body of Indian employees should be formed whom the management could consult on all matters affecting their welfare. It has also been suggested that the companies should appoint Indian Welfare or Indian Labour Liaison Officers who should be capable of sympathy to and understanding of the workers' point of view.

The visit of the Mission has strengthened the morale of the Indian community in the Persian Gulf. The Government of India are now actively considering the suggestions made by the Mission.

DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S APOLOGY

A reply has been received to the note of protest lodged with the Netherlands Government by the Government of India in regard to the shooting of three Indians by Dutch paratroopers at Djambi, Sumatra Island, according to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 4.

It added: A communication from the Far Eastern Office to the Consul General for India in Batavia states that "the Government of Indonesia takes this opportunity to accept responsibility for the crime committed by a Unit of the Royal Netherlands Indonesian Army against three Indian nationals and to offer their sincerest apology to the Government of India for this most unfortunate incident."

The Consul-General for India has been requested to "convey their deep regret for sorrow inflicted upon relatives of victims and to inform them that Government is prepared to offer indemnification and compensation."

The Consul-General has further been assured that he would be kept informed by the Far Eastern Office of the result of the investigation now in progress, which has not yet been completed owing to the fact that since the early withdrawal of the Army Unit from the area of action guilty paratroopers could not yet be traced and arrested.

The reasons or motives for the killing of the three Indian nationals, the communication adds, have not yet been established. However, from testomony of witnesses it appears that sufficient indication exists which will reasonably lead to the identification of the culprits.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Netherland Indonesian Army, the Consul-General has been assured, will not fail to take measures which will lead to prosecution and punishment in accordance with law.

LOCATION OF NEW STEEL WORKS

Representatives of five Provincial Governments namely, Madras, West Bengal, Bihar, C. P. and Berar and Orissa recently met the officials of the Ministry of Industry and Supply and other Ministries concerned and discussed the suitability of the various sites recommended by the consultants for the establishment of new steel works.

The conference took advantage of the presence of two of the consultants who are now here in Delhi, in getting some of the points in the reports clarified.

The views expressed by the Provincial Governments' representatives will be considered by the Government of India and a decision taken shortly.

HEALTH MINISTER'S CALL TO FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS

"THE problem of tuberculosis is a stupendous one and we have to fight against it on all fronts and with all the zeal and energy at our command," said Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, performing the opening ceremony of the Ramakrishna Mission Free Tuberculosis Clinic in Karol Bagh, Delhi, on May 4.

The Health Minister continued: I have on more than one occasion expressed my grave concern at the alarming rapidity with which this disease is spreading and taking an increasing toll of young lives as its victims. There is no doubt that until our social and economic conditions improve T.B. will continue to spread. We must eliminate over-crowding, we must give better housing facilities to our people. We must be in a position to supply adequate nourishment to the population, we must be able to arrange for a pure milk and water supply, we must also be in a position to remove infectious cases promptly in order to arrest the further spread of the disease.

This last activity requires enough beds in T.B. clinics and properly trained health visitors who will discover infected cases and bring them to the notice of medical authorities. Today I could fill the T.B. hospital in Kingsway (Delhi) and all the other sanatoria whether run by the Provincial Governments or by the Central Government twice over. So it is obvious how dire is the need for further expansion in the matter of T.B. dispensaries and clinics and sanatoria.

After-Care Colonies

Further then that we need after-care colonies where patients who have been discharged from sanatoria, the disease being no loger active, can be given healthful activity commensurate with their strength. If we do not have these colonies the lot of the poor man who recovers from T.B. will continue to be a hard one and he will often lapse back into the arms of the disease simply because he may have to revert to hard labour for which he has not the strength or else remain unemployed and starve.

Health has been and continues to be one of the most neglected spheres of our national life. It pains me to know that we are not able to cater to the needs of even the population of Delhi in the matter of medical aid and relief to the sick and suffering. It cannot be a matter of pride to my Ministry that we have to turn away dozens of suffering persons from our hospitals daily simply because we have not enough beds.

I wish to assure you, however, that it is not for want of sympathy with the suffering people that my Ministry is unable today to give all the requisite aid and relief which the State should give to every citizen. We have got our freedom at a very heavy price and we have not yet overcome the aftermath of the horrors of partition which brought in its wake so much suffering and has made it impossible for Government to do very little more than cater to the immediate needs of this mass of uprooted humanity. Delhi has suffered greatly because, as you know, our population has increased to a figure which this city is really not able to support and until we can rehabilitate refugees in other centres it will be impossible for Delhi to resume the even tenor of its life.

Partition and our responsibilities in Kashmir and Hyderabad have drained our financial resources to the utmost and since Health is a spending department it is not possible for my Ministry to get all the financial aid that I would fain have to carry out my many projects. I would, however, like to take this opportunity of telling the people of Delhi that we are hoping to increase the bed accommodation in the Irwin Hospital; we have enlarged the Safdarjang Hospital; the Central Government is going to take over both the Lady Hardinge and the Victoria Zenana Hospitals and we are also catering to the needs of the Delhi Province by putting up at least two Primary Health Centres which will give not only medical aid and care to outdoor patients but will also provide some beds for indoor patients and thus relieve some of the strain on the Delhi Hospitals.

In addition, I am hoping very shortly to give to the Delhi Province two mobile dispensaries which will cater to the needs of the villagers whom we have neglected far too long and who are crying for such care. We are also going to have publicity vans for the propagation of Health education. I believe that we should lay ever greater emphasis on this aspect of life so that by learning how to live properly our people may not fall easy victims to disease and may be a help to us in the matter of warding off epidemics.

Postal parcels which were hitherto being conveyed by the night air mail service and given air lift between Delhi and Calcutta only will, from May 16, 1949, be extended to all the internal air services now utilised for the conveyance of mails.

The rate of air fee payable on air parcels in addition to the ordinary parcel postage is rupee one for the first 40 tolas and annas eight for every additional 20 tolas or fraction thereof. An air parcel must not exceed 2 ft. in length and 4 ft. in length and girth combined, the maximum weight being limited to 800 tolas.

Air parcels may be registered (but not insured) and an acknowledgment of delivery obtained on payment of the usual additional charges for these services.

This new service is expected to accelerate parcel transit and in many cases will decrease transit time by over a week.

Rajaji on Teachings of Buddha Dharma

SPEAKING at the Buddha Jayanti Celebrations at the Buddha Vihar, New Delhi, on May 12, 1949, H.E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, said:

The Buddha Dharma is a diamond that has come out of the rich mine of ancient Indian thought. It shines as the brightest jewel in India's crown. The doctrine of life which Bagwan Buddha presented to the world brought lasting and world-wide glory to India such as no military conquest or material possessions could bring. Not by rituals can man save himself nor by any technique of self-inflicted pain. It is only by right thought, speech and action that we can save ourselves.

Further questions about the mystery of life, I understand Lord Buddha refused to answer and this was right then and right now. It is not possible for us to pry into the ultimate secret of the universe, which must remain a closed book to our imperfect minds. The doctrine of compassion to all life is what we should reinforce in our minds on this sacred anniversary day. Avoid all cruelty in thought, word and action. If we go wrong sometimes let us repent for that will help to purify us and save us from repeating the error.

AMENITIES FOR TRACTOR WORKERS

Steps towards acceleration of the land reclamation work undertaken by the Central Tractor Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture were discussed at a meeting on May 9, by Shri Jairamdas Daulatam, Agriculture Minister, with the Engineers in charge of the tractor units working in different parts of the country.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram urged upon the engineers the need for keeping to the schedule and to see that the targets fixed for reclamation are reached.

As the tractor workers work under difficult conditions and in many places far away from towns and cities, special amenities for providing recreations, community radio sets, newspapers, medical facilities, rations at controlled rates, uniforms, etc. were considered and it was decided that such facilities as could be arranged would be provided.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram urged the Engineers to impress upon the tractor workers the gravity of the food problem and take up the work in a spirit of national service so that the target of freedom from imports which the Government have set before the country becomes easy of achievement.

Telegrams to Suchow in China have been suspended with immediate effect, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on May 2.

docks amounting to 50,000 tons on April 20, 1949 clearances into the Ahmedabad district constituted till recently a major problem, as all the available capacity on this section has been fully taken up for food and fodder movements for scarcity areas in Gujerat on account of the Bombay Government.

This problem has since been resolved to a considerable extent; the wagon indents for the Ahmedabad district which stood at the high figure of 283 on April 20, 1949, declined to 119 on April 26, 1949, and further dropped to an average of 80 and 46 wagons respectively for the periods April 27-May 1 and May 2-4.

Zonal Distribution of Salt

The zonal scheme for the distribution of salt approved by the Standing Committee was brought into effect by the Salt Controller from the beginning of this year. The scheme is working according to plan and a recent Press report that there might be a salt famine in Delhi and other places if the wagon supply at Sambhar Lake was not stepped up, is entirely without foundation.

The stock position of salt in the East Punjab, the U.P. and Delhi, which get their supplies from Sambhar, is quite satisfactory. After the zonal scheme was introduced, the average number of wagons moved per month from Saurashtra increased from 2,684 to 2,700.

A review of movements during March 1949 indicates that 480 special trains were run on the various Railways for the movement of foodgrains, general merchandise, cement, iron and steel, textiles, manganese ore, food and fodder to scarcity areas, etc, as against 335 trains run in January 1949.

DEVELOPMENT OF VEGETABLE FIBRES

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is considering a scheme for the development of fibres other than jute and cotton and it is proposed to appoint a Vegetable Fibre Expert for investigation in this line.

In India there are a number of vegetable fibres which can be put to practical use if properly treated. These are: Hard fibres like Sesul hemp, aloe fibre and bowstring hemp; Soft fibres like sunn hemp, Deccan hemp and soft or true hemp; and Textile fibres like flax and linseed fibre and Rhea and nettle fibre.

Sometime back, the Government of India had appointed a Fibre Development Officer to collect and collate all available information on the subject. The report of this officer was considered last year by a Fibres Committee set up by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research which recommended the appointment of a Vegetable Fibre Expert to advise on the future lines of research and on the establishment of research stations.

ABSORPTION OF INDIAN NATIONALS FROM BURMA ON RAILWAYS

THE Government of India have had under consideration the absorption of the very large numbers of Indian nationals displaced from Burma by present conditions in that country, and have decided to avail themselves of the opportunity offered by the implementation of the Adjudicator's Award for which additional men are required on the Indian Government Railways.

Class I and Class II staff are for the present excluded from the scope of this proposal, but any officiating Class II men who care to accept appointments in Class III without any reservation may be considered for that Class.

Directives have been issued to the Indian Government Railways detailing the procedure, conditions and terms of absorption of these Indian nationals, whether ex-Burma Railway employees or others.

Recruitment

In view of their experience, the ex-Burma Railway employees will be recruited direct by the Railways without the medium of the Railway Service Commissions and the minimum educational qualifications necessary for the posts will be relaxed in the case of persons with more than 15 years' service on the Burma Railways. All ex-railway employees not above the age of 55 are eligible.

In the case of persons other than ex-Burma railway employees, Class III staff will be recruited by the Railway Service Commissions at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Lucknow and Class IV staff by the Railways direct. The maximum age limit has been fixed at 40 years in their case.

In order to prove the applications of Indian nationals returning from Burma on account of the recent constitutional changes, the Ministry of External Affairs have arranged with the Indian Embassy in Rangoon for the issue of authenticated identity cards which must be presented before the Railway Administrations or the Railway Service Commissions as the case may be. The applications of ex-Burma Railway employees, in the prescribed forms already received through the Indian Embassy in Burma and the Ministry of External Affairs have been forwarded to the Railway serving the areas of their residence in India and they should apply for information to the General Managers of the Railways concerned.

The case of some ex-Burma Railway employees who returned to India without submitting applications in the prescribed form through the Indian Embassy is under consideration and it is proposed that they should be considered for appointment on production of service certificates duly verified and attested by District Magistrate.

In respect of Indian nationals returning from Burma hereafter, the General Managers, E. I. and M. & S. M. Railways, will arrange to register and distribute to the Indian Government Railways approximately Provincewise the names of applicants, who may report to them on disembarkation, subject to the condition that if on examination of the particulars of non-Railway employees, it is considered that any applicant is not likely to be absorbed on Railways, he will be informed accordingly and his application will not be registered.

Special Petrol Quotas For Expediting Food Movements

Special allocation of petrol amounting to 6¼ lakh gallons have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Transport to the various Provinces and States during April 1949, specifically for the transport of food-grains from ports to consuming centres and for internal distribution in the deficit areas. This will not only expedite the movement of foodgrains but considerably relieve the pressure on the Railways.

The U. P. Government which has secured the maximum allocation of 2,40,000 gallons of petrol, is introducing a compulsory levy system during the ensuing rabi season, the target being the collection of over four lakh tons of foodgrains during a period of two months.

A major portion of the foodgrains has to be transported by road from the rural areas, in the Province to the storage depots and about a thousand vehicles are expected to be pressed into service for the purpose.

Allocation for Saurashtra

Saurashtra received the next highest allocation of 1,25,000 gallons. The Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport, at a recent meeting, reviewed the movement of food and fodder in the Union and in view of the difficult conditions on the Saurashtra Railway, suggested that, to the extent possible, movement of foodgrains from ports to internal consuming centres should be by road. To facilitate this, an allocation of 1,25,000 gallons of petrol had been made. This, it is expected, will also help to clear the congestion in the Saurashtra ports.

Among the other States and Provinces which have received special petrol quotas for expediting the movements of food are :—

Jaipur, 100,000 gallons; Orissa, 30,000 gallons, Travancore 30,000 gallons; Hyderabad, 25,000 gallons; and East Punjab, and Madhya Bharat 20,000 gallons, each.

WELFARE OF INDIANS ABROAD

Dr. B. V. Keskar's Assurance at Rangoon Meeting

ADDRESSING a largely attended meeting organised by the All-Burma Indian Congress at City Hall (Rangoon), on May 3, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Government of India, advised Indians overseas to regard themselves as Indians first and Indians last and to shed provincialism.

He said that it would be best for those Indians who were domiciled outside India to identify themselves with the people of the country in whose midst they lived for years and years and where they had established roots.

He pointed out that acquisition of the nationality of a country wherein they had settled was preferable and desirable. There might be difficulties, he said, but co-operation with the people with whom they had shared for long their joys and sorrows would be beneficial.

Dr. Keskar who spoke in Hindustani thanked Indians for extending him a hearty welcome and said : "I am happy to be in your midst in independent Brahmadesh (Burma). My happiness is greater because I am here as a representative of Free India."

He said that the people of India had struggled for a number of years and by the joint effort of all people in various parts under the leadership of great leaders, had won freedom. He drew attention to the fact that India was a vast country with different varieties of climate, scenery, physical features and geography.

Nevertheless, he said, India was one and there was no place for provincialism. He asked his listeners to remember that provincialism and narrow outlook were the lessons taught by the erstwhile rulers and he wanted them to forget these lessons in the quickest possible time.

The Deputy Minister urged very earnestly that Indians overseas should regard themselves as Indians first and Indians last and not carry with them the appellation of Punjabees, Bengalis, Gujeratis, etc. He pointed out that there was place for Indians and that place would always be there.

Unification of India

He said : "We are doing all we can and straining every nerve to make the people happy and raise their standard of living. We had to accept partition as the price of freedom. We have had to face considerable difficulties subsequently, of which everyone is well aware. And we have had to take steps to prevent fragmentation of India studded with over 550 States, big and small." Before effective introduction of measures for social amelioration, unification of India was a fundamental prerequisite, he urged.

Dr. Keskar added : "When we obtained independence there were people in various countries who thought that we had gained independence only on papor and that India would go to bits and piecee." Amidst loud applause, he declared : "Within a space of two years we have succeeded in confounding the prophets. The States Ministry under Sardar Patel, with the co-operation of the people of the States and the goodwill of the Rulers, has succeeded in bringing down the number of Indian States to 25 so far. Next year there might not be more than 15 left. In the years to come even these will disappear and India will emerge as one unified entity. In the tasks we have had to face we have had blessing of our great departed leaders like Gandhiji, Tilak, Deshbandhu Das and others."

Continuing, Dr. Keskar said : "India is one of the few big countries in the world and we stand for peace—peace all over the world. We have been independent only for a short period and the eyes of the world are turned towards us. They are closely watching the steps we are taking. Your ways are likely to be interpreted as an indication of the way India is going. It is therefore essential that you should so conduct yourselves as to avoid any misleading interpretations."

Referring to the peculiar problems of Indians living in various parts of the world, Dr. Keskar advised that those who have been domiciled or settled outside India would do well to become citizens of that country which they had made their home for long years. He said that it was the desire of the Government of India that those whose connections with India were only of sentimental nature and who had lived outside for years and years and made their new country their home for all practical purposes should accept the nationality of the country wherein they lived.

He concluded with an assurance that the Government of India was doing everything possible to help and look after the welfare of Indian nationals abroad.

Earlier, Mr. M. A. Raschid, President of the All-Burma Indian Congress, who presided at the meeting, welcomed Dr. Keskar and briefly touched on the problems confronting Indians in Burma, but gave the assurance that Indians and Burmans were on the friendliest terms and all wished for the early return of peace and prosperity in the country.

REFUGEE RELIEF IN BURMA

Dr. B. V. Keskar, India's Deputy Minister for External Affairs, was presented with a cheque for Rs. 1501 by the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon, for refugee relief in Burma. The Chamber which had planned to hold a banquet in honour of Dr. Keskar decided to spend the money on refugee relief.

AID TO BURMA

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 11 said :

In the course of the meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London, the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan and Ceylon met together to consider the Burmese Prime Minister's request for assistance for early restoration of law and order in Burma.

They are agreed in their desire to give whatever support they can to the Government of Thakin Nu to the end that peace may be rapidly restored in Burma.

New machinery has been set up to ensure the speedy implementation of this decision.



Dr. B. V Keskar (left) Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Government of India, talking to Thakin Nu (centre) at a luncheon party given in his honour by the Burmese Prime Minister in Rangoon.

RISE IN INDIA'S EXPORTS IN 1948

INDIA'S exports in 1948 recorded a substantial rise in value—Rs. 420 crores, compared with Rs. 378 crores in 1947 and Rs. 249 crores in 1946. Much of this increase is attributable to high prices, but it should be noted that while the figure for 1948 relates to the Indian Union's exports alone figures for periods prior to August 15, 1947, relate to undivided India.

Commodities, exports of which figured in the 1948 increase, were : Jute Manufactures, cotton piecegoods, seeds, lac, mica, groundnut oil, linseed, castor oil. The table (given above) enables comparison between exports in 1947 and 1948 in terms both of value and quantity.

Where declines are recorded, circumstances arising out of the partition of the country were mainly responsible, but in the case of exports of manganese ore lack of transport was the main reason.

It is interesting to note the relative importance of India's export commodities, in terms of value, as compared with figures for 1938 (in brackets) :—

Jute Manufactures	36.1% (16.1%)
Tea	13.4% (14.6%)
Cotton Yarn and manufactures	8.5% (4.7%)
Raw Jute	6% (7.5%)
Cotton, raw and waste	5.3% (1.8%)
Hides and skins, raw and tanned	4.1% (5.1%)
Oils	3.3% (0.6%)
Seeds	2.5% (9.8%)
Lac	2.3% (0.7%)
Others	18.5% (39.1%)

The need for earning dollars is an important aspect of the export drive. In 1948 approximately 30 per cent of India's total exports went to hard currency countries. The U.S.A. alone took about 66 per cent of this amount.

Value in Crores of Rupees
Quantity in '000 of Tons

	1947 *Quantity*	1947 *Value*	1948 *Quantity*	1948 *Value*
Jute Manufactures	835.0	112.8	957.0	151.5
Jute Raw	269.5	24.9	235.0	25.2
*Cotton Piecegoods	247.2	21.4	309.3	33.4
Cotton Raw	207.4	33.9	94.9	16.8
Cotton Waste	103.0	4.9	54.0	5.4
Hides & Skins, Raw	26.0	7.8	17.0	6.9
Hides & Skins, Tanned	22.4	16.4	13.7	11.5
Seeds	89.1	5.5	153.8	10.3
Lac	26.5	9.1	27.5	9.6
Mica	9.5	4.6	17.8	6.1
Manganese Ore	539.4	2.5	330.1	2.2
Groundnut oil	28.1	3.6	42.1	7.3
Linseed oil	10.4	2.1	11.4	1.9
Castor oil	18.1	2.9	18.2	3.2
Tea	172.0	51.4	159.6	55.8

*In millions of yards

Value in Lakhs of Rupees

		Percentage to total
Jute Manufactures	76,32	62.5
Jute Raw	7,62	6.2
Tea	6,13	5.0
Lac	5,27	4.3
Fruits and Vegetables	4,34	3.5
Mica	4,18	3.5
Hides & Skins (Raw and Tanned)	3,90	3.2
Cotton, Raw and Waste	3,46	2.8
Spices	1,34	1.1
Oils	1,06	1.0
Manganese Ore	1,01	1.0
Others	7,66	5.9
	122,29	100.0

Jute and jute manufactures figured prominently, accounting for nearly 70 per cent of the exports to "hard" areas.

Export of items such as tea, lac, cashew nuts, mica, hides and skins, and spices is not controlled, while jute manufactures and cotton (raw and waste) are allowed to be exported under conditions which approximate to decontrol. The following table indicates exports to hard currency areas during 1948.

In a review of his organisation's work last year, the Chief Controller of Exports states that the task has altered radically now since, with an unfavourable balance of trade, the emphasis has to be laid on stimulating, rather than controlling, exports. "The sellers' market has gone for ever it seems" he states, "and with growing competition, unless the change of emphasis from control to development is immediately and fully given effect to, our markets may turn to other sources of supply."

It is felt that the time has come for a complete review of export control and to reduce its scope to a few essential items, but that does not mean that a policy of decontrol applied indiscriminately will lead to improvement. A certain amount of directioning of trade—for instance, to hard currency areas—would no doubt still be necessary, but it will have to be within the framework of maximisation of exports as the basic policy.

Government touch with the trade after decontrol of a commodity, he suggests, should be maintained by the formation of a small representative body of exporters in that line from whom information regarding trends of trade as well as any difficulties experienced might be gathered.

Greater liaison between Indian Trade Commissioners abroad and exporters at home, imposition of some form of qualitative control and better transport facilities are stated to be other directions in which Government can assist the trade to maintain exports.

On the future of India's principal export commodities, still under control, the Chief Controller's comments are:

Jute Goods: While qualitatively jute goods are still the best packing medium, any further rise in prices must have the most serious repercussions on the future of this trade. Already jute goods are being used in the world far less freely than before, even when supplies are available. In the U.S.A., too, consumption has been declining from year to year since 1946.

Export of Jute Goods

It is, however, a matter of satisfaction that in spite of a rise in price, total exports of jute goods in 1948 were higher than in 1947. Main consumers were : U.S.A. 215,000 tons ; Australia 116,000 tons ; U.K. 102,000 tons ; Argentina 72,000 tons ; Cuba 38,000 tons ; Egypt 37,000 tons ; Canada 27,000 tons and China 20,000 tons.

The danger of jute goods being diverted to South Africa is always present. Reports received in the middle of last year that goods shipped to certain countries had been re-shipped to South Africa led not only to action against the shippers concerned but also to a general tightening up of controls and the stoppage of shipments to certain destinations. But not all such reports are genuine. Many have appeared on investigation to be baseless and some even malicious.

Raw Jute ; With partition, India has become a net importer of raw jute. However, some quantities of raw jute, particularly varieties grown more predominantly in India than in Pakistan, will continue to be exported.

Cotton piecegoods: Growing competition from other sources made it difficult last year for India to sell her export quota of cotton piecegoods. Against a total of 350 million yards of mill-made cloth earmarked for export during 1948 to countries other than Pakistan, only 167 million yards were exported by sea and 13 million yards by land. If exports to Pakistan and those of handloom cloth be added to these figures, 309.3 million yards would represent the total export of piecegoods in 1948, whereas the "target" of export to all countries was 750 million yards.

Export of Cotton Piecegoods

In 1947, total exports amounted to 247 million yards, but in that and previous years yardage going to the territory now included in Pakistan was not shown in the foreign trade statistics. Figures for other years were : 327 million yards in 1946, 437 million yards in 1945 and 442 million yards in 1944. There has thus been a steady downward trend in the export of cotton piecegoods, which cannot but be treated as a matter of concern.

The actual offtake countrywise was disappointing and some of the best markets failed to lift their quotas in full. Thus, British East Africa—largest buyer of Indian cloth—took in 1948 only 29 million yards against its quota of 40 million yards. Australia, with a similar quota, took 20 million yards. Ceylon and Burma, however, exceeded their quotas largely on account of the free export of handloom cloth.

In the year under review, it became apparent that with the return of a buyers' market and with effective demand tending to be lower than supply, the time had come for decontrol of cloth exports. Accordingly, early this year steps to liberalise licensing policy were announced.

Raw Cotton: The quantity exported in 1948 was less than half that in 1947 owing to insufficient supplies. Early this year, export of raw cotton, except to hard currency countries, was banned.

Hides and Skins: Export of raw hides of certain types was banned last year, except to hard currency countries. This was due to the increasing demand of Indian industry. Tanned hides and skins, however, remained free from export control, but there was a decline in exports.

Oil and Oilseeds: With the removal of export duties this year, there are signs that exports to the markets of Europe, including Switzerland, are proceeding satisfactorily. The Western Hemisphere, however, is still not interested, owing to the availability of cheaper supplies against dollars.

A development that seriously affected the administration of export control in 1948 was that the Standstill Agreement with Pakistan came to an end. In consequence, all export licensing restrictions became applicable to the movement of goods from India to Pakistan. Moreover, speculators tried to secure licences and to cash in on scarcities which control had created on the other side of the border.

Absence of official records showing people who were genuinely engaged in trading between the territories concerned rendered the task more difficult. The position, however, improved gradually, and with the recent liberalisation of export policy, particularly as far as Pakistan is concerned, it is expected that matters will further improve.

INDIA'S COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION - ABROAD TO BE EXPANDED

Standing Finance Committee Approves Proposal

THE development of Kandla Port and the strengthening of India's commercial representation abroad were among the proposals approved by the Standing Finance Committee which met on May 9, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister of Finance, Government of India.

On a rough estimate, the development of Kandla as a major port on the stretch of coast covering Kathiawar and Cutch is expected to cost Rs. 3 crores. During 1949-50, an expenditure of Rs. 15 lakhs is expected to be incurred. On completion, it is hoped that the project will yield an annual income of Rs. 32.5 lakhs, which is likely to be sufficient to cover the entire recurring cost, including interest, repayment of loans and depreciation charges.

The proposals to strengthen India's commercial representation abroad includes the opening of new offices in Brazil, Malaya, Belgium and the Philippines, at a cost of Rs. 6,23,760 recurring and Rs. 986,00 non-recurring in 1949-50.

Approval was also accorded to the appointemnt of an Indian Trade Commissioner at Karachi and an Assistant Trade Commissioner at Dacca, at a recurring cost of Rs. 1,80,000 in 1949-50. These appointments are needed to facilitate movement from Karachi of goods, worth crores of rupees, which were imported by merchants in India for consumption in India. Moreover, they are expected to make possible the development of trade between the two countries, culminating in long-term trade agreements.

The Committee also approved of an expenditure of about Rs. 125 lakhs on the capital works programme of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The Posts and Telegraphs Department's programme includes about 50 new major works at an estimated cost of about 125 lakhs. These are in addition to the works already approved and which are now in progress, such as the Calcutta Automatisation and Bombay, Delhi and other telephone expansion schemes.

The new works include the construction of over 300 refugee staff quarters and R.M.S. Rest House at Delhi; the opening of a new Telecommunication Training Centre at Jubbulpore and the provision of additional plant and machinery at the Jubbulpore and Bombay workshops; erection of lines and wires for the Assam rail link project; providing additional outlets from Rajkot to the main telephone trunk system in India ; increasing the telephone trunk facilities at a number of places; opening of wireless stations for provision of wireless facilities to ships at sea and providing high power wireless links between Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi; expansion of the Ahmedabad Telephone system by 1,800 lines; providing more telephone at Delhi; replacing worn-out teleprinters in the Telegraph Offices, and replacing the main overhead wires between Bombay and Thana by undergound cables.

The Committee also approved of a sum of Rs. 8,35,900 for the purchase of landing mats for emergency landing grounds and a provision of ground lighting facilities at the Santa Cruz Airport at a cost of Rs. 10 lakhs.

2,000 Masonary Wells

The Committee at its meeting on May 12 approved of the construction of 2,000 masonary wells in Delhi Province and an annual grant to the Indian Research Fund Association.

As part of the "Grow-More-Food" campaign, it was decided in 1946 to construct 2,000 new masonary wells in Delhi Province at a total cost to Government of Rs. 16,30,000. So far 860 wells, fitted with Persian wheels, have either been completed or are under completion and 78 old wells have been repaired. Subsidy for the construction of new wells is being given at the rate of 50 per cent of the construction cost while in the case of repairs to old wells, it varies to a maximum of 60 per cent.

The Standing Finance Committee felt that the results of the various Grow More Food schemes sanctioned by the Government of India were not being watched properly. The Committee, therefore, decided that a thorough check up of all the aspects of Grow More Food schemes in the Delhi Province should be carried out immediately to see that the schemes are run on sound lines and the results achieved are commensurate with the money spent. These results, the Committee hoped, will give an indication of the success or otherwise of the Grow More Food schemes generally and a basis to ascertain the more productive lines and concentrate on them. The Committee also desired that the Agriculture Ministry should arrange to get monthly progress reports on Grow More Food schemes from the Centrally Administered Areas and the Province and place them before its Standing Advisory Committee.

The Committee sanctioned a sum of Rs. 7,00,511 for the starting of preliminary record operations in the Ajmer-Merwara Province. In the Istimrari areas of

(*Continued on Page 531*)

MARINE ENGINEERING AS A CAREER

Training Officers For India's Merchant Navy

A career with increasing opportunities for national service, Marine Engineering, should appeal to young Indians who cherish a sense of manliness, discipline and devotion to duty—characteristics so necessary in the making of good citizens.

At the end of the war, Indian shipping was of a tonnage less than 100,000. Now, with the advent of independence, a large and efficient merchant fleet is a necessity. Acting in co-operation, the Government and shipping companies are taking measures to expand and re-organise the merchant fleet.

Already in the past four years, tonnage has increased to 330,000. The target as recommended by the Shipping Policy Committee, is 2 million tons. That this tonnage should be officered by Indians is obvious. As every ship carries a minimum of four Engineering officers, it is estimated that about 100 Engineers will be required annually for the Merchant Navy.

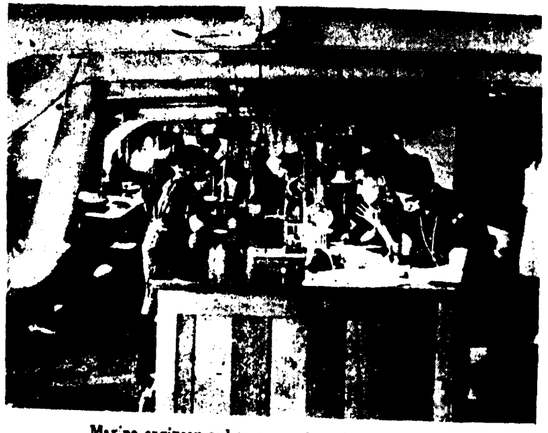
Trained Personnel

Engineers' pay and prospects are good. Starting salaries approximate Rs. 400 per month with free board and accommodation. Besides, most shipping companies run provident funds or offer pensions. Senior engineers receive Rs. 900 per month and upwards. Good land appointments are open to well-educated young engineers with a minimum of four years' workshop experience.

The Government, alive to the necessity of meeting shipping companies' demand for trained personnel, is shortly putting into effect the scheme for the training of Marine Engineers drawn up by the Merchant Navy Officers' Training Committee. The essence of the scheme is to make available to every aspiring marine engineer a course of training that is as good as that received by his counterpart in other countries. The aim is to produce marine engineer officers for India who are second to none; in consequence, the training will be arduous.

The scheme requires that young men, not over 19 years of age and with a sound education, will after selection undergo apprenticeship for three years in workshops in Bombay and Calcutta where marine engines are built and repaired. This workshop experience is essential, according to J.S.H. Stevenson, Director of Marine Engineering Training, in order to enable a young engineer adequately to perform his duties as a ship's officer and to achieve success in the professional examinations conducted by the Ministry of Commerce for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency. These certificates are similar to those granted by the Ministry of Transport in the United Kingdom.

Evening classes will also be held to prepare the trainees for higher vocational studies. At the end of their workshop apprenticeship they will be admitted to a residential college in Calcutta for a year's vocational training. This institution, the first of its kind in India, will be equipped with Heat and Mechanics laboratories and a Power House for the testing of engines and boilers. Special refresher courses will be held in Bombay and Calcutta for candidates who want to qualify for certificates issued by the Ministry of Commerce.



Marine engineer cadets at work in the science class



Cadets overhauling machinery in the Fitting Workshop

It is claimed that the scheme provides a carefully devised and progressive course of training from the moment the young would-be marine engineer joins the workshop until he leaves the College to take up a sea appointment. After this initial period of sea service he should be in a position quickly to pass the professional examinations with the help of a short course at one of the colleges in Bombay or Calcutta.

To relieve the immediate shortage of certificated engineers, special courses are being conducted in the Nautical and Engineering College, Pembay, for young engineers who have completed four years' apprenticeship at approved marine engineering workshops. These courses are designed to enable engineers to pass Part 'A' of the Ministry of Commerce Certificates examination, the preliminary qualification for sea going.

PROMOTING CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES

Comprehensive Scheme of Scholarships

To extend educational facilities available in India to certain Asian and African countries and to foster cordiality and cultural understanding with them, the Government of India propose to award every year 40 scholarships to non-Indian students and 30 to students of Indian origin domiciled abroad, according to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on May 5.

It added: The following will be the distribution of scholarships among students from the different countries:—

Forty scholarships to non-Indian students: Indonesia 3; China 5; Nepal 3; Afghanistan 2; Iran 2; Egypt 3 (on exchange basis only); South Africa (African students) 1; British East Africa i.e. Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar (African students) 4; Malaya 2; Burma 2; Ethiopia (Abyssinia) 2; Ceylon 2; Siam 2; Bhutan 1; Phillipines 1; Indo-China 2; Tibet 1; Turkey 1; Portuguese Colonial Africa (African Students) 1.

Thirty scholarships to students of Indian origin domiciled abroad: South Africa 4; British East Africa 3; Ceylon 4; Malaya 4; Burma 4; Mauritius 3; Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana 4; Fiji Island 3; Siam 1.

Post-Graduate Courses

Scholarships will be awarded for studies in Arts and Humanities, Sciences, Agriculture, Medicine, Technology, Education and Law. Preference will be given to students desiring to take up Post-Graduate courses, but a certain number of students from countries where educational facilities are not so developed will be admitted to under-graduate courses also.

The scholarships will be tenable for the period necessary for each student to complete the approved course of study. The average duration of an award will be three years but it may extend up to four years according to the nature of the selected course of study and the previous background of the student. All these scholarships will form one pool and in case any country is unable to send the allotted number of scholars, the extra scholarships will be distributed to other participating countries.

Provision of Facilities

During his stay in India, each scholar will be given a stipend of Rs. 200 per mensem, exclusive of capitation, tuition and examination fees which will be paid by the Government of India direct to the institutions concerned. The cost of passage either way and the railway charges incurred in India will have to be met by the students themselves or their sponsoring authorities in the countries of their domicile.

Adequate arrangements will be made to look after the welfare of the scholars and to ensure that they get every opportunity to know and understand the people of India and their culture. They will be encouraged to travel and see places of interest.

Representatives of the Government of India in the countries concerned have been requested to invite applications in the prescribed form and forward them to the Ministry of External Affairs not later than May 15.

Students who are already studying in India and who are not in receipt of any other scholarship or financial assistance, are also eligible for these scholarships. Such of them as are interested in these scholarships may obtain copies of the prescribed form from the Ministry of Education and send them duly filled in, immediately to the Government of India's representatives in the countries of their domicile for preliminary selection and transmission to the Ministry of External Affairs by the appointed date.

MAULANA AZAD ON CENTRAL PLANNING IN EDUCATION

PROVISION of universal basic education for all children of school-going age and social education for adults and secondly, the reorganisation of higher education in India are described as the two tasks of pre-eminent importance confronting the Government of India in the field of education by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education in a foreword in the first issue of the "Education Quarterly" which has recently been published.

The Education Minister expresses the view that both these objectives require central planning and co-ordination. "In fact neither of these objectives can be fulfilled if we do not from the beginning, plan on a national scale. It is therefore very necessary to continue, and in fact, further develop the Centre's programme of collation of detailed information and comparison of experience with a view to co-ordination of planning," he adds.

Stressing the importance of Central co-ordination in the task of planning universal basic education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad says, "Though the task of bringing education to the masses is the immediate responsibility of the Provinces, the help of the Centre is essential, both for maintaining reasonable uniformity among the Provinces, and preserving the national character of such education."

Regarding the need of reorganising higher education in India, Maulana Azad says, "We have to look at such education from a new angle. All progress, whether in scientific, technical, commercial or industrial field, will ultimately depend upon the quality of educated leadership. Even the programmes of mass education cannot be carried out without educators produced by a system of higher education.

The "Education Quarterly" is expected to meet a longfelt need for an authoritative publication of facts about various educational developments in this country and outside.

Educational Facilities

Among articles of interest, in the first issue, is one giving a short Historical Survey of Educational Administration at the Centre and another on the implications and working of the Education Act of 1944 in England. Besides information about educational developments at the Centre and the Provinces and of educational facilities in India and abroad, it also contains an account of the various important conferences on educational interest held recently.

A list of books recently added to the Central Educational Library which has been included in the Quarterly, should prove of assistance to those interested in educational research and up-to-date educational literature.

The Governor-General has appointed Shri B.P. Jamuar, Bar-at-Law, at present Registrar of the Patna High Court, to be an Additional Judge of that High Court with effect from the date the High Court reopens after the vacation of 1949 until the commencement of the High Court's vacation of 1950, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 3.

TELEGRAMS IN HINDI

With effect from June 1, 1949, private telegrams in Hindi language in Devnagri script will be accepted from public at Agra for Allahabad, Patna for Gaya, Nagpur for Jubbulpore, Allahabad for Banaras, Lucknow for Kanpur, and vice versa from these places between the hours of 9-30 to 16-30 on week days only on the usual conditions applicable to inland private telegrams in English and other authorised languages, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on May 13.



Shri C. C. Desai, (right) Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, and Mr Mahmoud Zaki Bey, Leader of the Egyptian Trade Delegation signing the Indo-Egyptian trade agreement in New Delhi on May 10

INDIA SIGNS TRADE PACT WITH EGYPT

A TRADE agreement was signed on May 10 between India and Egypt. Mr. C. C. Desai, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, signed on behalf of India, and His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Zaki Bey on behalf of the Royal Egyptian Government, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 11.

It added: Under the terms of the Agreement both the Governments will grant each other most-favoured nation treatment.

India has agreed to export jute goods, tea, unmanufactured tobacco, groundnut oil, groundnut, linseed oil, linseed, castor oil, shellac, coffee, raw and tanned hides, cotton, piecegoods (Grey), manufactures of iron and steel, cutlery, electrical goods and apparatus, sanitary ware, rubber tyres and tubes except giant tyres, woollen manufactures, Indian drugs and medicines, Indian coal-tar dyes and colours, pottery, paraffin and paraffin wax, sodium bichromate, essential oils and pig iron.

Imports from Egypt

Imports from Egypt include rice, raw cotton, cotton yarn of counts ranging from 60s to 140s, Rock phosphates, gypsum suitable for manufacture of cement, and flax suitable for linen making. One of the articles of the Agreement also stipulates that both the Governments will agree to consider favourably and to promote, so far as is mutually consistent with their commitments, the import and export of goods not included in the schedules annexed to the Agreement.

Trade between Egypt and India, except in respect of rice, will be carried on through normal trade channels. The Agreement is subject to ratification and will remain in force for one year and thereafter for further successive periods as may be mutually agreed upon before the expiry of the Agreement.

The Agreement in so far as it relates to the supply of rice by Egypt to India and the allocation of the jute goods quota by India to Egypt will come into force immediately.

Cultural Ties

After the Agreement was signed, Mr. Desai thanked the leader and members of the Egyptian Delegation and said that the conclusion of the Agreement marked not only mutually advantageous trade arrangements but also the spirit of understanding and cultural ties that existed between the two countries since the beginning of civilisation. He emphasised that India and Egypt had identity of purpose and unity of objective in their approach to the various problems before them.

Replying to Mr. Desai, His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Zaki Bey expressed his gratification at the conclusion of the negotiations which were conducted in a spirit of friendliness and co-operation on both sides and made a special mention of the sympathy shown by the Commerce Minister which contributed in a large measure to their success.

He recalled how both the countries in the remote past had held the torch of civilization and benefited by the high principles of humanity and truth, how both the countries recently led the struggle for liberty to a victorious end and expressed his hope that the present trade agreement would mark the beginning of prosperous economic co-operation between the two countries.

IMPORT POLICY TO BE REVISED

A Press Communique issued by the Controller of Imports on May 4, said:

Restrictions on imports from soft currency areas were considerably liberalised during the latter part of 1948. These measures were taken partly as a result of the easier foreign exchange position and partly with a view to facilitating a larger supply of industrial and consumer goods in the country.

While the issue of the Open General licence No. XI and other measures of relaxation of import control have helped in an increased supply of industrial goods, in stabilising price levels and in checking the inflationary forces in the country, imports during the last few months have been so large that there has been a heavy adverse balance of trade during those months, especially as, in addition to commercial imports, imports of foodgrains have also been heavy.

The Government of India have all along been watching the effect of these measures on their foreign exchange position and they now consider that the time has come when the liberal import policy must be revised. Accordingly the list of articles now covered by the Open General Licence No. XI is being reviewed. It is expected that this review will be completed in the next few days.

In the meantime as a preliminary and precautionary step, the Government of India announce the suspension of the Open General Licence No. XI with effect from May 4, 1949. As a result no letters of credit will be allowed to be opened after this date for articles covered by Open General Licence No. XI.

Importers are also warned, in their own interests, not to make any fresh commitments with foreign suppliers as it may not be possible to allow goods to be imported against such commitments. They are also advised to take steps to cancel any outstanding orders under Open General Licence No. XI which do not involve any irrevocable commitments. Any shipments made on or before May 20, 1949 will, however, be allowed to be cleared as hitherto.

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 4 stated:

The Government of India has accepted the Indian Tariff Board's recommendation relating to continuance of protection to the Calcium Chloride industry for one year, i.e., until March 31, 1950, at the present rates of duty. This decision is published in the *Gazette of India* (*Extraordinary*) dated May 4, 1949.

The Indian Tariff Act has been amended to secure extension of the period of protection.



A trade agreement between India and Finland was signed in New Delhi on May 9 by Shri C. C. Desai (centre) Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, on behalf of India, and Mr. Eric Ahlqvist (left) on behalf of Finland

INDO-FINNISH TRADE AGREEMENT

ACCORDING to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 9, a Trade Agreement between India and Finland was signed on May 9, by Mr. C.C. Desai, Commerce Secretary on behalf of India and by Mr. Eric Ahlqvist, Finnish Government Delegate, on behalf of Finland.

Under the terms of the Agreement, India has agreed to export tobacco, East India tanned kips, manufactures of rubber, including tyres and tubes, spices, jute goods, tea, coffee, shellac, coir yarn, coir mats and matting, groundnut and groundnut oil, castor oil, linseed and linseed oil, other "essential" and "non-essential" vegetable oil, cotton thread, chemical products like shark liver oil, magnesium sulphate, sodium bichromate, magnesium chloride, strychnine, morphine, naphthalene, sodium bromide, potassium bromide and liquid bromine and drugs such as nox vomica, senna pods and leaves, chirata, gummi indicum and Indian squill (scillae).

Imports From Finland

Imports from Finland include paper and pulp making machinery, wood working and plywood making machinery, boiler plant, electrical equipment, including electric generators and electric motors of 30 H. P. and above, newsprint and paper of various kinds, including cigarette paper, printing and writing paper, raw paper for the manufacture of carbon papers, wall boards, softwood, railway sleepers, birch for manufacturing bobbins and wood pulp (sulphite). One of the articles of the Agreement also stipulates that both the Governments will encourage trade in other commodities not forming part of the schedule annexed to the Agreement.

Trade between Finland and India will be carried on through normal trade channels. India and Finland will provide all reasonable facilities to ensure that ships of both the countries carry as large a proportion of goods and commodities covered by this agreement as possible.

Finland has also agreed to render all possible technical assistance to India to build up new, and improve existing, Indian industries, particularly in the manufacture of paper, pulp and plywood and in woodwork and wood distillation.

The Agreement is subject to ratification and will remain in force for a period of one year. It will be published in the *Indian Trade Journal* after instruments of ratification have been exchanged.

Jute Quotas for Soft Currency Areas

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 7 said:

The following further releases of quotas of jute goods for export to various soft currency destinations during the year ending June 25, 1949, have been announced:—

Destination	*Quota* (tons)
Denmark	1,500
Switzerland	250
Southern Rhodesia	1,000
British West Indies	4,500
Chile	7,000
Republic of Ireland	500
Ethiopia	1,597
Falkland Islands and South Georgia	191
Fiji	350
France	3,000
Gold Coast	2,000
Greece	930
Mauritius	4,450
Netherland East Indies	4,495
Nigeria	1,250
Nyasaland	236
Peru	2,460
Roumania	500
Transjordon	700
United Kingdom	10,000
Uruguay	8,060

Barring Switzerland and Roumania for which no previous quotas were announced during the current half year, the quotas now announced are supplementary to those which were released earlier.

EXPORT OF LINSEED OIL

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 30 said:

The Government of India has decided to allow 1,750 tons of linseed oil to be exported to all permissible destinations outside India during the current year by non-established shippers, *i.e.*, those who did not export this oil during the period January 1, 1947 to September 30, 1948.

Applications on the prescribed form should be addressed to the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports, Bombay, or Calcutta, or the Export Trade Controllers at other ports, as the case may be, on or before June 30, 1949. Details of the scheme are available from those officers.

HIGHER RATES OF PROTECTION FOR SODIUM INDUSTRIES

The Government of India has accepted the Tariff Board's final recommendations in regard to the sodium sulphite, sodium bisulphite and sodium thiosulphate industries' claim for increased protection, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 3.

It added: The Board recommended the following increases in specific duties as it held that there had been a considerable increase in the domestic costs of production of these chemicals:

Sodium Sulphite:

Of British manufacture: from Rs. 8/- per cwt. to Rs. 23/- per cwt.

Not of British manufacture: from Rs. 12/- per cwt. to Rs. 26 per cwt.

Sodium Bisulphite:

Of British manufacture from Rs. 8/- per cwt. to Rs. 19/- per cwt.

Not of British manufacture from Rs. 12/- per cwt. to Rs. 21/8 per cwt.

Sodium Thiosulphate:

Of British manfuacture: from Rs. 5/- per cwt. to Rs. 13/- per cwt.

Not of British manufacture: from Rs. 7/8 per cwt. to Rs. 15/8 per cwt.

The Government's acceptance of these recommendations is published in the *Gazette of India* (*Extraordinary*) dated May 3, 1949.

Training of Social Education Teachers

A CONFERENCE of representatives of voluntary organisations engaged in social education work which met on April 30, in the Central Secretariat, New Delhi, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, decided to hold a three-week camp to train school teachers from Delhi villages and urban areas as well as volunteers in the art of imparting social education to adults.

Shri Radha Raman, President of the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee, and representatives of the Adult Education Board, Delhi; Anjuman-Talim-o-Traqqui, the Indian Adult Education Association, Delhi; the Friends Service Unit, Delhi; the New Delhi Social Service League, the Y. M. C. A., New Delhi; the National Y. M. C. A. School of Social Work, the Hindustan Scouts Association, Delhi, Dr. Tara Chand, Secretary, Ministry of Education, and Prof. Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India, attended the conference.

After the representatives of the above organisations had stated their experience of work in the field of social and the adult education, the conference unanimously decided to organise a camp for training social education teachers and volunteers. The conference decided to call upon the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee and other voluntary organisations working in the field of social education to send lists of suitable workers who will be willing to take on the work in a missionary spirit. While the teachers and some of the voluntary workers are likely to be absorbed permanently in the scheme of social education, the student volunteers will carry on the work during their summer vacations.

It was decided that messing and accommodation will be provided to all the trainees joining the camp, at Government expense. The workers who would like to take on the work on a permanent basis should be prepared to settle in the villages.

Training Camp

The Conference decided that the training camp should be opened as soon as possible so that an intense adult education drive might be started at an early date.

The Conference also decided to set up an Advisory Board to help the Director of Education, Delhi, in the implementation of the Social Education Scheme. The Board will consist of representatives of non-official organisations engaged in social education work and representatives of the Ministry of Education.

The Conference was of the view that the work of social education should be carried on in Delhi in such a manner so that other provinces may benefit from the experience gained here.

In his opening remarks at the conference, Maulana Azad said he had called the conference in order to give fillip to the social Education Scheme by mobilising all available talent with the help of voluntary organisations, which have already been working in the field. He explained that the objective was to make the village school the centre of social education for adult illiterates.

He drew the attention of the conference to the 12-point programme of social education announced by him last year. That programme defines the objective of social education and its content. He said, the basic problem was to interest the adult illiterates by indirect methods of teaching so as to make them conscious of their rights and duties as citizens of a free and democratic country. For achieving this there was a great need of a large number of first-class workers, men and women, who would volunteer to settle in the villages and take on this work in a true missionary spirit.

PRESERVATION OF RECORDS OF STATES

How best to deal with the records of the States which have merged with the provinces or with bigger Unions formed one of the most important items on the agenda of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission which held its 14th meeting at the National Archives of India premises on May 2.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India, and attended by distinguished archivists from all over India, including Diwan Bahadur C. S. Srinivasachari, Mahamahopadhyaya D. V. Potdar, Dr. K.K. Datta, Principal H.N. Sinha, Dr. P.M. Joshi, Director of Archives, Government of Bombay, and Professor Mohammad Habib, University of Aligarh.

The Committee's unanimous decision regarding these records was that these should be inspected by the Director of Archives of the Government of India and a report submitted by him to the Indian Historical Records Commission for its consideration.

Central Record Offices

Among other questions discussed by the Committee were those relating to import from abroad of microfilm copies of records and historical manuscripts of Indian interest. The Committee recommended that such copies should be exempted from the normal customs duties.

The Committee also passed a resolution recommending that all historical manuscripts and documents in the possession of archaeological museums in India and dating later than 1600 should be transferred to the National Archives for custody. In another resolution the Committee reiterated its recommendations in respect of the setting up of Central Record Offices by Provincial Governments.

SUPPLY OF APPROVED FILMS

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on May 13 said:

Under licences granted to Cinemas the exhibition of 'approved films' at every performance is essential. The Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Bombay, will commence from June 3, 1949, the regular supply of these 'approved films' on fixed rentals from its five regional offices located at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Lucknow and Nagpur. The areas served by each branch office will be as follows:

Bombay Branch—(20-Haines Road, Mahalaxmi, Bombay 11.) Bombay Presidency excluding East and West Kandesh but including Saurashtra, Cutch and Sirohi.

Calcutta Branch—(183/1- Dharamtala Street, Calcutta) West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Vizagapatam, East and West Godavari Districts of Madras Presidency, and Cooch Behar, Tripura, Manipur and Khasi States.

Madras Branch— (48-Mount Road, Cathedral, P.O Madras). Madras Presidency exiluding Vizagapatam and the Districts of East and West Godavari but including Coorg, Mysore, Cochin and Travancore.

Lucknow Branch—(care of Rattan Talkies, Lucknow.) East Punjab, Delhi, United Provinces, Ajmer Marwara, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Vindhya Pradesh, and Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

Nagpur Branch— (Dhanwati Building, Malaviya Road, Sitabaldi Nagpur.) Central Provinces and Berar, East and West Kandesh, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal and Hyderabad.

INDIAN STANDARD FOR CONIFEROUS TIMBER

A draft Indian standard specification for coniferous sawn timber intended for further conversion has been prepared by the Timber Products Sectional Committee of the Indian Standards Institution to cover the various requirements of the trade and, in particular, those of the purchasing departments of the Central, Provincial and States Governments.

All species of coniferous timber have been classified into four grades. In addition to the definition of a number of terms used in the trade, requirements of the first three grades in regard to species of timber, dimensions, permissible defects, and estimated percentage of recovery of useful material are specified in detail in the standard.

This draft standard is being circulated among timber interests for purposes of comments and suggestions.

INDIAN STUDENTS IN U. S. A.

INDIAN scholars in U.S.A. have earned many laurels and distinctions in different fields of Science and Research. Below are given a few of their researches:

Mr. R.L. Thakur, an Indian scholar who went to the United States in August 1946, to study glass technology, is now doing research on colour in minerals under a project sponsored by the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Thakur earned an M.S. degree from Alfred University in September, 1947, with an average of 2.9 out of a possible 3.0 and was initiated into the honorary American Ceramic Fraternity, Keramos. He is now working toward a Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State College and holds a graduate assistantship in ceramics at the college.

Indian Metallurgist

Having won two Doctorates in three years from the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. G.P. Chatterjee is now returning to India.

A lecturer of metallurgy at the Jamshedpur Technical Institute, Mr. Chatterjee went to the United States in December, 1945, and joined school two months later and worked under G.R. Fritteror, an authority on steel control methods.

He got his first Doctorate in Metallurgical Engineering in June, 1948. The second, in Physics, was awarded in January this year. Permission to strike out on an entirely different line from metallurgy was given to him, owing to his advanced work in the field.

He also received training in some steel mills and industrial laboratories in that country and collected data on recent improvements of blast furnace and steel making practices.

Mr. Chatterjee has published two original papers in the *Journal of Metals* and the *Journal of Applied Sciences*.

Member of Three Honoraries

The winner of membership in three national Honoraries and an international fellowship for 900 dollars for outstanding merit in scholarship, research and professional interest is an Indian student at Ohio State University—Mrs. Rajammal Packyanathan Devadas.

The Honoraries of which Mrs. Devadas is member are Omicron Nu, Phi Upsilon Omicron and Sigma Delta Epsilon.

A former lecturer in household arts at Madras University, Mrs. Devadas came to the United States in 1947 on a Government scholarship. She earned her Master of Science degree in home economics and nutrition in 1948 from Ohio State University. She will get a Master of Arts degree in home economics education in June this year and a Doctorate in Nutrition in June next year.

Her immediate objective of study is to discover what foods can be produced inexpensively and easily in Madras province to supplement the present 80 per cent rice diet of the poorer classes. Mrs. Devadas is the author of two books:

Secret of food in Tamil, published in India, and *Practical Home Economics*, published in the U.S.A.

DONATION FOR REFUGEES

A sum of 152.60 dollars has been remitted to Pandit Nehru for the Prime Minister's Refugee Relief Fund by the New York chapter of the Hindustan Students Association. Contributions were received from students of all nationalities.

Indian students at New York are making a collection of literature by and about Mahatma Gandhi with a view to donating it to the New York Public Library.

Asia Institute in New York

Professor P.T. Raju, of the Department of Philosophy of Andhra University, South India, will offer a seminar in Indian philosophy for graduate students and a general course on contemporary Indian Philosophy at the Asia Institute New York, beginning in October this year. The professorship has been made possible for one year through a special grant of funds from the Tata Trust of Bombay. This is the first of visiting professorships to be set up under the Trust.

The Asia Institute maintains a school for Asiatic Studies accredited by the University of the State of New York, and a public museum of Oriental arts and crafts, and sponsors special events for its membership.

The Institute recently announced acquisition of a 500-volume library on Indian art, formerly the property of Dr. Heinrich Zimmer, an authority on Indian art, myth, and religion, who died in 1942. Addition of the Zimmer Library brings the Institute's collection of books and journals on Asia to about 30,000.

STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

(*Continued from page* 527)

Ajmer-Merwara Province, tenants are in an insecure position, often being ejected from their holdings by *istimrardars'* who, it is stated, collect at will various kinds of 'legs' and 'negs.'

The Government recently introduced in the Central Legislature the Ajmer-Merwara Tenancy and Land Records Bill, with a view to securing the tenants' position, and it is expected to become law shortly. To avoid delay in implementing the relief proposed in the Bill, the starting of preliminary record operations estimated to cost Rs. 700,511 is expected and to take about three years to complete.

Diplomas of So-Called "American Universities"

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on April 19, said:

The Government of India receive frequent enquiries as to the value and validity of certain degrees and diplomas purporting to be issued through agencies in India by the International University of Delaware (America), the Chartered University of Huron (America), the National University of Colorado, and the Charitable University of Delaware (America)

The National University of Colorado is not listed in the official directory of colleges, universities and professional schools published by the U. S. Office of Education, nor does it appear in any list of recognised institutions with which that office is acquainted.

With regard to the "Chartered University of Huron (America)" also known as the "Chartered University of America," the "National University Incorporated" and perhaps other names, the Government of India have been informed that the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, has negotiated a stipulation with this organisation to cease and desist from (*a*) the use of the words "University," "Medical Council" or "Board of Examinations" and such other words which may tend to create the impression that it is an institution for the promotion of learning in the U. S. A.; and (*b*) representing through the issue of diplomas, degrees, or certificates or other documents that the business of the institution is that of conducting an accredited Educational Institution and that they are recognised or accepted by any reputable college or university.

The Government of India wish to make it clear that they do not recognise the degrees and diplomas and other certificates or titles granted by the organizations mentioned above for any purpose whatsoever. In view of the fact that large numbers of people in India are likely to be interested in obtaining qualifications from the U. S. A. that will be generally recognised, Government feel it their duty to give the public the above information.

No Guarantee

The Government of India also wish to bring to the notice of the public the fact that some of the so-called educational concerns frequently charge their names and headquarters to give the public the impression that they are new and *bona fide* educational institutions.

Certain so-called educational concerns are registered in India under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860) and thereby it appears they tend to create the impression that they are authorised to confer educational and professional degrees or diplomas which will be generally recognised.

It is therefore, stated for the information of the public that the mere fact that an institution is registered in India does not imply any guarantee on the part of the Government that such concerns are so authorised.

Activities of Indian Historical Records Commission

THE Proceedings of the 24th session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, recently published is a publication of considerable value to the students of Indian history, which gives in detail the findings of the Commission at its annual session held at Jaipur in February 1948 and reports of the various activities of the Commission during the year.

It is the first report of free India's newly-constituted Commission and a change in the Commission's outlook is reflected in a number of resolutions that were passed by it on problems of national interest. A resolution recommending the transfer to the National Archives of India of all the original writings of Mahatma Gandhi for better preservation was passed by the Research and Publication Committee of the Commission.

Another resolution for the preparation of a history of the Indian national struggle was also passed by the Commission for which a Government grant of Rs. 25,000, was recommended.

The Commission recorded its opinion on several problems of archival and historical interest including the Development Scheme of the National Archives of India on the basis of the Report on the "Post-War Reorganisation of Archives Offices in India" drawn up by the Commission earlier; introduction of suitable legislation for preventing export of Historical document outside India; transfer of administrative control of pre-1902 records of the late Residencies to the National Archives of India; bringing back of all the books, manuscripts, etc., relating to India from the India Office.

The Commission also passed a resolution accepting the scheme of Dr. Solon J. Buck for the establishment of a permanent International Archives Organisation under the auspices of the UNESCO.

5-Year Programme

The proceedings also contain research papers on diverse topics of Indian history, the reports of the business meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Research and Publication Committee as well as the catalogue of historical records exhibition organised at Jaipur in connection with the annual session. Details of the five-year publication programme of the National Archives of India and the progress made under its various schemes have also been reviewed in the proceedings.

The important work of salvaging manuscript records in private custody, on which the Commission had been devoting much of its time and energy for some time past, has made considerable progress, as would appear from the reports of the various Regional Records Survey Committees in the provinces and States.

It is noteworthy that the Government of India realising the importance of the subject had raised their financial aid towards the Survey Committees from Rs. 6,500/- in the previous year to Rs. 15,000/- for the year 1947-48.

The publication contains 32 short articles based on unpublished sources and covering a wide field ranging from the Imperial Mughals to the concluding years of the East India Company.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

The decision to set up an Advisory Committee attached to the Damodar Valley Corporation to provide liaison between the Corporation on the one hand and the Central, West Bengal and Bihar Governments on the other, was taken at a conference held in New Delhi on May 9, at which representatives of the three Governments were present.

The Advisory Committee will have eight members including three representatives of the Central Government and two each of the West Bengal and Bihar Governments.

The conference was presided over by Shri N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, Government of India. West Bengal was represented by its Premier, Dr. B. C. Roy, and its Irrigation Minister, Mr. Bhupati Mazumdar, while Bihar was represented by the Irrigation Minister, Shri Ram Charitra Singh.

Among others present were officers of the Ministries of Works, Mines and Power, Finance, Industry and Supply, and Agriculture, and the Chairman and Members of the Damodar Valley Corporation.

The conference heard from Mr. S. N. Mazumdar, Chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation an account of the progress made so far on the Damodar Project. Mr. Mazumdar said that the Tilaiya dam would shortly enter the construction stage. Project reports on three other dams will be submitted to the participating Governments before October this year. These are the Konar dam, the Maithon dam and the Panchet Hill dam.



A conference of representatives of the Central, West Bengal and Bihar Governments was held in New Delhi on May 9 to discuss the progress of the Damodar Valley Project. Among others in the picture are Shri N. V. Gadgil (third from right) Minister for Works, Mines and Power, Government of India; Dr. B. C. Roy (right) West Bengal Premier and Shri Ram Charitra Singh (second from left) Irrigation Minister, Bihar

GROWTH OF INDUSTRY AND CAPITAL

Dr. Matthai's Discussions with Manufacturers

PROBLEMS relating to difficulties experienced by the existing and new industries in raising necessary capital were discussed during informal discussions which the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Finance Minister to the Government of India, held with the Committee members of the All India Manufacturers' Organisation in Bombay on April 27.

Shri M. Visvesvarayya, welcoming the Finance Minister, referred to various issues including taxation of income groups, limitation of dividends, import of consumer goods and the need for adequate statistical data.

In a memorandum the Organisation pointed out that the reliefs granted in the current year's Budget did not offer sufficient inducement to investment and that, in their view, the credit structure was not sufficiently developed to provide adequate capital for industrial activities.

Building up Confidence

It was urged that private enterprise, wherever it came forward to start new industries, should be given full scope and every possible assistance. Production being the need of the hour for fighting inflation and raising the standard of living, it was emphasised that production machinery ought to be free from any undue burden of taxes.

In the course of informal discussions with the Committee members, Dr. Matthai said that he was glad to have an opportunity of contacting manufacturers and industrialists to study the present conditions in regard to the problems of raising sufficient capital for the present and new industries. In order to bring more money into industry, it should be possible for people to save and also to have sufficient confidence to invest money.

The National Government had now gone as far as any Government in the present position could go to instil confidence. In his opinion some risk was inevitable in private enterprise and it appeared to him that the degree of risk in this country was in no way greater than in other countries.

Downward Trend in Prices

Referring to the problem of savings, the Finance Minister said that this question involved the present high level of prices. There had been a perceptible downward trend in prices, except perhaps of foodgrains. He was hopeful that in the next few months the same trend would appear in the matter of foodgrains also.

Referring to central control through regulation of the Industries Bills, Dr. Mitthai said that in his view the apprehensions entertained in some quarters were not justified. The main object of the Bill was to secure greater uniformity of policy and administration with regard to industries; otherwise there would be haphazard development of industries which would ultimately prove detrimental to the country. He did not deny that there was scope for improving the provisions of the Bill during the Select Committee stage, but he had no doubt that the measure as a whole would prove beneficial.

EXPORT OF IRON ORE TO JAPAN

A programme of eight special trains, at the rate of one per day beginning from May 7, for the movement of 8,000 tons of iron ore from Barajamada to Calcutta for purposes of export to Japan was finalised at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Board of Transport, held in New Delhi on April 28. Shri. S. Chakravarti, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Transport, was in the chair.

Shri S.N. Bhalla, Joint Director of Movements, Food Ministry, informed the Committee that movement of foodgrains from Saurashtra was generally satisfactory as a result of the special transport facilities provided by the Committee. Reviewing the gram movement from East Punjab, he said that out of three lakh tons of gram about 1.86 lakh tons had already been moved to Bombay, Saurashtra, Madras and other areas. He added that clearance of foodgrains from Vizagapatam harbour was also satisfactory owing to improved wagon supplies.

The Chairman informed the Committee that since April 20, one special train had been set apart for clearance of dock traffic from Bombay Port to Ahmedabad and stations beyond. This step had been taken as part of the drive to improve all aspects of dock working.

Demands for transport approved by the Committee included : (1) movement of iron pipes from Assam to stations in the U.P. (2) movement of hay and fodder from surplus areas in East Punjab to deficit areas in the Province; and (3) one special train of ghee for the Defence Services from Bangalore to Northern India.

Movement of Iron and Steel

The Committee also considered a request from the U.P. Government for special facilities for the movement of iron and steel, cement from Kymore and other materials required for the setting up of a power alcohol plant at Sardarnagar on O.T Railway. The plant, it was explained, was being established to relieve the fuel oil position in the Province.

New Jute Agreement

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 26 said :

The Government of India announced on April 16, 1949 that, after discussion with the main interests concerned, they had advised the Jute industry to adopt certain measures with a view to tiding over the crisis caused by shortage of raw jute, without resorting to a curtailment of production if that could at all be avoided. The matter has been further examined and a fresh scheme has now been evolved which meets the points of view of Government as well as the industry.

Main features of the new scheme are that the industry undertakes to meet demands for jute goods for export purposes in full and will make every endeavour to maintain the total monthly production of jute goods up to the level of the average production during the last twelve months. At the same time, the industry will be at liberty to curtail hessian production to the extent of not more than 12½ per cent of its total loomage, with the approval of the West Bengal Government.

Other measures which the mills will adopt include re-distribution of stocks of hessian quality jute to an extent necessary to maintain hessian production on the reduced scale; and suitable arrangements in regard to labour, details of which will be settled in consultation with, and to the satisfaction of the West Bengal Government.

The scheme has now been accepted by the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India and will become immediately effective.

MARKINGS ON INDIAN-PRODUCED ARTICLES

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on April 28 said :

It has come to the notice of the Government of India that some articles (*e.g.* cigarettes) of Indian manufacture, and the coverings in which they are packed for sale, are marked with the name of foreign manufacturers and the countries in which those manufacturers are established, without any counter-indication to show that the articles are produced in India.

Markings of this description, that is without any counter-indication of Indian origin, are likely to convey the impression that the goods are made in a country in which they have not actually been produced, thus constituting a false trade description within the meaning of Section 2(3) of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889.

Since the practice appears to have developed in ignorance of the requirements of the law, the Government of India draws the attention of manufacturing concerns in India to this matter in the hope that the law's requirements will be fully observed in future.

discussions is as follows :—

(i) In the case of pledged stocks i.e. stocks pledged with possession with banks functioning in Pakistan (possession by the bank not necessarily implying that the stocks are in premises belonging to or leased by the bank) the banks can sell the stocks and deposit with the Custodian only the surplus sale proceeds. Functioning banks will include those which have schemes of arrangement sanctioned for Western Pakistan and are actually working there.

India representatives raised the question that the surplus sale proceeds should be treated as bank deposits and credited directly to the evacuee's account at the banks. It was pointed out by Pakistan representatives that the question was really of academic interest as in most cases the banks' claims exceed the value of the pledged stocks, but promised to consider the suggestion.

(ii) In the case of hypothecated stocks, although the entire sale proceeds had to be deposited with the Custodian and the banks have to register their claims with him, the Custodian is allowing exemptions from this requirement to banks which have been complying with the orders regarding the submission of returns etc. and the exempted banks enjoy the same facilities as in (i) above.

The banks should, therefore, represent their cases individually to the Custodian and on his admitting the claim, they will be entitled to adjust their dues against the sale proceeds as in the case of (i) above.

(iii) No suits are required to be filed in courts in regard to stocks pledged or hypothecated, the Custodian himself finally admitting the claims.

(iv) A recommendation has been made to the two Governments by the Inter-Dominion Commission on Evacuee Property that in the case of mortgages of immovable property also, suits will not be required to be filed in civil courts and that the claims will be registered and admitted by the Custodian on production of mortgage deeds and such other evidence as may be required in any particular case.

(v) As a further concession to scheduled banks the Inter-Dominion Commission on Evacuee Property have recommended that the Custodians should register claims in respect of unsecured debts incurred by the evacuees with the banks on proof of the debts supported by an acknowledgment from the debtor. The Custodian will also be prepared to register claims against other property where the stocks or other pledged security have disappeared without requiring acknowledgment from the debtor.

Scheduled Banks

Scheduled banks for this purpose will mean all banks included in the Reserve Bank schedule at the date of partition.

(vi) In all cases where the claims have been admitted by the Custodian, banks will not be required by the Custodian to file suits and obtain decrees from the civil courts and no evacuee debtor against whom a claim is admitted by the Custodian will be allowed to sell or exchange property until the admitted claims are first cleared; provided that in the case of those banks which are not functioning in Pakistan though they may have got schemes for payment to their Pakistan constituents sanctioned by competent authority, the form which clearance of the banks' claims should take, would be decided by the Custodian. Cases of difficulty may be referred to the Inter-Dominion Commission on Evacuee Property.

(vii) Banks should get their claims admitted by the Custodian in respect of pledged or hypothecated stocks alleged to have been taken over by Government and similarly in respect of factories allotted by Government. The banks will produce such evidence as is available to them about the disposal of such stocks.

The Custodian will also make enquiries as to where the goods have gone etc. and will arrange payment when it is found that Government have, in fact, taken over the stocks. It is understood that the Custodian has already asked the West Punjab Government for information about the stocks taken over by them, and will claim sale proceeds or compensation in all such cases from that Government.

He explained that he would endeavour to correlate this information with the banks' claim and where he can link up the information received from the two parties, will not insist on the banks proving that the West Punjab Government had taken over the stocks.

(viii) The posting of the Custodian's nominees with banks is not at all compulsory and the banks are entirely free to have them withdrawn.

(ix) Goods pledged with the banks which are not saleable in Pakistan will be permitted to be removed by the Custodian after ascertaining from the Rehabilitation Commissioner that he does not want to take over the goods on payment. This would of course be subject to export and import restrictions in force for the time being. After sale the bank will render accounts to the Custodian and it should be understood that this does not absolve the bank from proving its claim before the Custodian.

SECTION III

9. Difficulties of the Imperial Bank regarding transfer of certain categories of accounts.

(a) *Teachers Provident Fund Accounts*: It was stated that no ban had been imposed on the transfer of provident fund accounts of the evacuee teachers.

(b) *Minors' Accounts*: The question was separately under the consideration of the Inter-Dominion Commission in Evacuee Property and its recommendations would cover the point at issue.

(c) *Accounts of Companies, Private Firms and Clubs*: The West Punjab Government will examine the point raised and communicate its decision urgently. There should ordinarily be no difficulty in transferring the accounts of institutions which have wholly evacuated and have no liabilities in Pakistan.

SECTION IV

Establishment of an agency to watch the implementation of decisions :

It was agreed that the two Governments should nominate two representatives from each side to watch the implementation of the decisions taken.

Sd/- Abdul Qadir
23.4.49.

Sd/- P.C. Bhattacharyya
23.4.49.

PART II

Co-operative Institutions

I. Co-operative institutions in the East and West Punjab including the Punjab States now merged in the East Punjab and Delhi.

In pursuance of the discussions which took place between the representatives of the Government of East Punjab and West Punjab in the three meetings held on March 15, 1948, April 2, 1948 and May 27, 1948, the minutes whereof are attached as Annexures I, II and III to this agreement, the following agreement was reached :—

(a) The Government of East Punjab will take steps for the removal of the 'stops' recorded against the securities belonging to the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd. Lahore, or other Co-operative Institutions of West Punjab and N.W.F.P., the orders to take effect on receipt by the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, of the securities of the face value of Rs 1,04,65,500 mentioned in (b) below.

(b) Against the net sum of Rs. 2,26 lakhs odd arrived at by the Registrars of the two Provinces as payable to East Punjab the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd. Lahore will hand over to the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, duly endorsed in favour of the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank Ltd Ambala, securities of the face value of Rs. 1,04,65,500 deposited with them by the co-operative institutions now located in the East Punjab and in addition securities of the face value of Rs. 41,00,000 now agreed to be made available to the East Punjab, and the balance will be kept back by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd. Lahore, pending the final adjustment of unverified claims and the drawing up of the final balance-sheet as in (e) below.

The East Punjab Government will first arrange that the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd. Lahore gets the necessary authority for transferring the securities of the face value of Rs. 1,04,65,500 mentioned above.

Securities of the face value of Rs. 41,00,00 mentioned above will be delivered duly endorsed to the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, within three weeks of the receipt of intimation by the West Punjab Government of the removal of the 'stops' as in (a) above and the vacation of the injunctions, whichever is later.

(c) The East Punjab Government will immediately on the receipt of securities of the face value of Rs. 1,04,65,500 by the Reserve Bank of India, Delhi, as in (a) above take steps for the withdrawal of the pending suits relating to the title of the securities held by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd. Lahore.

(d) The Registrars of Co-operative Societies of the East and West Punjab will take steps as soon as the transfer of securities mentioned in (b) above has been effected to issue the necessary authority to their respective Provincial Co-operative Banks to make payment of the deposits payable on account of the depositors who have migrated from the other Province.

(e) In order to facilitate the final settlement of the matter the two Registrars will immediately take steps to examine the unverified claims and complete the verification by August 31, 1949, and prepare a final balance-sheet together with a list of claims, if any, on which agreement could not be reached by them.

Note:—Deposits of Muslims who have stayed on in Delhi Province and in the district of Gurgaon will not be transferred for payment in West Punjab.

II. Co-operative Institutions in the Patiala and East Punjab States Union, the Alwar and Bharatpur States, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh, N.W.F.P., Khairpur and Bhawalpur and Delhi.

(a) It was agreed that the two Dominions should invite claims from displaced depositors. Wide publicity should be given in the Press inviting the claims. Claims should be invited to reach the Registrars of Co-operative Societies of West Punjab and East Punjab respectively by June 15, the necessary advertisements being issued by the two Dominion Governments by May 15, 1949. These claims should then be listed by the receiving Registrar and passed on to the Registrar in the other Dominion for verification.

(b) The authorities of the States and Governments in India and Pakistan mentioned above should also prepare lists of Muslim and non-Muslim depositors respectively and these lists will be exchanged between the two said Registrars by the end of June 1949. Reasonables will be provided for the inspection of records for verification of deposit accounts in both the Dominions.

(c) Steps should be taken to have the claims verified and settled by 31-8-1949, the payment to displaced depositors in both Dominions being arranged through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, East Punjab, for those in India, and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, West Punjab, for those in Pakistan.

III. Shares held in co-operative institutions of all types in the Provinces and States mentioned in Sections I and II.

It was agreed that data regarding shares held by displaced persons and institutions should be collected as in Section II.

Arrangements should then be made for the purchase by the institutions concerned of the shares held by evacuee shareholders, of the face value, after adjusting any outstandings that may be due from the share-holder. It was agreed that necessary legal steps should be taken to enable the institutions to acquire the shares in the above manner.

IV. The implementation of this agreement will be progressed by the Inter-Dominion Committee set up by the Inter-Dominion Conference held on April 2, 1949, for dealing with the East and West Punjab problems arising from partition matters but not covered by the partition Agreement. This Committee will associate the Registrars of East and West Punjab in the matter.

PART III

The decision in Parts I and II are subject to ratification by the Dominion Governments. The ratification will be intimated to each other by May 10, 1949. The Agreement will be published on May 12, 1949.

(Sd.) ABDUL QADIR,
23.4.49.

(Sd.) P. C. BHATTACHARYYA,
23.4.49.

ANNEXURE I

A conference between the representatives of the Co-operative Departments of the West Punjab and the East Punjab was held at 10 a.m. on March 15, 1948, in the room of Mr. K. Headington and was attended by the following :

1. P. K. Kaul, Esq. ICS, Financial Commissioner, Development, East Punjab.
2. M. R. Sachdev Esq., ICS, Chief Secretary, East Punjab.
3. Ch. Ram Sarup, Registrar, Co-operative Societies, East Punjab.
4. R. S. Ram Rattan, Chief Liaison Officer, East Punjab.
5. Mr. K. Headington, Banking Adviser, West Punjab.
6. K. B. Sh. Fazl-i-Ilahi, Registrar, Co-operative Societies, West Punjab.
7. Syed Zahur Hussain, Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, West Punjab.

2. The following decisions were agreed to :—

(i) All Government Securities belonging to East Punjab Co-operative Institutions and lodged with the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Lahore, under the usual security of for purpose of overdraft or for collection of interest will be transferred by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore before March 31, 1948 to the depositor Banks concerned provided that the East Punjab Central Co-operative Banks concerned owning the Government Securities, pay up their liabilities, if any, to the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Lahore and provided also that such institutions repay the deposits of their evacuee individual depositors, the evacuee individual depositors of their constituent societies, and societies whose membership consists entirely of Muslims, who have evacuated.

The Central Banks in the West Punjab will also re-pay the deposits of their individual evacuee depositors, the deposits of the evacuee individuals of their constituent societies and of the societies which consisted wholly of non-Muslim evacuees.

(2) In order to execute the above decisions, two Registrars should immediately exchange lists of deposits and have the balance adjusted before March 31, 1948.

(3) In the case of primary societies of which the membership is mixed, no division of assets will be undertaken, but it is understood that deposits of individuals of such societies who have evacuated will be repaid before March 31, 1948.

(4) In the case of societies whose membership consisted entirely of evacuees, all assets will be transfered to the dominion to which the evacuees have migrated and the Registrar concerned will register necessary amendment in their bylaws making such change of address permissible.

(5) The debts owed by the societies, which as a result of partition, have now gone over to the other dominion will be paid to the creditor Central Bank by the Provincial Bank of the dominion concerned by adjustment or otherwise as may be agreed to by both the Registrars.

Industrial Societies

(6) The amounts paid by the Industrial Societies (now in Pakistan) in the advertisement fund of the Amritsar Industrial Bank will be paid back by the Industrial Bank to the Punjab Provincial Bank, Lahore.

(7) All amounts received by the Industrial Co-operative Bank, Amritsar, on account of war supply orders will be adjusted or paid by the Industrial Bank to the Societies concerned as may be settled by the two Registrars.

(8) All amounts belonging to employees of Co-operative institutions by way of salary, provident fund, security deposits etc., will be repaid by institutions of both the dominions through their respective Provincial Banks before March 31, 1948.

(9) The question of the division of assets of :—



A Conference of Provincial Governors was held at Government House, New Delhi, on May 8. Picture shows (L. to R.) Shri Homi Modi (U. P.) The Maharaja of Bhavnagar (Madras) Shri M. S. Aney (Bihar) Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa (C. P.) and Berar) Shri Chandulal Trivedi (East Punjab) Pandit Nehru; Shri C. Rajagopalachari; Sardar Patel; Dr. K. N. Katju (West Bengal) Raja Maharaj Singh (Bombay) Shri Asaf Ali (Orissa) and Shri Br Prakasa (Assam)

CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS

The Conference of Provincial Governors met on May 8, 1949, in New Delhi, under the presidentship of His Excellency the Governor-General. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister also attended.

The Prime Minister gave an account of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London.

The Deputy Prime Minister spoke on the progress made in the integration of Indian States. A general discussion regarding the law and order situation in the provinces took place. The food position, the refugee problem, and other matters, came up for discussion in the afternoon session of the conference.

The Conference concluded on May 9. At the concluding session it discussed the duties and functions of Governors generally.



H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari greets Provincial Governors at a reception held by the Governor-General in their honour at Government House, New Delhi

INDIA-PAKISTAN BANKING AGREEMENT RATIFIED

Deposits in Co-operative Banks to be Paid

THE decisions arrived at the Inter-Dominion Conference on Banking, which met at Lahore on April 22 and 23, 1949, have received ratification by the Governments. They are now published for general information, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Finance on May 11.

It added: The Conference discussed a number of problems affecting evacuee depositors and commercial and co-operative banks in the East and West Punjabs including the Punjab States now merged in the East Punjab and Delhi. Agreement was reached on most of these matters.

It was also agreed that the two Governments should nominate two representatives each to watch the implementation of the decisions taken in regard to commercial banks.

The implementation of the agreement on co-operative institutions will be observed by the Inter-Dominion Committee set up by the Inter-Dominion Conference of April 2, 1949 for dealing with the East and West Punjab partition problems not covered by the Partition Agreement.

This Committee will associate the Registrars of the East and West Punjabs in the matter.

The full text of the Agreement is given below:

PART I—COMMERCIAL BANKS

Section I. Complaints regarding the transfer and delay in payment of Muslim accounts

1. It was agreed as follows:

(a) In the case of banks functioning in both or either of the Dominions if any Muslim accounts have been transferred from West Pakistan to India without application from the depositors, such accounts should be re-transferred to Western Pakistan to a branch of the same bank or if the bank has no branch, action will be taken as in (c) below.

(b) In the case of banks which are functioning in East Punjab and East Punjab States and have also branches in West Pakistan, the accounts of all Muslim depositors in East Punjab and East Punjab States should be transferred to their branches in West Pakistan, except in the following cases:

(i) Where the accounts have been in operation in East Punjab and East Punjab States after 31-12-47 and no request for the transfer of the account has been received.

(ii) Where a specific request for the retention of the account in East Punjab and East Punjab States has been received.

In order to remove the possibility of any objection from depositors against the transfer of their accounts, it was agreed that at the bank concerned will immediately advertise the proposed transfer of all Muslim accounts and invite the depositors to inform the banks within a period of one month if they have any objection to the transfer of their accounts to Pakistan. All Muslim accounts to be transferred should be transferred by 30-6-49 as faras possible.

(c) *Lists of Muslim accounts* with banks functioning in East Punjab and East Punjab States, which have no office in West Pakistan, should be kept with a bank in West Pakistan to be specified for the purpose and arrangements should be made with that bank for payment of such deposits in Pakistan on receipt of applications from the depositors.

(d) Muslim accounts with banks in India but outside East Punjab and East Punjab States will be transferred to a branch of the bank concerned in Pakistan on simple application from the depositor, leaving the detailed formalities, if any, to be complied within Pakistan before payment is made. Such applications should preferably be made through the branch of the bank in West Pakistan.

(e) The arrangements set out in sub-paras (a), (b), (c) and (d) will not apply to Banks under a scheme of arrangement.

2. *Banks under schemes of arrangements*:—

Banks under a scheme of arrangement in one Dominion should also apply to a High Court of the other Dominion for sanction of a scheme of arrangement for creditors in the other Dominion.

3. *Indemnity Bonds*:—

As in the case of succession certificates, the desirability of entering into some mutual arrangement whereby in cases of loss of fixed deposit receipts, cheque books and pass books, indemnity bonds obtained or executed, in one Dominion, are accepted in the other Dominion was recognised and it was agreed that the legal implications will be examined by the two Dominion Governments.

4. *Inactive Accounts*:

It was agreed that it was desirable that the banks in both the Dominions particularly in the "evacuee areas," should notify the names and addresses of those depositors who have not operated their accounts from 31-12-47 to 31-3-49, to the Central Banks of the respective Dominions.

The information so collected by the Central Banks will be exchanged between them to facilitate the tracing of constituents or their successors and the disposal of the balances. The Central Banks of the two Dominions will examine this further and work out a detailed scheme for the exchange of this information.

SECTION II—COMPLAINTS OF BANKS

5. The Pakistan representatives agreed to examine the complaints of the banks in regard to orders issued by the West Punjab Government requiring the payment of security deposits of contractors to the C. M. A., Lahore Cantonment.

6. *Grant of permits to bank staff for a minimum period of one year*:

It was agreed that the Pakistan Government will consider the grant of permits to bank staff permanently stationed in West Pakistan and certain specified officers of the head office for a period of one year at a time, the permits to cover the whole of West Pakistan wherever necessary.

7. *Removal of bank records and remittance of surplus funds*:

It was agreed that if banks which are not functioning in Pakistan normally, deposit an amount equal to their outstanding liabilities in West Pakistan they should be permitted to remove their account books and to remit surplus funds provided certified copies of accounts in respect of outstanding liabilities are kept in Pakistan so long as they are outstanding.

Vouchers etc. pertaining wholly to accounts in Pakistan will not be removed if arrangements can be made by the State Bank of Pakistan for their custody.

The amount of the deposit to be retained in Pakistan will be verified by the State Bank and the deposits will be made in favour of a bank approved by the State Bank.

Note.—The outstanding liabilities in the case of a bank under a scheme of arrangement, mean liabilities outstanding in terms of the scheme sactioned by a High Court in Pakistan.

It was agreed that similar arrangements will be made in the case of the Indian Branches of the Australasia Bank.

8. (a) Non-payment to banks of sale proceeds of goods hypothecated to them but requisitioned or sold by Provincial Governments in Pakistan.

(b) Requirement that suits should be filed before goods pledged to banks can be sold by them.

(c) Requirement that the sale proceeds of goods mortgaged with banks should on realisation by the banks be handed over to the Custodian of Evacuee Property.

The position as it emerged out of the

(*i*) Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore,

(*ii*) Punjab Co-operative Union, Lahore,

(*iii*) North Western Railway Co-operative Society, Lahore, and

(*iv*) Industrial Co-operative Bank, Amritsar,

was considered, but it was pointed out that since the matter was before the Arbitral Tribunal it could not be discussed being sub-judice.

(10) All decisions arrived at will be implemented by the Governments of the West Punjab and the East Punjab.

(11) It is recommended that the date March 31, 1949 may be extended to April 30, 1948 in regard to all the decisions referred to above. It is essential that the two dominions extend the date of the enfacement of securities for payment of interest to April 30, 1948.

(12) Shares and interest of members of Transport Societies and Ex-Soldier, Gooda Transport Societies will be transferred to the dominion concerned. This Registrars will arrange this.

Sd/- K. Headington,
Banking Adviser, West Punjab Government.

Sd/- Fazli-Ilahi,
Registrar, (West Punjab).

Sd/- J.W. Hearn,
Financial Commissioner, Development, West Punjab.

Sd/- P. K. Kaul,
Financial Commissioner,
Development, East Punjab.

Sd/-Ram Sarup.

Registrar (East Punjab).

ANNEXURE II

In order to implement the decisions arrived at between the representatives of the Co-operative Societies Departments of the West Punjab and the East Punjab held on March 15, 1948, the following action may be taken :—

(*a*) The Ambala Central Co-operative Bank will secure necessary authorities from the institutions in the East Punjab whose securities are lodged with the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd. Lahore in order that the latter institution may transfer those securities which are due to be sent to the East Punjab institutions, to the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., which is to serve as Provincial Bank for the East Punjab.

(*b*) The Central Banks, Unions and other Co-operative Societies in East Punjab will give necessary power to the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., to authorise the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore to repay the deposits of the Muslims in these institutions. The same kind of power will be obtained by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank from similar institutions in the West Punjab in order to repay the deposits of the non-Muslim depositors with these institutions, through the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank.

(*c*) In order to verify the deposits, the deposit accounts together with the loan accounts issued on the security of deposits and pronotes will be brought to Lahore for check. Such books of those institutions which have already been checked need not be brought again.

(*d*) As it will not be possible to bring the books of the primary societies for verification, the Registrars on each side will have lists of Muslim depositors in the East Punjab and of non-Muslim depositors in the West Punjab prepared through their staff and attested under their own signatures after they have satisfied themselves with regard to the accuracy of these lists and bring to Lahore.

(*e*) All the lists of the depositors and the registers will be brought to Lahore by both the Registrars on May 10 1948.

(*f*) After the lists have been verified and necessary authorities for their return to the depositors concerned delivered, the balance of the securities and deposits left will be made over by the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank to the Registrar, East Punjab for conveying to the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank.

(*g*) By deposits in the above clause is meant the deposits of evacuee individual depositors, the evacuees' deposits of their constituent societies and societies whose membership consists entirely of Muslims or non-Muslims, as the case may be, who have evacuated.

(*h*) Since it is reciprocal, the Registrars agree that such societies should be considered 'entirely' Muslim societies whose membership consists of 90 per cent Muslims or the deposits of which societies in the central institutions are contributed by Muslims to the extent of 90 per cent.

The same definition will apply to the 'entirely' non-Muslim societies in the West Punjab. The Registrars will decide and furnish lists of such societies with their deposits under their signatures after satisfying themselves with regard to the accuracy of information supplied with regard to each society. The words 'wholly of non-Muslim evacuees' in para 2 of clause (*i*) will also be considered to have the same meanings as 'societies consisting entirely of non-Muslims.'

2. Since the execution of the decisions could not be done up to 31.3.1948, the work involved was heavy and could not be completed during the Easter Holidays for which days only the banks could spare their books, the extension of time has had to be done. The Registrars will get sufficient staff at Lahore on May 10, 1948 in order that the work gets completed as soon as possible.

3. As suggested under para 1, lists of deposits of individuals in the primary societies will be brought duly attested by the Registrars on 10.5.1948 and the deposits will be repaid after 10.5.1948.

4. The phrase 'consisted entirely of evacuees' will be taken in its literal sense in this clause, because this clause deals with the division of assets. The Registrars of each side will have a list prepared of societies which consisted entirely of evacuees together with their assets and attest the same under their signatures after satisfying as to their accuracy.

5. When the lists of societies are prepared they will be transferred from the registers of one Registrar to that of the other and their assets will also be transferred to the other dominion. The Registrars concerned may then undertake necessary amendments of the bylaws of these societies, making a change of address.

5. A list of the societies which as a result of partition have now gone over to the other dominion may be prepared by the Registrar of each dominion concerned together with the amount of loan due by each such society to the central institutions which will be attested by the Registrars under their signatures after satisfying themselves with regard to the accuracy of each such list. The transfer of the liabilities will be done by adjustment of the balance due by societies in one dominion to the other by transferring the balance due from the dominion from which it is due to other.

6. A list of the amounts due by the Amritsar Industrial Co-operative Bank received by it in the accounts of the Industrial Co-operative Societies in the advertisement fund now in West Punjab will be prepared and signed by the Registrar, East Punjab, after satisfying himself with regard to the accuracy of this list.

The accounts due by the Amritsar Industrial Co-operative Bank will be paid to the Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, Lahore by adjustment. The Amritsar Industrial Co-operative Bank will give necessary powers to the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank to authorise the Provincial Co-operative Bank, Lahore to make the necessary adjustment of the balance that is to be transferred from the Provincial Co-operative Bank, Lahore to the Ambala Central Co-operative Bank.

7. A list of amounts received by the Industrial Co-operative Bank, Amritsar on account of War Supply Orders will be prepared and attested by the Registrar with regard to its accuracy. The amounts due by the Industrial Co-operative Bank Amritsar to the societies in West Punjab after recovering its dues will be paid to the Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd., Lahore by adjustment.

The procedure followed will be as menticned in clause (6) above.

8. Necessary authority will be obtained by the Registrars concerned for the transfer of the salaries, Provident Fund, Security Deposits etc., of the employees of the Co-operative Institutions. Lists of all such amounts due will be prepared and attested by the Registrars concerned pertaining to each such institution after satisfying as to the accuracy of such lists. The adjustment of amounts will be done according to the procedure laid down in clause (6).

(9), (10), and (11) require no action by the Registrars. (12) A list of shares and interests of members of Transport Societies and Ex-Soldiers' Transport Societies will be prepared and signed by the Registrars concerned after satisfying themselves about the accuracy of such lists. The transfer of such shares and interest will be undertaken through the Provincial Banks of each Dominion according to the procedure laid down in clause (6).

All lists mentioned in the above clause will be brought by the Registrars to Lahore on 10.5.48.

Interest on all kinds of deposits will be paid upto 29.2.48 at the stipulated rates by the institutions concerned.

Sd.-Fazl-i-Ilahi. (Sd). Ram Sarup
Registrar West Pb. Registrar, East Pb.
2.4.48. 2.4.48.

ANNEXURE III

Proceedings of a meeting held in the office room of the Financial Commissioner, Development, West Punjab, Lahore, on May 27, 1948

PRESENT :

Mr. J. W. Hearn, CSI, CIE.,
Financial Commissioner, Development, West Punjab.

Mr. P. K. Kaul, ICS.,
Financial Commissioner, Development, East Punjab.

Mr. Zahur Hussain,
Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, West Punjab.

Ch. Ram Sarup,
Registrar, Co-operative Societies, East Punjab.

Mr. K. Headington, CBE.,
Banking Adviser to the Government of West Punjab.

It was decided that the question of the division of assets of the

(*i*) Punjab Provincial Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lahore ;

(*ii*) Punjab Co-operative Union, Lahore ;

(*iii*) North Western Railway Co-operative Society, Lahore ; and

(*iv*) Industrial Co-operative Bank, Amritsar

should be considered by both departments and both Governments with special reference to the method, if any, by which the assets of evacuees could be paid to those evacuees. At the same time the possibility of a division of the assets and owned funds of these institutions may be investigated.

The views of each Government would be communicated to the other at the earliest possible time, but not later than the middle of June 1948, and the differences, if there are any, would be considered at a subsequent meeting to be held in Simla.

2. The two Registrars would with immediate effect draw a deadline on which the balance-sheet showing the claims and counter-claims between the East Punjab and the West Punjab Co-operative Departments should be drawn up in terms of the agreement arrived at between the two Governments in the first meeting. After that date it will then be necessary only to consider the outstanding and presumably comparatively minor items.

3. If, as is probable, the West Punjab Co-operative Department will have to pay to the East Punjab Co-operative Department after the drawing up of the balance-sheet, then the West Punjab Co-operative Department will be entitled to keep sufficient margin to cover outstanding items and the remainder, subject to orders of Government, will be paid.

(Sd.) P.K.Kaul
Financial Commissioner
Development, East Punjab,
27.5.1948.

(Sd.) J.W. Hearn,
Financial Commissioner,
Development, West Punjab.
27.5.1948.

PROCEDURE FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE OF EVACUEE PROPERTY

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Rehabilitation on May 13 said:

Under the Inter-Dominion agreement arrived at in Karachi early this year all evacuee owners are entitled to sell or exchange their urban immovable property and the Custodian is bound to confirm the transfer unless (a) the transferer fails to produce a certificate signed by the prescribed income-tax authority certifying that the transferer has paid all taxes due from him to the Income Tax Department in respect of his property, business or undertaking, or has made staisfactory arrangements for the payment thereof; or (b) he has failed to pay any other dues outstanding against him in the Custodian's registers in respect of his own property or third party claims recognised ex-parte by the Custodian.

In this connection the followng procedure has been agreed to between the two Dominions.

After a transaction of sale or exchange has been negotiated the evacuee owner will make such arrangement as he thinks necessary for discharging third party claims including the amount payable to the Custodian in respect of the evacuees' property.

Information about third party claims recognised by the Custodian can be had on application to him or to the Deputy Custodian of the District concerned.

If these claims include claim on a scheduled bank which has ceased to function in India or Pakistan, as the case may be, it will be possible to clear the claim of such a bank only by deposit of the amount with the Custodian who has recognised the claim. After the deposit, if any, has been made in respect of the claim of the scheduled bank and other third party claims have either been discharged or arrangements made for payment thereof to the satisfaction of the Custodian, he will issue a "No Objection Certificate".

While approaching the Custodian for such a certificate a copy of the draft deed which is proposed to be registered will also be submitted. A certificate will also be produced at this stage from the prescribed income-tax authority.

After obtaining the "No Objection Certificate" the parties will be at liberty to get the transaction registered. On production of the registered document by the parties or any one of them, the Custodian shall as a matter of course issue the formal confirmation order.

If for any reasons the parties or any one of them want to cancel the transaction or resile thereform as the case may be, the party which has deposited the money with the Custodian on account of the scheduled bank or on account of any other third party, will be entitled to refund of all the amount deposited in this connection.

If a third party claim has been registered with the Custodian and the correctness of the claim in whole or in part is challenged by the evacuee owner, he may apply to the Custodian for a review of the order. The order of the Custodian passed on such an application shall be final and binding on both the creditor and the debtor for the purpose of the proceedings under the Evacuee Property Act

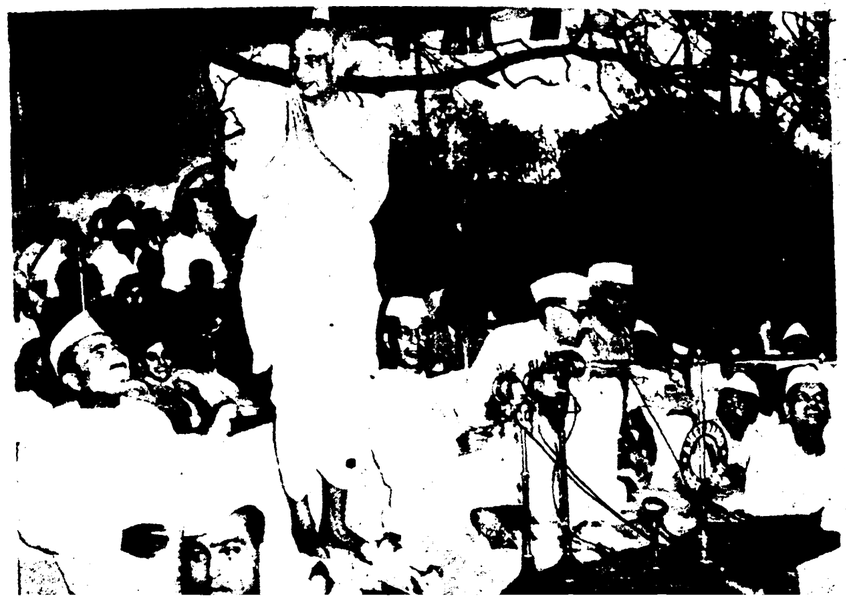
Exchanges or sales effected in contravention of the procedure outlined above will not be recognised by the Custodian of Evacuee Property. Any person buying or exchanging evacuee urban immovable property without satisfying himself that the vendor has followed the correct procedure before the sale or exchange deed is registered, may find that he has acquired no title to the property. The Custodian may refuse to confirm the transaction.

VERIFICATION AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

It was decided at the Inter-Dominion Conference on Banking held at Lahore on April 22 and 23, 1949, that the two Dominions should take special steps for the verification and settlement of claims of displaced depositors in co-operative



SARDAR PATEL'S VISIT TO INDORE— Sardar Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, visited Indore on May 6 to address the second session of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. (Above) Sardar Patel on arrival at Indore photographed with H.H. the Maharaja of Gwalior (left) Shri Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, Government of India (second from left) H.H. the Maharaja of Indore (fourth from left) and Shri V.P. Menon (right) Political Adviser to the States Ministry. (Below) Sardar Patel acknowledging greetings of the delegates to the Indian National Trade Union Congress before delivering his address







H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, inaugurating the 8th Session of the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference in Bangalore on May 16. On H. E.'s left are Shri Devadas Gandhi and Shri C. R. Srinivasan →

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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 B. L. Sharma, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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INDIA'S ASSOCIATION WITH COMMONWEALTH

Pandit Nehru's Speech in Constituent Assembly

PANDIT Jawaharlal Nehru spoke in defence of India's decision to remain a member of the Commonwealth when the Constituent Assembly of India met on May 16, 1949.

The London Declaration of the Commonwealth Premiers' Conference, Pandit Nehru said, was in conformity with "our old pledges" and in no way limited India's Freedom or Sovereignty. There could be little doubt that this continuing association with the Commonwealth at the present moment was beneficial to India and in a larger sense to certain world causes that India represented. To put it negatively, not to have it would certainly have been detrimental to these world causes.

Here is the text of Pandit Nehru's speech:

I have the honour to move the following motion:

"*Resolved that this Assembly do hereby ratify the declaration, agreed to by the Prime Minister of India, on the continued membership of India in the Commonwealth of Nations, as set out in the official statement issued at the conclusion of the Conference of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London on April 27, 1949*"

All Hon'ble members have been supplied with copies of this declaration and so I shall not read it over again. I shall merely point out very briefly some salient features of this declaration. It is a short and simple document in four paragraphs. The first paragraph, it will be noticed, deals with the present position in law. It refers to the British Commonwealth of Nations and to the fact that the people in this Commonwealth owe a common allegiance to the Crown. That in law is the present position.

Symbol of Association

The next paragraph of this declaration states that the Government of India have informed the Governments of the other Commonwealth countries that India is soon going to be a sovereign independent Republic; further that they desire to continue her full membership of the Commonwealth of Nations, accepting the King as a symbol of the free association, etc.

The third paragraph says that the other Commonwealth countries accept this and the fourth paragraph ends by saying that all these countries remain united as free and equal members of the Commonwealth of Nations.

You will notice that while in the first paragraph that is referred to as the British Commonwealth of Nations, in the subsequent paragraphs that is referred to only as the Commonwealth of Nations. Further you will notice that while in the first paragraph there is the question of allegiance to the Crown which exists at present, later of course this question does not arise because India becoming a Republic goes outside the Crown area completely. There is a reference, in connection with the Commonwealth, to the King as the symbol of that association. Observe that the reference is to the King and not to the Crown. It is a small matter but it has certain small significance.

But the point is this that so far as the Republic of India is concerned, her constitution and her working are concerned, she has nothing to do with any external authority, with any King, and none of her subjects owe any allegiance to the King or any other external authority. That Republic may, however, agree to associate itself with certain other countries that happen to be monarchies or whatever they choose to be.

This declaration therefore states that this new Republic of India, completely sovereign and owing no allegiance to the King, as the other Commonwealth countries do owe, will nevertheless be a full member of this Commonwealth and it agrees that as a symbol of this free partnership or association rather, the King will be recognised as such.

Now, I am placing this declaration before this Honourable House for their approval. Beyond this approval, there is no question of any law being framed in accordance with it. There is no law behind the Commonwealth. It has not even the formality which normally accompanies treaties. It is an agreement by free will to be terminated by free will. Therefore there will be no further legislation or law if this House approves of this.

In this particular declaration nothing very much is said about the position of the King except that he will be a symbol, but it has been made perfectly clear—it was made perfectly clear—that the King has no functions at all. He has a certain status. The Commonwealth itself, as such, is no body, if I may say so; it has no organisation to function and the King also can have no functions.

Entirely Novel Thing

Now, some consequences flow from this. Apart from certain friendly approaches to each other, apart from a desire to co-operate, which will always be conditioned by each party deciding on the measure of co-operation and following its own policy, there is no obligation. There is hardly any obligation in the nature of commitments that flow. But an attempt has been made to produce something which is entirely novel, and I can very well understand lawyers on the one hand feeling somewhat uncomfortable at a thing for which they can find no precedent or parallel.

There may also be others feeling that behind this there might be something which they cannot quite understand, something risky, something dangerous, because the thing is so simple on the face of it. That kind of difficulty may arise in people's mind. What I have stated elsewhere I should like to repeat that there is absolutely nothing behind this except what is placed before this House.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

One or two matters I may clear up, which are not mentioned in this declaration. One of those, as I have said, is that the King has no functions at all. This was cleared up in the course of our proceedings; it has no doubt been recorded in the minutes of the conference in London. Another point was that one of the objects of this kind of Commonwealth association is now to create a status which is something between being completely foreign and being of one nationality.

Obviously the Commonwealth countries belong to different nations. There are different nationalities. Normally either you have a common nationality or you are foreign. There is no intermediate stage. Up till now in this Commonwealth or the British Commonwealth of Nations, there was a binding link which was allegiance to the King. With that link, therefore, in a sense there was common nationality in a broad way. That snaps, that ends when we become a Republic, and if we should desire to give a certain preference or a certain privilege to any one of these countries, we would normally be precluded from doing so because of what is called the "most favoured nation clause" that every country would be as much foreign as any other country.

Now, we want to take away that foreignness, keeping in our own hands

institutions in the Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Alwar, and Bharatpur States, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi on the one hand and North West Frontier Province, Khairpur and Bahawalpur on the other.

Depositors in co-operative institutions in North-West Frontier Province, Khairpur and Bhawalpur, who have migrated to India, are accordingly requested to send in their claims to the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, East Punjab, Simla, with full particulars such as name, father's name, name of Society or institution in which a deposit was made, the amount of the deposit, the number and date of the deposit receipt, if any, and the date on which the deposit is normally due to be paid.

It was also decided at this Conference that similar arrangements should be made in regard to claims of displaced shareholders in co-operative institutions in the above mentioned territories and in East and West Punjab. Displaced shareholders in Co-operative institutions in West Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Bhawalpur and Khairpur who have migrated to India, are requested to present their claims with similar particulars to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, East Punjab.

All these claims should be sent so as to reach the Registrar not later than June 15, 1949.

EXPORT RESTRICTIONS TO PAKISTAN RELAXED

A Press Note issued by the Chief Controller of Exports on May 10 said:

In continuation of the Press Note dated April 22, 1949, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, regarding liberalisation of export of certain controlled commodities, it has been decided to allow export of jams and marmalades of indigenous manufacture to Pakistan without any export licensing restrictions till further instructions.

Similarly candles of indigenous manufacture will also be allowed for export to Pakistan without licenses.

Further it has been decided that motor vehicles batteries (indigenous) which are already on the free list for export to Pakistan shall now be allowed for export without licences to all other permissible destinations as well.

The prices of Grade III A and Grade III B coal have been reduced by Rs. 1.7.0 and Rs. 2.4.0 per ton respectively, according to a notification published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated April 21, 1949, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 30.

The revised prices for Grade III A are Rs. 11.12.0 for Run of Mine, Dust Coal and Flack and Rs. 12.12.0 for Steam Coal, Rubble and Smithy Nuts. The corresponding prices for Grade III B are Rs. 10.9.0 and Rs. 11.9.0

SALT PRODUCTION PROSPECTS IN WEST BENGAL AND ORISSA

THE prospects of salt raising in West Bengal and Orissa are discussed in an article appearing in the May issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*. It is stated that it is possible to raise salt on the coastal regions of these Provinces which would meet their own needs.

Since partition India is deficit in respect of her common salt requirements. Considerable quantities were being imported from West Punjab salt mines. The problem of providing adequate supplies of salt for West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar therefore needs close attention.

It is pointed out that climatic conditions and other factors like temperature, rainfall, wind velocity, span of salt season, salinity of brine and availability of fuel in these regions compare favourably with the conditions obtaining in Bombay, Okha, Madras, Cocoanada and Gopalpur where salt industry is at present thriving. Contai, Sunderbans and Sagor (West Bengal) and Balasore (Orissa) are considered to be ideal localities for salt raising.

For the commercial manufacture of salt along the coast-land of West Bengal and Orissa the method (solar evaporation) followed in other places in India is recommended. It is, however, pointed out that it is advisable to provide for evaporation by boiling if the level of production has to be raised and maintained.

Salt can be successfully manufactured in these areas by combining solar evaporation (70 per cent) and boiling by artificial means (30 per cent.)

The sea board of Contai has tracts covering over 9,000 acres which can be developed to saltems. At present, only 150 acres of this area have been developed. If this area is fully developed an outturn of more than 40 lakh maunds of salt can be realised, and this is the present annual requirement of West Bengal.

Besides there are suitable sites in the Sunderbans (24 Parganas) where about 5,000 acres of land is available for salt raising and from which 15 to 20 lakh maunds of salt can be anticipated.

Lac-Linseed Oil Varnish

The possibility of using lime in place of litharge as an incorporating agent in the preparation of Lac-Linseed oil combinations has been investigated at the Lac Research Institute, Ranchi. The results of the investigations carried out are presented in a research paper appearing in this issue of the Journal. The findings are :

Lac can be incorporated in linseed oil into which 5 per cent of lime on the weight of lac has been dissolved :

In place of lime, the equivalent quantity of precipitated calcium linoleate or stearate may be used ;

Other metallic soaps like zinc, stearate, potassium linoleate, etc., also assist in the incorporation of lac in linseed oil;

Lime may be partially replaced by litharge to improve the drying characteristics of the composition ;

The products obtained in either case are practically similar to those obtained using litharge alone except for the drying characteristics. They have, however, better ageing properties ; and

Cobalt or manganese together with lead may be used to improve the drying properties.

The influence of certain vat dyes, *e.g.*, Ciba Blue 2B and Cibanone Orange R, on the oxidation of cotton cellulose by sodium hypochlorite liquors are discussed in another research paper appearing in the Journal. Ciba Blue 2B in the reduced state has no influence on the rate of oxidation. Cibanone orange R on the other hand, under similar conditions causes a considerable acceleration of the oxidation of cellulose. When a mixture of these two dyes is employed reduced Cibanone Orange R loses its identity in the presence of reduced Ciba Blue 2B.

TRAINING INDIAN ENGINEERS IN MINING

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on April 30 said:

In connection with the scheme recently advertised in the Press for the training of Indian Engineers in open cast mining in the U.K. by Messrs Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co. Ltd., the Government of India have constituted a Committee to interview suitable candidates and make recommendations to the Government.

The Committee will consist of (i) Dr. J.C. Ghosh, Director-General, Industries and Supplies (Chairman) (ii) Mr. L.S. Corbett, Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production)—Member/Secretary, and a representative of Messrs Sir Lindsay Parkinson (India) Ltd., Calcutta—Member.

The Committee will meet at Calcutta. The final selection will be made by Government after considering the recommendations of the Committee.

The training will be limited to 30 candidates. On satisfactory completion of the training and if found otherwise suitable, the engineers will be appointed to the specified posts in the Indian Mining and Construction Co., which is a joint enterprise of the Government of India and Sir Lindsay Parkinson (India) Ltd.

R.I.A.F. NAVIGATORS' TRAINING FLIGHT

IN order to overcome the shortage of navigators in the Royal Indian Air Force, an Air Navigators' Training Flight has been established at the RIAF Elementary Flying Training School, Jodhpur.

Dakota aircraft are being specially fitted with seats, desks, instrument panels, maps and chart boards to serve as flying class-rooms.

The syllabus is divided into initial, basic, applied and operational training and conforms to the one followed in British navigators' training centres. The first batch of trainees has been drawn from the RIAF cadets under training who have not been found suitable to become pilots.

They will be commissioned and will earn their navigator's badges (half wings) after they have successfully completed a year of intensive training in instrumental and astral navigation, armament, radio, radar, meteorology, aircraft instruments, maps and charts, aerodynamics and a hundred-hour flying. But before joining first-line RIAF squadrons, the trainees will undergo a further course lasting three months with conversion and training squadrons.

F/Lt. C.H. Naire, who has been selected the first Chief Instructor of the Training Flight, is a graduate from the Empire Navigation School, Shawbury, Great Britain, and has considerable experience in navigational training. He is assisted by Flying Officers S.L. Mathur and P.N. Mukherjee, both U.K.-trained navigators.

Most of the navigators who served with RIAF Vultee-Vengeance dive-bomber squadrons during the war were trained at Ambala, where navigators' training facilities were made available in 1939. This establishment was closed down three years later, but with the formation of Dakota squadron in the RIAF in 1946, a school for imparting ground instructions only was incorporated with No. 2 Ground Training School, Tambaram, prior to joining Straight Aviation Ltd., a well-known navigators' training concern in the United Kingdom.

PROGRESS OF NATIONAL ACADEMY PROJECT

The Government of India have constituted a Construction Committee and a Supervisory Board to watch the progress of the National Academy project at Kharakvasla, near Poona, according to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on May 4.

The Construction Committee held its first meeting in the third week of last month, when it reviewed the progress of the project already made and took necessary action to speed it up.

The Committee will be meeting periodically to ensure that effective action is being taken to implement the scheme.



Group Captain R. Rajaram

GROUP CAPTAIN R. RAJARAM, D.F.C.

THIRTY-TWO year old Group Captain R. Rajaram, who received the Distinguished Flying Cross from Air Commodore R.H.D. Singh at a Special presentation parade held on May 5, at the R.I.A.F. Station, Tambaram, comes of a family of flying enthusiasts from the Madura District in South India.

He and his elder brother, R. Sitaram—also a Group Captain in the R.I.A.F.—obtained their pilot licences from the Madras Flying Club before they volunteered together for service in the Indian Air Force in 1939. Their father, Mr. B.S. Ramaswami Iyer, well-known in engineering circles in the province, had also obtained his 'A' licence as a pilot from the same club before the war.

Being one of the first batch of pilots to be selected at the out-break of the war, young Rajaram, after receiving his training at Ambala, was called upon to lead the first R.I.A.F. Flight to Moulmein and Bassein during the early days of the Japanese campaigns.

Later he carried out operational duties with R.I.A.F. Squadrons on the Burma front and subsequently commanded No. 1 Squadron which along with other squadrons earned distinction for its exploits against the Japanese.

It was here that he, as Squadron Leader, earned his D.F.C. for out-standing "courage, determination and leadership." During the campaign he "completed over 300 hours of operational flying in ten months, all in the Manipur North Burma area." "He has shown himself," says the citation, "a most accomplished tactical reconnaissance pilot."

For over 16 months now he has been in command of No.2 Ground Training School, Tambaram, the only technical institution of its kind in the R.I.A.F.

R.I.A.F. APPRENTICE TRAINING SCHEME

An apprentice training scheme, first of its kind in India, has been embodied in the RIAF Technical Training College, which will start functioning at Bangalore.

The aim of the scheme is to impart technical training of a high standard and to offer a good Service career in the RIAF to Indian school boys between the ages of 15 and 17½.

During the period of apprenticeship, which will last two years, the trainees will receive free messing and initial issue of clothing, free travel twice a year to and from the place of residence in addition to a monthly stipend admissible.

Subject to Service requirements and individual aptitude, every apprentice will have the choice to be trained in any one of the seven trades, namely, armourer, electrician, fitter mechanic (air frames), fitter mechanic (engines), radar operator and wireless operator.

Among the training staff are a number of highly qualified and experienced British Instructors, formerly of the well-known Aeronautical School of Training at Hamble, England.

AGE-LIMIT FOR ADMISSION TO PWRIM COLLEGE

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on May 12, the Government of India have decided to reduce the minimum age-limit for entry into the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College at Dehra Dun from 11 to 10 years. Hitherto the prescribed age for entry was between 11 and 12 years.

Now the age-limit has been widened to between 10 and 12 years. Boys within the age-limits of 10 and 12 will therefore be eligible for admission from the next term of the institution, beginning on August 1, 1949.

The intake of boys in the PWRIM College has also been increased and there will be approximately 20 additional vacancies next session.

According to a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Defence on May 10, it has been found that many candidates who are applicants for admission either to the Inter-Service Wing or the Military Wing of the Armed Forces Academy, Dehra Dun, and have not been informed of their results, do not generally put in fresh applications for the next course in the hope of being selected for the first.

Such candidates are advised, in their own interest, to apply, if otherwise eligible, for the next course without waiting for the result of the first. If they are selected for the first course, their applications for the next will be automatically treated as cancelled.

This applies equally to those candidates who have been placed in 'Deferred' grade by the Services Selection Board.

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which may be harmful. Largely our educational apparatus has been influenced, largely our military apparatus has been influenced by these considerations and we have grown up naturally as something rather like the British Army. I am placing before the House certain entirely practical considerations.

If we break a way completely, the result is that without making sufficient provision for carrying on in a different way we have a gap period; of course if we have to pay a price, we may choose to do so. If we do not want to pay the price, we should not pay it and face the consequences.

India's Approach

But in the present instance we have to consider not only these minor gains, which I have mentioned to you, to us and to others but if I may say so, the larger approach to world problems. I felt as I was conferring there in London with the representatives of other Governments that I had necessarily to stick completely and absolutely to the Sovereignty and Independence of the Indian Republic. I could not possibly compromise on any allegiance to any foreign authority. I did that.

I also felt that in the state of the world today and in the state of India and Asia, it would be a good thing if we approached this question in a friendly spirit there which would solve the problems in Asia and elsewhere. I am afraid I am a bad bargainer. I am not used to the ways of the market place. I hope I am a good fighter and I hope I am a good friend. I am not anything in between and so when you have to bargain hard for anything, don't send me. When you want to fight, I hope I shall fight and then when you are decided about a certain thing then you must hold to it and hold to it to the death, but about other minor things I think it is far better to gain the goodwill of the other party.

It is far more precious to come to a decision in friendship and goodwill than to gain a word here and there at the cost of ill-will. So I approached this problem and may I say how I felt about others. I would like to pay a tribute to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and to others also there because they approached this in that spirit also, not so much to get some debating or a change of a word here and there in this declaration. It was possible that if I had tried my hardest I might have got a word here and there changed in this declaration but the essence could not have been changed because there was nothing more for us to get out of that declaration. I preferred not to do so because I preferred creating an impression and I hope a right impression that the approach of India to these and the other problems of the world was not a narrow minded approach.

It was the approach based on faith and confidence in her own strength and in her own future and therefore it was not afraid of any country coming in the way of that faith, it was not afraid of any word or phrase in any document but it was based essentially on this that if you approach another country in a friendly way, with goodwill and generosity, you will be paid back in the same coin and probably the payment will be in an even larger measure.

I am quite convinced that in treatment of nations to one another as in the case of individuals only out of goodwill will you get goodwill and no amount of intrigues and cleverness will get you good results out of evil ways. Therefore I thought that that was an occasion not only to impress England but others also, in fact to some extent the world because this matter that was being discussed at No. 10 Downing Street in London was something that drew the attention of the entire world. It drew the attention of the world, partly because India is a very important country, potentially so, and actually so too. And the world was interested to see how this very complicated and difficult problem which appeared insoluble, could be solved. It could not be solved if we had left it to eminent lawyers.

Faith in India's Future

Lawyers have their use in life; but they should not be spread out everywhere. It could not have been solved by these extreme, narrow-minded nationalists who cannot see to the right or to the left, but live in a narrow sphere of their own, and therefore forget that the world is going ahead. It could not be solved by people who live in the past and cannot realise that the present is different from the past and that the future is going to be still more different. It could not be solved by any person who lacked faith in India and in India's destiny.

I wanted the world to see that India does not lack faith in herself, and that India is prepared to co-operate even with those with whom she had been fighting in the past; provided the basis of co-operation to-day is honourable, that it is free basis, a basis which would lead to the good not only of ourselves but of the world also. That is to say, we would not deny that co-operation simply because in the past we have had a fight, and thus carry on the trail of our past "karma" along with us. We have to wash out the past with all its evil.

I wanted, if I may say so in all humility, to help in letting the world look at things in a slightly different perspective, or rather try to see how vital questions can be approached and dealt with. We have seen too often in the arguments that go on in the assemblies of the world, this bitter approach, this cursing of each other, this desire not, in the least, to understand the other, but deliberately to misunderstand the other, and to make clever points about it.

Now it may be a satisfying performance for any of us on occasions to make clever points and be applauded by our people or by some other people. But in the state of the world today, it is a poor thing for any responsible person to do, when we live in the verge of catastrophic wars, when national passions are roused and when even a casually spoken word might make all the difference.

Some people have thought that by our joining or continuing to remain in the Commonwealth of Nations we are



Shrimati Vijayalakshmi, India's Ambassador to the U. S. A., photographed on arrival in Washington on May 9

drifting away from our neighbours in Asia, or that it has become more difficult for us to co-operate with other countries, great countries in the world.

But I think it is easier for us to develop closer relations with other countries while we are in the Commonwealth than it might have been otherwise. That is rather a peculiar thing to say. Nevertheless I say it, and I have given a great deal of thought to this matter.

The Commonwealth does not come in the way of our co-operation and friendship with other countries. Ultimately we shall have to decide, and ultimately the decision will depend on our own strength. If we are completely dissociated from the Commonwealth, for the moment we are completely isolated. We cannot remain completely isolated and so inevitably by stress of circumstances, we have to incline in some direction or other. But that inclination in some direction or other will necessarily be a give-and-take affair. It may be in the nature of alliances, you give something yourself and get something in return. In other words it may involve commitments, for more than at present.

Prestige in World Affairs

There are no commitments to-day. In that sense, I say we are freer to-day to come to friendly understanding with other countries and to play the part, if you like, of a bridge for mutual understanding between other countries. I do not wish to place this too high; nevertheless, it is no good placing it too low either. I should like you to look round at the world to-day and look more especially during the last two years or so, at the relative position of India and the rest of the world. I think you will find that during this period of two years or even slightly less, India has gone up in the scale of nations in its influence and in its prestige. It is a little difficult for me to tell you exactly what India has done or has not done.

It would be absurd for anyone to expect that India can become the crusader for all causes in the world and bring forth results. Even in cases that have borne fruit, it is not a thing to be proclaimed from the housetops. But something which does not require any proclamation is the fact of India's present prestige and influence in world affairs. Considering that she came on the scene as an independent nation only a year and a half or a little more ago, it is astonishing—the part that India has played to-day.

Joint Declaration

One thing I should like to say, and it is this. Obviously a declaration of this type, or the Resolution that I have placed before the House is not capable of amendment. It is either accepted or rejected. I am surprised to see that some Hon'ble Members have sent notices of amendments. Any treaty with any foreign power can be accepted or rejected. It is a joint declaration of eight or is it nine countries—and it cannot be amended in this House or in any House. It can be accepted or rejected. I would,

India's Ambassador in Nepal

The Government of India have appointed Shri Chandreshwar Prasad Narain Singh, Vice-Chancellor of the Patna University, as Ambassador of India in Nepal in succession to Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 18.

therefore, beg of you to consider this business in all its aspects. First of all make sure that it is in conformity with our old pledges, that it does violence to none.

If it is proved to me that it does violence to any pledge that we have undertaken, that it limits India's freedom in any way, then I shall be no party to it certainly. Secondly you should see whether it does good to ourselves and to the rest of the world. I think there can be little doubt that it does us good, that this continuing association at the present moment is beneficial for us, and it is beneficial in the larger sense, to certain world causes that we represent. And lastly, if I may put it in a negative way, not to have had this agreement would certainly have been detrimental to those world causes as well as to ourselves.

Touch of Healing

And finally about the value I should like this House to attach to this declaration and to the whole business of those talks resulting in this declaration. It is a method, a desirable method, and a method which brings a touch of healing with it. In this world which is to-day sick and which has not recovered from so many wounds during the last decade or more, it is necessary that we touch upon the world problems, not with passion and prejudice and with too much repetition of what has ceased to be but in a friendly way and with a touch of healing and I think the chief value of this declaration and of what preceded it was that it did bring a touch of healing in our relations with certain countries. We are in no way subordinate to them, and they are in no way subordinate to us. We shall go our way and they shall go their way.

But our ways, unless something happens will be friendly ways; at any rate, attempts will be made to understand each to be friends with each other and to co-operate with each other. And the fact that we have begun this new type of association with a touch of healing will be good for us, good for them, and I think, good for the world.

REPLY TO DEBATE

In his reply on May 17, to the two-day debate in the Constituent Assembly on India's decision to remain in the Commonwealth of Nations, the Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, said:—

We have had a fairly full debate since yesterday and many Hon'ble Members have spoken in approval of this motion. In fact, if I may say so, some of them have even gone a little further than I might perhaps have gone. They have drawn some consequences and pointed out some implications which for my part I would not have approved or accepted. However, it is open to all of us and to each one of us to see the future in a particular way.

So far as this resolution of mine and the Declaration of London are concerned what we have got to see are these: Number one, that it fulfils, or at any rate it does not go against any pledges of ours; that is to say, that it takes India forward, or does not come in the way of India going forward to her natural destination of a Sovereign Independent Republic.

Secondly, that it helps India, or does not hinder India in making rapid progress in the other domains in the course of the next few years. We have, in a sense, solved the political problem, but the political problem is intimately connected with the economic condition of the country. We are being faced by many economic difficulties. They are our domestic concern, no doubt, but obviously the world can help or hinder any policy that we might adopt.

Now, does this proposal which is contained in this Declaration help our speedy progress economically and otherwise or not? That is another test. I am prepared to admit that even without external help, we will go ahead. But obviously it will be a far more difficult task and it will take a much longer time. It is not an easy matter to do that.

The third test is whether in the world, as it is today, it helps in the promotion of peace and the avoidance of war. Some people talk about encouraging this particular Group or that, this bloc or that. We are all, I am afraid, in the habit of considering ourselves or our friends as angels and others the reverse of angels. We are all apt to think that we stand for the forces of progress and democracy and others don't. I must confess that in spite of my own pride in India and her people, I have grown more humble about talking in terms of our being in the vanguard of progress or democracy.

Difficult Times

In the last two or three years, we have passed through difficult times, humiliating times. We have lived through them. That has been something in our favour. We have survived them. But I hope we have learned our lesson from them. For my part I am a little chary now of condemning this or that person or this or that nation, because the hands of no individual or nation are clean in such matters. And there is far too much of the habit of condemning other nations as being the wrong-doers or the war-mongers, and yet doing exactly the same thing oneself.

If one looks round the world—of course one favours certain policies—one is against some things and thinks that these are dangerous and might lead to war, but others are not. But the most amazing thing that strikes me is this: if you look back during the last 20

years or more which have comprised two wars and the period between these wars, you will find the same cries, changing slightly with the changed situation of course, but nevertheless the cries, the same approaches, the same fears and suspicions and the same arming on all sides and war coming. The same talk of this being the last war, the fight for democracy and all the rest of it is heard on every side. And then the war ends, but the same conflicts continue and again the same preparation for war. Then another war comes. Now that is a very extraordinary thing, because I am convinced that hardly anybody in this wide world wants war, barring a few persons or groups who make profit by war.

Nobody and no country wants war. As war becomes more and more terrible they want it still less. Yet some past evil or "Karma" or some destiny goes on pushing people in a particular direction, towards the abyss and they go through the same arguments and they perform the same gestures like automatons.

Fear of War

Now, are we fated to do that? I do not know, but anyhow I want to fight against that tendency of talking about war and preparation for war. Obviously no country and no Government of any country dare allow its country to be unprepared for contingencies. We have to prepare ourselves unfortunately, unless we are brave enough to follow the policy that the Mahatmaji laid down. If we are brave enough, well and good, we take the chance. I do believe that if we are brave enough that policy would be the right policy.

But it is not so much a question of my being brave or your being brave, but of the country being brave enough to follow and understand that policy. I do not think we have been brought up to that level of understanding and behaviour. Indeed when we talk about that great level, I should say that in the last year and a half we have sunk to the lowest depths of behaviour in this country. So let us not take the name of the Mahatma in vain in this country.

Anyhow we cannot, no Government can say that it stands for peace and do nothing at all. We have to take precautions and prepare ourselves to the best of our ability. We cannot blame any other Government which does that, because that is an inevitable precaution that one has to take. But, apart from that, it seems to me that some Governments or many Governments go much further. They talk all the time of war. They blame the other party all the time. They try to make out that the other party is completely wrong or is a warmonger and so on and so forth. In fact they create the very conditions which lead to war.

In talking of peace and our love of peace we or they create the conditions that in the past have invariably led to war. The conditions that ultimately generally lead to war are economic conflicts and this and that. But I do not think today it is economic conflict or even political conflict that is going to lead to war, but rather the overmastering fear, the fear that the other party will certainly overwhelm one, the fear that the other party is increasing its strength gradually and would become so strong as to be unassailable and so each party goes on arming and arming with the deadliest weapons. I am sorry I have drifted off in this direction.

How are we to meet this major evil of the day? Some people may join up with this group which stands for peace while others may join up with the other group which, according to them, stands for some other kind of peace or progress. But I am quite convinced in my own mind that by joining up in this way, I do not help the cause of peace. That, in fact, only intensifies the atmosphere of fear. Then what am I to do?

I do not believe in sitting inactively or practising the policy of escapism. You cannot escape. You have to face the problem and try to beat it and overcome it. Therefore the people who think that our policy is a kind of passive negation or is an insane policy, they are mistaken. That has not been ever my idea on this subject. I think it is and it ought to be our policy, a positive policy, a definite policy, to strive to overcome the general trend towards war in people's minds.

Huge Problem

I know that in this huge problem before the world, India may not be a strong enough factor. She may be a feeble factor to change it or alter it. That may be so. I cannot claim any necessary results. But nevertheless I say that the only policy that India should pursue in this matter is a positive, definite policy of avoiding this drift to war by other countries also and of avoiding this atmosphere becoming so charged with fear and suspicion, etc. and of not acclaiming this country or that even though they may claim to make the world rational, but rather laying stress on those qualities of those countries which are good, which are acceptable and drawing out the best from them and thereby, in so far as it may be possible to work to lessen the tensions and work for peace. Whether we succeed or not is another thing.

But it is in our hands now to work with might and main in the direction we consider right, not because we are afraid or fear has overwhelmed us. We have gone through many frightful things and I do not think anything is going to happen in India or the world that is going to frighten us any more.

Nevertheless we do not want this world to suffer or go through another world disaster from which you and I cannot escape and our country cannot escape. No policy can make us escape from that. Even if war does not spread to this country, even so if the war comes from abroad it will engulf the world and India. We have to face this problem,



MOTTO FOR STATE EMBLEM

"Satyameva Jayate" — "Truth alone triumphs" — is the motto decided upon by the Government of India for inclusion in the State Emblem and Seal, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 10.

The motto in Devanagari script will appear in the scroll underneath the crest in the seal.

The motto has been selected as embodying the cardinal principle of Gokulmai Gandhi and as being acceptable to men of all religions.

The State Emblem and Seal with the motto will be adopted with immediate effect.

This is more a psychological problem than a practical one, although it has practical applications. I think that in a sense India is partly suited to do it, partly suited because in spite of our being feeble and rather unworthy followers of Gandhiji, nevertheless we have imbibed to some small extent what he told us.

Secondly, in these world conflicts you will see there is a succession of one action following another; inevitably one leading to another and so the chain of evils spreads; war comes and the evils that follow wars come after that and they themselves lead to another war and that chain of events goes on and each country is caught within this cycle of karma or evil or whatever you call it.

Now, so far these evils have brought about wars in the West, because in a sense these evils were concentrated in the Western powers; I do not by any means say that the Eastern powers are virtuous. So far the West or Europe has been the centre of political activity, had dominated the politics of the world. Therefore, their disputes and their quarrels and their wars have dominated the world.

Now, fortunately we in India are not inheritors of these hatreds of Europe. We may like a person or dislike something or an idea, but we have not got that past inheritance on our backs. Therefore it may be slightly easier for us in facing these problems, whether in

RAJAJI'S MESSAGE ON AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The following message was sent by H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, to His Majesty Mohammad Zahir Shah, King of Afghanistan on the occasion of the Afghan Independence Day on May 27:

On the occasion of the Afghan Independence Day, may I convey to Your Majesty, your Government and the people of Afghanistan, the fraternal greetings of the Government and people of India. I hope that the bond of friendship that happily exists between our countries will grow from strength to strength and that Afghanistan will enjoy greater prosperity in the years to come.

international assemblies or elsewhere, to deal with them not only objectively and dispassionately but also with the goodwill of others who may not suspect us of any fund of ill will derived from the past. It may be that a country can only function effectively if it has a certain strength behind it. I am not for the moment thinking of material or war strength—that of course counts—but the general strength behind it.

A feeble country which cannot look after itself, how is it to look after the World and others? All these considerations I should like this House to have before it and then to decide on this relatively minor question which I have placed before the House, because I had all these considerations and I felt first of all that it was my duty to see that Indian freedom and independence was in no way touched.

Additional Achievement

It was obvious that the Republic that we have decided on will come into existence. I think we have achieved that. We would have achieved that, of course, in any event, but we have achieved that with the goodwill of many others. That, I think, is some additional achievement. To achieve it with the goodwill of those who perhaps are hit by it is some achievement. It shows that the manner of doing things—the manner which does not leave any trace of hatred or illwill behind it—starts a fund of goodwill—is important. Goodwill is always precious from any quarter.

Therefore I had a feeling when I was considering this matter in London and later, in a small measure perhaps, I had done something that would have met with the approval of Gandhiji. The manner of it I am thinking of, more than the thing itself. I thought that this in itself would raise a fund of goodwill in this world—goodwill which in a smaller sense is to our advantage certainly, and to the advantage of England, but also in a larger sense to the advantage of the world in these psychological conflicts which people try to resolve by blaming each other, by cursing each other, and saying that the others are to blame. Maybe somebody is to blame; maybe some politicians or big men are to blame, but nobody can blame those millions of men who will die in these catastrophic wars. In every country the vast masses of human beings do not want wars. They are frightened of wars. Sometimes this very fright is exploited to revive wars because it can always be said that the other party is coming to attack you.

Therefore I want this House to consider not only that we have achieved in any event, nobody would have been able to prevent us—but what has a certain relevancy and importance is that we have achieved it in a way that helps us and helps others, in a way which does not leave evil consequences behind when we think that we have profited at somebody else's expense and that somebody thinks of that always and wants to take revenge later on. That is the way and if the world functions in that way, problems will be solved far more easily and wars and the consequences of wars will perhaps be fewer. They would be no more.

Moral Aspect

It is easy to talk about the faults of the British or of the imperialism and the colonialism of other countries. Perfectly true. You can make out a list of the good qualities and the bad qualities of every nation today, including certainly India. Even if you make that list, the question still remains how anyone is going to draw the good from the other parties and yourself and to lay the foundations for good in the future!

I have come to the conclusion that it does not help us very much either in the Government plane or in the national plane to lay stress on the evil in the other party. We must not ignore it; we have to fight it occasionally. We should be prepared for that, but with all that, I do not think this business of maintaining our own virtues and blaming the other party is going to help us in the understanding our real problem. It no doubt gives an inner satisfaction that we are virtuous while others are sinners. I am talking in religious phraseology which does not suit me, but the fact is that I do wish to bring this slightly moral aspect of this question before this Honourable House.

I would not dare to do any injury to the cause of India and then justify it on some high moral ground. No Government can do that. But if you can do a profitable business and at the same time it is good on moral grounds, then obviously it is worthy of our understanding and appreciation. I do submit that what we have done in no way, negatively speaking, injures us or can injure us. Positively, we have achieved politically what we wanted to achieve and we are likely to progress, to have more opportunities of progress, in this way than we would otherwise have in the next few years.

Finally, in the world context, it is something that encourages and helps peace, to what extent, I do not know and lastly, of course, it is a thing which in no way binds this country down to any country. It is open to this House or Parliament at any time to break this link, if they so choose, not that I want that link broken. But I am merely pointing out that we have not bound the future down in the slightest. The future is as free as air and this country can go any way it chooses. If it finds this way is a good way, it will stick to it, if not, it will go some other way and we have not bound it down. I do submit that this resolution that I have placed before this House embodying approval of the declaration, the decision at the Conference in London, is a motion which deserves the support and approval of this House, not merely, if I may say so, a passive approval and support, but the active appreciation of all that lies behind it and all that it may mean for the future of India that is gradually unrolling before our very eyes. Indeed all of us have hitched our wagons to the Star of India long ago.

Our future, our individual future depends on the future of India, and we have thought and dreamt of the future for a long time. Now we have arrived at a stage when we have to mould by our decisions and activities this future at every step. It is no longer good enough for us to talk of that future in terms merely of resolutions, merely in terms of denunciations of others and criticism of others; it is we who have to make it for good or ill; sometimes some of us are too fond of thinking of that future only in negative terms of denouncing others. Some members of this House who have opposed this motion and some others who are not in this House, who have opposed this motion, I have felt, have been totally unable to come out of that cage of the past in which we all of us have lived, even though the door was open for them to come mentally out.

World Has Changed

They have reminded us and some of our friends have been good enough to quote by speeches, which I delivered 15 and 20 years ago. Well if they attach so much value to my speeches, they might listen to my present speech a little more carefully. The world has changed. Evil still remains evil, and good is good; I do not mean to say that is not: and I think Imperialism is an evil thing and wherever it remains it has to be rooted out and colonialism is an evil thing and wherever it remains, it has to be rooted out, and racialism is an evil and has to be fought: All that is true. Nevertheless the world has changed; England has changed; Europe has changed; India has changed; everything has changed and is changing: and look at it now.

Look at Europe which for the last three hundred years has a period of magnificent achievement in the arts and sciences and it has built up a new civilization all over the world. It is really a magnificent period of which Europe or some countries of Europe can be greatly proud, but Europe also during those three hundred years or more has gradually spread out its domi-

what, if any, privileges or preference we can give to another country. That is a matter entirely for two countries to decide by treaty or arrangement, so that we create a new state of affairs—or try to create it—that the other countries, although in a sense foreign, are nevertheless not completely foreign.

I do not quite know how we shall proceed to deal with this matter at a later stage. That is for the House to decide—that is to say, to take the right, only the right to deal with Commonwealth countries, should we so choose, in regard to certain preferences or privileges. What they are to be, all that, of course, we shall in each case be the judge ourselves. Apart from those facts there has nothing been decided in secret or otherwise which has not been put before the public.

Commonwealth Citizenship

The House will remember that there was some talk at one stage of a Commonwealth citizenship. Now it too is difficult to understand what the contents of a Commonwealth citizenship might be except that it meant that they were not completely foreign to one another. That un-foreignness remains, but I think it is as well that we left off talking about something vague, which could not be surely defined, but the other fact remains as I have just stated: the fact that we should take the right to ourselves if we so chose to exercise it at any time to enter into treaties or arrangements with Commonwealth countries assuring certain mutual privileges and preferences.

I have briefly placed before this House this document. Is is a simple document and yet the House is fully aware that it is a highly important document or rather what it contains is of great and historical significance. I went some weeks ago as the Representative of India to this Conference, I had consulted my colleagues here, of course previously, because it was a great responsibility and no man is big enough to shoulder that responsibility by himself when the future of India is at stake.

Past Pledges

During the past many months we had often consulted each other, consulted great and representative organizations, consulted many members of this House. Nevertheless when I went, I carried this great responsibility and I felt the burden of it. I had able colleagues to advise me, but I was the sole representative of India and in a sense that future of India for the moment was in my keeping. I was alone in that sense and yet not quite alone because, as I travelled through the air and as I sat there at that Conference table the ghosts of many yesterdays of my life surrounded me and brought up picture after picture before me, sentinels and guardians keeping watch over me, telling me perhaps not to trip and not to forget them.

I remembered, as many Hon'ble members might remember that day, 19 years ago, when we took a pledge on the bank of the Ravi River, at the midnight hour, and I remembered January 26 the first time and that oft-repeated pledge year after year in spite of difficulty and obstruction, and finally, I remembered that day when standing at this very place, I placed a resolution before this House.

That was one of the earliest resolutions placed before this Honourable House, a resolution that is known as the Objectives Resolution. Two years and five months have elapsed since that happened. In that Resolution we defined more or less the type of free Government or Republic that we were going to have.

Later in another place and on a famous occasion, this subject also came up, that was at the Jaipur Session of the Congress, because not only my mind, but many minds were struggling with this problem, trying to find a way out that was in keeping with the honour and dignity and independence of India, and yet also in keeping with the changing world and with the facts as they were.

Something that would advance the cause of India, would help us, something that would advance the cause of peace in the world, and yet something which would be strictly and absolutely true to every single pledge that we have taken. It was clear to me that whatever the advantages might be of any association with the Commonwealth or with any other group, no single advantage, however great, could be purchased by a single iota of our pledges being given up, because no country can make progress by playing fast and loose with the principles which it has declared.

Jaipur Resolution

So, during these months we have thought and we had discussed amongst ourselves and I carried all this advice with me. May I read to you, perhaps just to refresh your minds the Resolution passed at the Jaipur Session of the Congress. It might be of interest to you and I would beg of you to consider the very wording of this Resolution.

"In view of the attainment of complete independence and the establishment of the Republic of India, which will symbolise with Independence and give to India the status among the nations of the world that is her rightful due, her present association with the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Nations will necessarily have to change. India however, desires to maintain all such links with other countries as do not come in the way of her freedom of action and independence and the Congress would welcome her free association with the independent nations of the Commonwealth for their commonwealth and the promotion of world peace."

You will observe that the last few lines of this Resolution are almost identical with the lines of the Declaration of London.

I went there guided and controlled by all our past pledges, ultimately guided and controlled by the Resolution of this Honourable House, by the Objectives Resolution and all that I as subsequently happened; also by the mandate given to me by the All India Congress Committee in that Resolution, and I stand before you to say with all humility that I have fulfilled that mandate to the letter (*Loud Cheers*).

All of us have been during those past many years through the valley of the shadow; we have passed our lives in opposition, in struggle and sometimes in failure and sometimes success and most of us are haunted by those dreams and visions of old days and those hopes that filled us and the frustrations that often followed those hopes; yet we have seen that even out of that prickly thorn of frustration and despair, we have been able to pick out the rose of fulfilment.

Let us not be led away by considering the situation in terms of events which are no longer here. You will see in the resolution of the Congress that I have read out, it says that necessarily because *India* becomes a Republic, the association of India with the Commonwealth must change. Of course. Further it says that free association may continue subject only to our complete freedom being assured.

No Commitments

Now, that is exactly what has been tried to be done in this declaration of London. I ask you or any Hon'ble member to point out in what way the freedom, the independence of India has been limited in the slightest. I do not think it has been. In fact, the greatest stress has been laid not only on the independence of India, but on the independence of each individual nation in the Commonwealth.

I am asked often, how can you join a Commonwealth in which there is racial discrimination, in which there are other things happening to which we object. That, I think, is a fair question and it is a matter which necessarily must cause us some trouble in our thinking. Nevertheless it is a question which does not really arise. That is to say, when we have entered into an alliance with a nation or a group of nations, it does not mean that we accept their other policies, etc.; it does not mean that we commit ourselves in any way to something that they may do. In fact, this House knows that we are carrying out at the present moment a struggle, or our countrymen are carrying on a struggle in regard to racial discrimination in various parts of the world.

This House knows that in the last few years one of the major questions before the United Nations, at the instance of India, has been the position of Indians in South Africa. May I, if the House will permit me, for a moment refer to an event which took place yesterday, that is, the passing of the resolution at the General Assembly of the United Nations, and express my appreciation at and my Government's appreciation of the way our delegation have functioned in this matter and our appreciation of all those nations of the United Nations, almost all, in fact, all barring South Africa, which finally supported this attitude of India.

One of the pillars of our foreign policy, repeatedly stated, is to fight against racial discrimination, is to fight for the freedom of suppressed nationalities. Are you compromising on that issue by remaining in the Commonwealth? We have been fighting on the South African

Indian issue and on other issues even though we have been thus far a Dominion of the Commonwealth. It was a dangerous thing for us to bring that matter within the purview of the commonwealth.

Because, then, that very thing to which you and I object might have taken place. That is, the Commonwealth might have been considered as some kind of a superior body which sometimes acts as a tribunal or judges, or in a sense supervises the activities of its member nations. That certainly would have meant a diminution in our independence and sovereignty, if we had once accepted that principle.

Therefore we were not prepared and we are not prepared to treat the Commonwealth as such or even to bring disputes between member nations of the Commonwealth before the Commonwealth body. We may, of course, in a friendly way discuss this matter; that is a different matter. We are anxious to maintain the position of our countrymen in other countries in the Commonwealth. So far as we are concerned, we could not bring their domestic policies in dispute there; nor can we say in regard to any country that we are not going to associate ourselves with that country because we disapprove of certain policies of that country.

India's Attitude

I am afraid if we adopted that attitude, then, there would be hardly any association for us with any country, because we have disapproved of something or other that that country does. Sometimes, it so happens that the difference is so great that you cut off relations with that country as there is a big conflict. Some years ago, the United Nations General Assembly decided to recommend to member States to withdraw diplomatic representatives from Spain because Spain was supposed to be a Fascist country. I am not going into the merits of the question. Sometimes, the question comes up in that way. The question has come up again and they have reversed that decision and left it to each member State to do as it likes.

If you proceed in this way, take any great country or a small country; you do not agree with everything that the Soviet Union does; therefore, why should we have representation there or why should we have a treaty of alliance in regard to commercial or trade matters with them. You may not agree with some policies of the United States of America; therefore, you cannot have a treaty with them. That is not the way nations carry on their foreign work or any work.

The first thing to realise I think in this world is that there are different ways of thinking, different ways of living and different approaches to life in different parts of the world. Most of our troubles arise by one country imposing its will and its way of living on other countries. It is true that each country cannot live in isolation, because, the world as constituted today is progressively becoming an organic whole.

INDIAN INFORMATION

This is the last issue of 'Indian Information.' A few of the more important features in 'Indian Information' will appear in 'March of India' published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

We thank our readers in India and abroad for the support extended to 'Indian Information.' Unexpired subscriptions will be refunded to regular subscribers who have registered with the Production Manager, 'Indian Information.'

If one country living in isolation does something which is dangerous to the other countries, the other countries have to intervene. To give a rather obvious example, if one country allows itself to become the breeding ground of all kinds of dangerous diseases, the world will have to come in and clear it up because it cannot afford to allow this disease to spread all over the world. The only safe principle to follow is that, subject to certain limitations, each country should be allowed to live its own life in its own way.

Different Ideologies

There are at present in the world several ideologies and major conflicts flowing from these ideologies. What is right or what is wrong, we can consider at a later stage, or may be something else is right. Either you want a major conflict, a great war which might result in the victory for this nation or that, or else you allow them to live at peace in their respective territories and to carry on their way of thinking, their way of life, their structure of State, etc., allowing the facts to prove which is right ultimately.

I have no doubt at all that ultimately it will be the system that delivers the goods—the goods being the advancement and the betterment of the human race or the people of the individual countries that will survive and no amount of theorising and no amount of warfare can make the system that does not deliver the goods survive. I refer to this because of the argument that was raised that India cannot join the Commonwealth because it disapproves of certain policies of certain Commonwealth nations. I think we should keep those two matters completely apart.

Mutual Advantage

We join the Commonwealth obviously because we think it is beneficial to us and to certain causes in the world that we wish to advance. The other countries of the Commonwealth want us to remain there because they think it is beneficial to them. It is mutually understood that it is to the advantage of the nations in the Commonwealth and therefore they join. At the same time, it is made perfectly clear that each country is completely free to go its own way: it may be that they may go, sometimes so far as to break way from the Commonwealth.

In the World today where there are where we are often at the verge of war, I think it is not a safe thing to encourage to break up any association that one has. Break up the evil parts of this; break up anything that may come in the way of your growth, because nobody dare agree to anything which comes in the way of a nation's growth. Otherwise, apart from breaking the evil parts of the association, it is better to keep a co-operative association going which may do good in this world rather than break it.

Not a New Move

Now this declaration that is placed before you is not a new move and yet it is complete re-orientation of something that has existed in an entirely different way. Suppose we had been out off from England completely and we have then desired to join the Commonwealth of Nations, it would have been a new move. Suppose a new group of nations wants us to join them and we join them in this way, that would have been a new move from which various consequences would have flown.

In the present instance what is happening is that a certain association has been existing for a considerable time past. A very great change came in the way of that association about a year and eight or nine months ago, from August 15, 1947. Now another major change is contemplated. Gradually the conception is changing. Yet that certain link remains in a different form.

Now politically we are completely independent. Economically we are as independent as independent nations can be. Nobody can be 100 per cent, independent in the sense of absolute lack of inter-dependence but nevertheless India has to depend on the rest of the world for her trade, for her commerce and for many supplies that she needs, today for her food unfortunately, and so many other things. We cannot be absolutely cut off from the world.

Now the House knows that inevitably during the past century and more all kinds of contacts have arisen between England and this country, many of them were bad, very bad and we have struggled throughout our lives to put an end to them. Many of them were not so bad, many of them may be good and many of them good or bad whatever they may be, are there. Here I am the patent example of these contacts speaking in this Honourable House in the English language. No doubt we are going to change that language for our use but the fact remains that I am doing so and the fact remains that most other members who will speak will also do so.

The fact remains that we are functioning here under certain rules and regulations for which the model has been the British Constitution. Those laws existing today have been largely forced by them. Therefore we have developed these things inevitably. Gradually laws which are good we will keep and those that are bad we will throw away. Any marked change in this without something to follow create a hiatus



Fountains in the Shalimar gardens in Srinagar

In Persia and Turkistan, it was a custom to elaborate the beauty of these water channels by paving them sometimes with blue tiles and sometimes decorating them with precious stones so that the luster and brilliance of their colours shine through the clear water. Almost all gardens of Kashmir bear evidence of this practice.

The water channels in these gardens are constructed in such a way that water flows through them continuously, from terrace to terrace, sometimes smoothly (as in the Shalimar garden) and sometimes falling with great force in a tumult of white foam (as in the Nishat). These waterfalls flow into tanks or reservoirs called Hauz, which are generally rectangular in shape and are studded with numerous small fountains. The central piece is generally a big fountain throwing up a powerful stream of water. The whole planning and arrangement of this system bears Persian and Turkish influences.

Fruits and Flower Beds

But in the general arrangement of gardens and planting of trees and flower beds, the Moghul builders no doubt followed the Buddhist and Jain traditions. Usually the streams or water channels are bordered with rose bushes and narcissus and poppies and other flowers. Behind these flowering plants, there are cypresses and planes. The outer walls are bordered with shady trees, while the square plots intersected by water channels are filled with fruit trees and flowery bushes. There are also square plots of grassy spots spread all over with beautiful daisies or large and beautiful lawns shaded by large trees planted at the corners. A big chenar tree might at places adorn the centre of such a plot.

The tradition of combining the flower garden with the fruit garden is the outcome of the mingling of Hindu and Islamic traditions. While in Persia and Turkistan, *Bostan* (or the orchard) was a practical necessity to the people, in India men thought that life was incomplete without the *Gulistan* (or the flower garden). Every Hindu house and temple in ancient India used to have its flower garden, for no offering to the deity could be considered acceptable unless it was gathered in the giver's own garden.

In the gardens of Kashmir—Shalimar, Nishat, Chashma Shahi, Verinag and Achabal—the Persian and Turkish Bostan on one hand and the Buddhist and Hindu Gulistan on the other seem to have been beautifully combined.

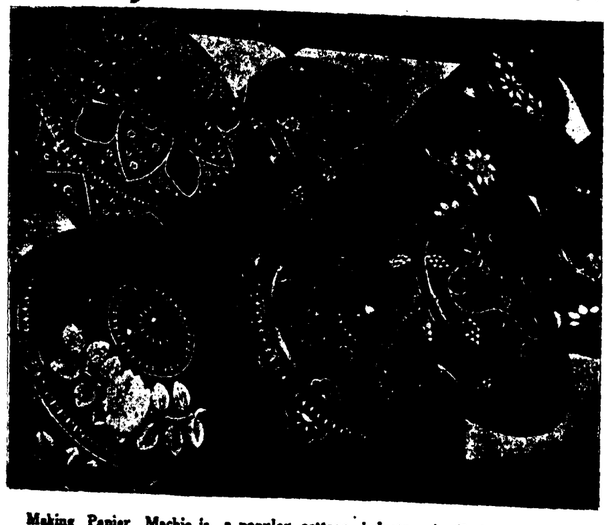
Hindu Influence

The Nishat garden, though almost the same as the Shalimar in its general planning, differs in some important details. Hindu influence is strongly marked in the 12 terraces built here, rising one above the other—one for each sign of the Zodiac sacred to the Hindus. Hence its name, "the garden of terraces".

The Verinag garden which encloses the blue deep source of the river Jhelum was once a favourite resort of Empress Nurjehan. That the builders of this garden included both Hindus nad Muslims in their ranks can be seen from the fact that the Verinag garden includes a Hindu temple built in one of the arches.

The Manasbal garden built on the side of the famous lake still shows the remains of an old Hindu temple. It is now partly submerged in water. The remains of such Hindu shrines on the sides of these gardens only reveal the synthetic outlook both in architecture and actual life.

Kashmir has a great variety of decorative arts and crafts. The Papier-machie is an art of moulding paper pulp into innumerable shapes of articles of decorative value which, after being dried and glazed, are painted in a variety of hues. Though purely Persian in its origin,



Making Papier Machie is a popular cottage industry in Kashmir. Picture shows Papier Machie toilet articles

this art reveals how the original Persian motifs were adapted by the Kashmiri craftsmen to suit their social and artistic needs. This is also known as Kumangiri, i.e., from the bows and arrows of the old Persian warriors.

As in the designs and schemes for shawls and silk embroidery, so in papier-machie too, the Kashmiri craftsman draws his inspiration from both the Persian and the indigenous sources. Elaborate scenes of Turkish and Mongolian princes playing polo, or fighting battles, or hunting ferocious lions, remind us of the illustrations in the Persian manuscripts of Firdausi's Shahnamah. The ornamental designs of the bright King Fisher, the Bulbul, or the lotuses in full bloom over the shimmering surface of the Dal Lake, or indigenous wild flowers growing over the hilly slopes are, however, reminiscent of the inspiration from the nature surrounding the artist and of the paintings of Basohli— the capital of the ancient Jammu Province.

Wood and Copper Work

In the hands of a Kashmiri craftsman rough wood like walnut undergoes wonderful transformation. The beautiful articles thus produced are marked by charm of designs and perfection of craftsmanship which give them a distinctiveness which is all their own.

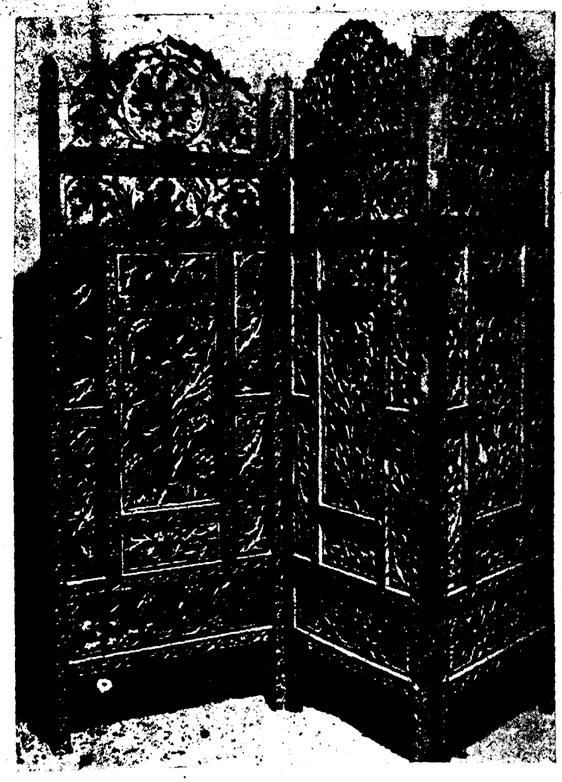
In the engravings which are done entirely by hand on silver or other precious metals, Persian and Indian motifs are again mingled. The chenar leaf and the indigenous lotus are entwined together in exquisite designs and accuracy of detail.

Kashmiri copper work again, though Indian in origin, shows absorption of Persian influence. This is manifest from the Persian inscriptions carved on them.

Thus in all spheres of artistic activity in Kashmir there is not only a harmonious blending of the two cultures—Islamic and Hindu—but a peculiar freshness and vigour. That this freshness and synthetic outlook in art has been sustained through all these periods of Kashmir's history reveals a strong current of harmony and homogeniety, which runs through the lives of the Kashmiries, both Hindus and Muslims.

LITERARY TRADITIONS

Kashmiris have inherited a rich literature from their past. This great literary and cultural heritage is the result of literary and cultural movements which flourished during the different periods of Kashmir's history. Sanskrit flourished during the early Hindu period and was followed by Persian and a little later by Urdu, during the Afghan and the Sikh periods. Under the Muslims and the Mughals, Persian became the Court language and the language of the elite. This outlived even into the early Sikh period when gradually it was replaced by Urdu. In the current period, Urdu is mostly in use though English is the official language in the higher administrative spheres.



The Kashmir artisan is famous for the skill with which he carves walnut and other kinds of wood available into furniture. This is a wooden screen decorated with floral motifs

Kashmiri, the spoken language of the people, was originally written in the Sharda script which is now practically extinct. For a long time now it has come to be written in the Persian script. Lately, however, there has developed a definite literary interest towards this language and attempts are being made to develop it scientifically.

Seat of Sanskrit learning

The classical Sanskrit literature which flourished in Kashmir during the early Hindu period is the common cultural heritage of India as a whole. For a long time Kashmir was a seat of learning in India and powerful literary and social movements developed in the Valley which gradually spread not only to the other parts of India but even across the Indian border to Tibet and other adjacent countries. It was indeed in Kashmir that the later-day developments in Buddhist thought and philosophy received a more elaborate treatment.

The present day Tantric practices in the Tibetan Buddhism are a gift of India to that country passed on through the Valley of Kashmir. The Shaive philosophy recieved great encouragements in Kashmir.

Unfortunately much of this ancient literature has not been preserved and we may perphas not be able to compile a connected account of the literary and cultural movements, of this period; yet the fact, nevertheless, remains that Kashmir for long remained in the orbit of ancient Indian cultural thought. We have, however, one great book of Kashmir, which has come down to us as a single great piece of literary genius. It is Kalhana's Raj Tarangini, "The River of Kings", the greatest available historical document of those days.

Coming now to the Muslim period, we must realize that no account of literary history of Kashmir can be complete without the mention of the

nation over Asia and Africa, has been an Imperialist power and exploited the rest of the world and in a sense dominated the political scene of the world. Well, Europe has still. I believe, a great many fine qualities and those people there who have fine qualities will make good, but Europe can no longer be the centre of the world politically speaking or exercise that influence over other parts of the world, which it has done in the past.

From that point of view, Europe belongs to the past and the centre of world history. Political and other activities shift elsewhere. I do not mean to say that any other continent becomes a dominating force, dominates the rest not in that way. However, we are looking at it in an entirely changed scene. If you talk of British Imperialism and the rest of it, I would say that there is no capacity for imperialism, even if the will was there; it cannot be done. The French are, imperialistically in parts of Asia. But the fact remains that capacity for doing it is past. They may carry on for a year or two years, but it just cannot be done. The Dutch may do it elsewhere and if you look at it in the historical perspective, all these things are hangovers of something past and the thing cannot be done. There may be strength behind today; it may last even a few years and therefore, we have to fight it and therefore, we have to be vigilant—I do not deny that—but let us not think as if Europe or England was the same as it was 15 or 20 years ago. It is not.

Fundamental Things

I was saying about our friends who have criticised us and taken this rather negative and passive view. I mentioned at another place that their view was static. I said that in this particular context, it was rather reactionary and I am sorry I used that word, because I do not wish to use words that hurt and I do not wish to hurt people in this way; I have certainly the capacity to use language, clever language to hurt people, and dialectical language, but I do not wish to use it, because we are up against great problems, and it is poor satisfaction just to say a word against an opponent in an argument and defeat him by a word, and not reach his heart or mind, and I want to reach the hearts and minds of our people (*loud cheers*) and I feel that whatever our domestic differences might be—let there be differences honestly felt—we do not want a cold regimentation of this country (*cheers*).

So far as foreign affairs are concerned, there may also be differences, I do not deny that, but the fundamental thing before any man who is—whatever else he may be—an Indian patriot, who wants India to progress and the world also to progress, must be necessarily Indian freedom, that is, complete freedom, India's progress, economically and the rest, India playing a part in this freedom of the world and the preservation of peace etc. in the world. These are the fundamental things. India must progress, India must progress internally. We can play no part unless we are strong in our country economically and otherwise. How we should do so internally may be a matter of difference of opinion. Now I think it should be possible for people who differ considerably in regard to our internal policy it should be possible for us to have more or less a unified foreign policy in which they agree or mostly agree.

Basic Difference

May I make myself clear? I do not wish in the slightest to stop argument or comment or criticism, not that and I want that; it is a sign of a healthy nation, but I do wish that argument to be the argument just of a friend and not of an opponent who sometimes uses that argument, not for argument's sake, but just to injure the opposite party, which often is done in the game of politics. I do not see any major difference for any person. I do see a major difference between those individuals or groups who think in terms of other countries and not of India at all as the primary thing.

That is a basic difference and with them it is exceedingly difficult to have any common approach about anything; but where people think in terms of India's independence and progress in the near future and in the distant future and who want peace in the world, of course, there will be no great difference in our foreign policy. And I do not think there is, in fact, although it may be expressed differently.

Although a Government can only speak in the language of a Government, others speak a language which we all used to speak, of opposition and agitation. So, I would beg this House, and if I may say so, the country to look upon this problem not in any party spirit, not in the sense of bargaining this little matter or that.

Generous Spirit

We have to be careful in any business deal not to lose a thing which is advantageous to the nation. At the same time, we have to look at this problem in a big way. We are a big nation. If we are a big nation in size, that will not bring bigness to us unless we are big in mind, big in heart, big in understanding and big in action also. You may lose perhaps a little, here or there with your bargainers and hagglers in the market place. If you act in a big way, the response to you is very big in the world and their reaction is also, big. Because, good always brings good and draws good from others and a big action which shows generosity of spirit brings generosity from the other side.

Therefore, may I finish by commending this resolution to you and trusting that the House will not only accept it, but accept it as something, as a harbinger of good relations, of our acting in a generous way towards other countries, towards the world, and thus strengthening ourselves and strengthening the cause of peace.

PILOT RADIO STATION AT JULLUNDUR

Shri R.R. Diwakar's Message

THE Hon'ble Shri R. R. Diwakar, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, broadcast the following message on the inauguration of the 'Pilot' Station of All India Radio at Jullundur (East Punjab) on May 16, 1949:

On this occasion I am reminded of the tragedy of partition. How we emerged from that catastrophe and how once again we have started life afresh is a matter of recent history for all of you. In those days it was felt necessary to set up a Radio Station in the East Punjab for the dissemination of news. Thanks to the help and co-operation of your Provincial Government, we were able to open a Radio Station at Jullundur on November 1, 1947. We know from our experience that this Station has proved of great advantage to listeners, particularly refugees.

Today that very Station in Jullundur is being expanded with the addition of a Pilot Station of one kilowatt. From today this Station will have the same facilities which Stations in other seven or eight Provinces have. The expansion of the Jullundur Radio Station is not going to stop here, because according to our plan, we propose to establish a bigger Station with a 10-kilowatt transmitter in this Provinces. For that probably we shall have to wait for some time. By then we shall also have known the final decision regarding the capital of East Punjab. It is only proper that the bigger Station should be located in the principal town of the Province. Till then the present Radio Station will continue to work at Jullundur which is centrally situated.

Radio Sets For Villages

At present the capital of East Punjab is Simla, which is linked with the Jullundur Station. Provision has also been made for setting up a transmitter at Amritsar for the benefit of the people living in western parts of the East Punjab.

That is all I have to say about All-India Radio. I have also told you what we propose to do in future. I have no doubt that His Excellency the Governor and the East Punjab Premier will extend their blessings to this venture. But we should not rest content merely with the inauguration of Radio Stations. Broadcasting can be of use only if the number of Radio sets in villages and towns increases appreciably.

We require a radio set in every school, in every college and in every village. In so many countries of the world, we find broadcasting as a powerful instrument for the spread of knowledge and for people's recreation. Now that you have got this additional facility of a bigger Radio Station in Jullundur, let me hope you will derive the maximum benefit out of it.



A view of the Shalimar gardens in Srinagar

THE HAPPY VALLEY OF KASHMIR

Unity of Culture and Artistic Tradition

KASHMIR has been, from ancient times, as much famous for the beauty of nature as for its various arts and crafts. The specimens of Kashmir art bear testimony not only to the innate artistic urges and emotions of her people, but also to the spirit of love and unity which has permeated their life.

The valley abounds in historical and architectural relics. The stately mosque of Shah Hamdan, though built purely as a religious shrine for the Muslims, with its attractive spiro and rich wood carving on windows and panelled doors has the appearance of a Buddhist edifice. The Pather Masjid built by the Empress Nur Jahan on the river Jhelum opposite to the Shah Hamdan mosque, again bears in its stone arches, the influence of Greco-Buddhist architecture of the Kushan period. The Jama Masjid originally built by Sultan Sikandar Shah in 1388 A.D. is one of the biggest and the most impoaing edifices of Srinagar. While its spires and domes are Islamic in origin, its minars and lofty pillars (378 in number) are copied from the Indian buildings of the Kushan period.

The tomb of Zain-ul-Addin's mother, situated between the fourth and fifth bridge on the river Jhelum, fully bears the impress of its builder's personality. This tomb has such a religious appeal for both the Hindus and the Muslims that whenever there is some serious illness, particularly small pox, in a Hindu home a small piece of masonary (generally a piece of a brick) from this tomb is brought and kept in the house. This famous king who ruled Kashmir from 1423 to 1474 A.D. is remembered to this day by the Hindus and Muslims of Kashmir. In their folk songs he is popularly referred to as "Badshah"—the Great Monarch. Popular legend has it that he was the reincarnation of a Hindu ascetic. In him was truly ingrained the spirit of love and fraternity—so manifest in the life of the Kashmiris. This famous tomb is built wholly on Persian modol—with its five domes of brick masonry, ornamentally decorated with blue bricks. But Hindu influence is equally prominent here. It shows itself in the massive wall surrounding in beautifully decorated with sculptured reliefs on stones.

The secular buildings of Kashmir also bear strong evidence of the blending of Hindu and Muslim art traditions. Peri Mahal or the Fairy Palace situated on the southern side of the Dal Lake, the west of Chashma Shahi, is remin cent of the days when it occupied a sch of astrology built by the liberal-minc Prince Dara Shikoh for his tu Mullah Shah. Hindus and Musli gatherod here and drank deep at fountain of knowledge and learni The Hindu system of astrology was principal subject taught in this acader

Beautiful Gardens

The gardens of Kashmir also show mingling of the two cultures. far-famed Shalimar garden situated the shores of Dal Lake, about 9 m from Srinagar, which was built by E eror Jehangir for his beloved wife, Jahan in 1619 A.D. marks the clin of beauty. The Nishat, constructed Asaf Khan, Jehangir's chief minis is equally beautiful. Even a cure glance of these gardens will show how Buddhist, the Hindu and the Isla traditions of gardening have been ama mated in these favourite resorts of Moghal Emperors. Water is the life and soul of those gardens. Sites selected with particular care, either the side of a hill or on a slope, so keep the water always running smoo in small streams or water channels. tradition of constructing gardens slope and irrigating them by mean artificial water channels was copied the Moghal Emperors from the gar of Samarkand and Herat, Tabriz Ispahan.

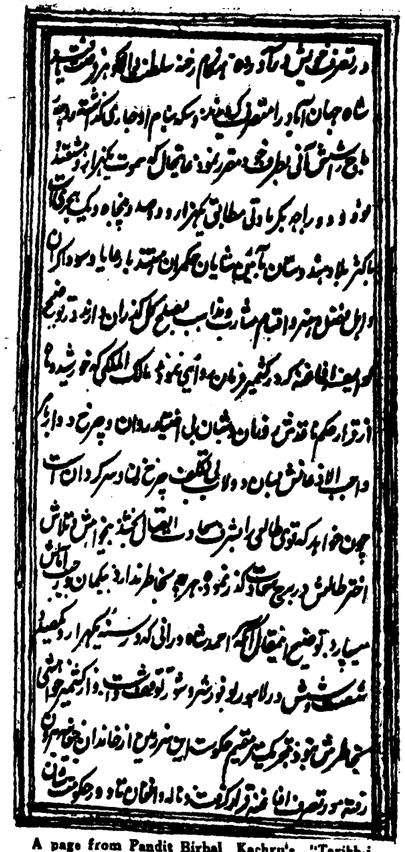
dants of king Zain-ul-Abidin (1420-1470); for he not only brought peace and goodwill in the religious and political sphores, but also impressed the mark of his tolerant and liberal personality in the field of letters.

The Great Monarch attracted chroniclers and writers and poets to his court and the imperial patronage was freely extended to Muslims and Hindus. No longer bound by linguistic barriers, the King showed an equal interest in the study of Sanskrit, though Persian remained the language of the Court. The famous chronicle of Kashmir—the Raj Tarangini of Kalhana—was brought down to his day by the two famous chroniclers of his time—Jona Raja and Mullah Ahmad—in Sanskrit and Persian, respectively.

Influence of Persian

His Court was also adorned by another celebrated Hindu Pandit, Shri Bhatta or Shari Bhat. To this ruler also goes the credit of laying down the foundations of the vernacular Kashmiri literature. Under him the Kashmir genius in vernacular soars to a high pitch and the mystic thoughts and verses and wise sayings were compiled in a collection— known as the Rishinama—by the great contemporary, Sheikh Nurud-din, popularly known as Nand Rishi. This work symbolized the traditions of Hindu-Muslim unity both in religion and literary thought. Some Bhatta's Zaina Charita is a biography of the King (Badshah) in prose. Udh Bhat's Zaina Vilas is a dramatic work dealing with an interesting episode in the King's life.

Akbar's was another illustrious example of a great ruler trying to seek unity in thought and letters. The task of completing Kalhana's Raj Tarangini was taken up during his reign by Prajya Bhat in 1575 A.D. Though Persian had become the official language yet the classical Sanskrit literature was treated with respect.



A page from Pandit Birbal Kachru's "Tarikh-i-Kashmir", a historical work written about 1815

The history of literature in Kashmir during the Muslim, the Afghan and the Sikh rule is mainly the history of Persian literature. The old literary tradition of Sanskrit had, however, not completely lost its hold. This may be seen by the works of Lal Shuri or the famous Lalla Ded, who lived in the 14th century A. D. She could indeed be regarded as a link between the classical Sanskrit traditions of the past and the Persian poetic patterns of the more recent times. In her personality we can find the two streams of thought and culture mingled together—Sanskrit and Persian. Among the important Sanskrit works of this period mention may also be made of Jagadhar Bhat's *Stuti Kusumanjali* (1350 A. D.); Siti Kantha's *Balbodhini* (1475 A. D.); Vallabhadev's *Padyavali* (1550 A. D.); and Sivapadhyaya's *Vijhana Bhairav* (1775 A. D.)

Another marked feature of the literature of this period is that not only Muslims but even Hindus took to the study of Persian and showed remarkable talent. While the name of Mohammad Tahir Gani (who flourished in the reign of Aurangzeb) stands pre-eminent in the galaxy of Persian poets, that of Munshi Bhawani Das Kashru (who lived in the reign of the Afghans) is no less important. His new style of the *Bahar-i-Tavil* in Persian poetry is held in high esteem.

The names of other Kashmiri Pandits who wrote in Persian may also be mentioned. Tabe Ram Turki, "Betab" (1840 A. D.), is still remembered for his 'Jang Nama' which stands on par with Shahnama of Firdausi. Pandit Raj Kaul Arzbegi's "Dairi" (1887 A.D.) is second only to that of Ghani from a literary point of view. In the end we might also add the name of Pandit Raj Kak Dhar, "Farrukh", who died early in Maharaja Gulab Singh's reign, and who was aslo a great literary figure of his time.

Kashmiri Poetry

Even when Persian was adopted as the medium of expression by the Kashmir poets and writers, and verses were modelled on Persian metres, and references borrowed from Persian literature, their thought and form had a certain fundamental unity which was easily discernible. Whether Muslim or Hindu—the Kashmiri poet or a writer—could not remain indifferent to the common indigenous traditions of the past and to the appeal of his surroundings.

In the poetry of this period, we repeatedly find the poet drawing on indigenous legends and romances—on Bombur and Lolare, Himal and Nagray, and Myna. His songs are songs in the praise of orioles and turtle-doves, of narcissuses and daffodils, of haycinths and safron meadows. The source of inspiration is common—it is peculiarly indigenous in its character.

And when we come to the study of modern Kashmiri literature—in the purely Kashmir vernacular of today—which originally is a Prakrit form of Sanskrit, enriched by Persian diction during the Muslim rule and later on influenced by Urdu in the modern period—we find the same cultural and literary unity. Of this Kashmiri vernacular literature the oldest available specimen is the Mahayney Prakash of Siti Kantha—tracing its origin to the 13th or the 14th Century.

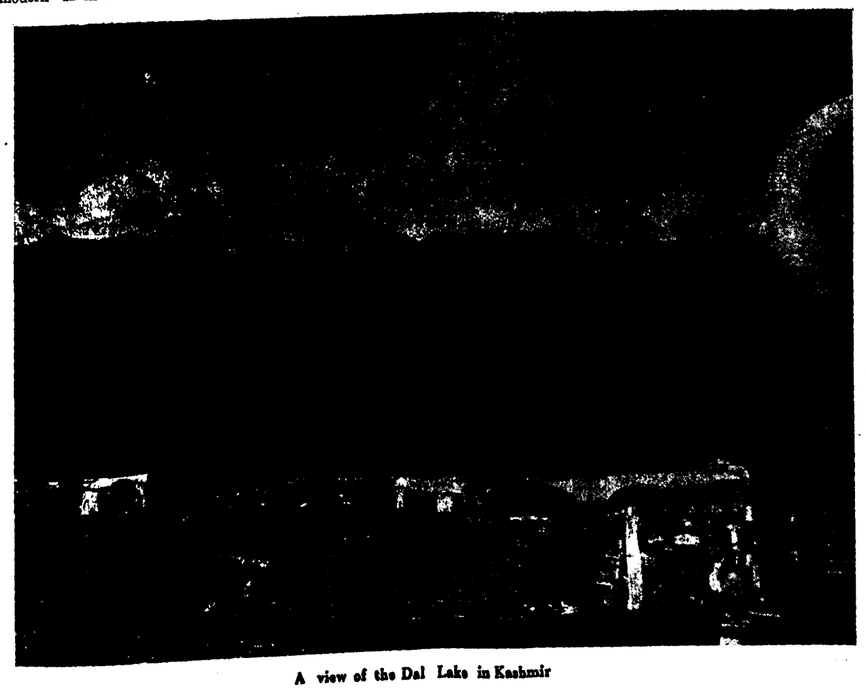
Outstanding Modern Poets

The modern period is dominated by Mahmud Gani—(1855), the author of a Kashmiri version of *Panj Ganj*; Wali Ullah Mattu who wrote the legend of Himal; Pir Maqbul Shah Kralwari who wrote the romance called *Gulrez*; and Wahab Pare who retold the Shahnama of Firdausi in Kashmiri.

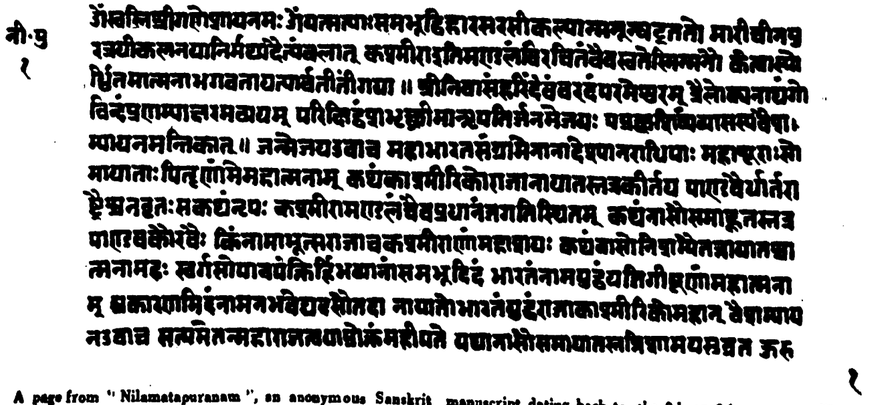
The most famous among Hindus are Parmanand, his disciple Lakshman, Prakash Ram and Krishan Das. A large number of Persian words have been absorbed in the lyrics of these modern poets. These are equally used by Muslim and Hindu poets. Similarly, there is a large number of Sanskrit words—either in their pure form or as modified by popular usage. The various languages that have influenced Kashmiri culture and literature are thus well represented in these modern lyrics. Mahjoor is one of the most famous among the living poets. His lyrics—which are mainly based on political or economic themes—show the influence of the National Conference Movement. Abdus Sattar Gujri—popularly known as "Aasi" *i.e.*, the "Sinner"—is one of the outstanding figures who are working on Kashmir's Cultural Front. Rising from humble origin, this poet truly represents the spirit of "New Kashmir". He is a proletarian or the people's poet, symbolizing in his poems the expression of his people's collective aspiration and urges, fighting for class-less society, abolition of economic and social exploitation and Hindu-Muslim unity.

Kashmiri Folk Songs

And lastly we come to the popular literature of the Kashmiris—fairy tales and folk songs. We find in it preserved a vast wealth of common customs, traditions and legends of the bygone days. Wazir Mal and Lal Mal—the famous collections of fairy tales in purely Kashmiri dialect—are treasured possessions of Kashmiri village-folk. Kashmiri folk songs, though these present a variety in theme and content, according to particular seasons and festivals and occupations, yet their predominant note is the same. These folk songs may be songs about the beauty of the stately Chenar tree, or the praise of the calmly flowing river Jhelum, or the blossoming



A view of the Dal Lake in Kashmir



A page from "Nilamatapuranam", an anonymous Sanskrit manuscript dating back to the 8th or 9th century. The script is a northern form of Devanagari

verts are not Scheduled Castes or ought not to be Scheduled Castes; because, in the Sikh religion, there is no such thing as untouchability or any classification or difference of classes.

Fear Complex

But as unfortunately in this country the Hindu religion is suffering from the evil effects of certain customs and prejudices that have crept into the society, so also, the reformed community of the Hindus, called the Sikhs, have also in course of time suffered from degeneration to a certain extent. They are suffering from a complex which is called fear complex. They feel that if these Scheduled Castes who have been converted to Sikhism are not given the same benefits as the Scheduled Castes have been, there is a possibility of their reverting to the Hindu Scheduled Castes and merging along with them.

So the House will realise, and I do not propose to conceal anything from the House, that religion is only a cloak, a cover, for political purposes. It is not really the high level Sikh religion which recognises this class distinction. The Sikhs, today, it should be recognised, have suffered for various causes and we have to regard with considerable tenderness of feeling in taking into consideration their existing state of mind and provide as far as possible to meet with that situation.

And so when these proposals were brought to us, in fact, I urged them strongly not to lower their religion to such a pitch as to really fall to a level where for a mess of pottage you really give up the substance of religion. But they did not agree. Therefore, the utmost that we can do is to advise those people in their community who were wanting these safeguards to go into the classification of Scheduled Castes. And therefore, these people have now agreed to be lumped into the Scheduled Castes; not a very good thing for the Sikh community, but yet they want it, and we feel for the time being, we would make that allowance for them.

Theoretically the position is logically correct. They will be all Scheduled Castes, the Ramdasis, and three or four others whatever they are, they will all be called one Schedule Caste. The Sikhs may call them Scheduled Caste Sikhs. After all, in the eye of religion, in the eye of God and in the eye of all sensible people they are one. These advantages are there reserved for a class of people, and therefore, although there was stout opposition from the Scheduled Castes people, who also naturally feared, and who had a justifiable fear complex that if they agreed to this, or if the House accepts this position, there is really a danger of forcible conversion from their class to the Scheduled Caste Sikhs, we have accepted it.

Now our object is, or the object of this House should be, as soon as possible and as rapidly as possible to drop these classifications and differences and bring all to a level of equality. Therefore, although temporarily we may recognise this it is up to the majority community to create by its generosity a sense of confidence in the minorities; and so also it will be the duty of the minority communities to forget the past and to reflect on what the country has suffered due to the sense of fairness which the foreigner thought was necessary to keep the balance between community and community.

This has accentuated class and communal divisions and sub-divisions which they in their sense of fairness, they thought fit to create, apart from attributing any motives. We on our part, taking this responsibility of laying the foundations of a free India which shall be and should be our endeavour both of the majority—largely of the majority—and also of the minority community to rise to the occasion which the situation demanded from all of us, and create an atmosphere in which sooner these classifications disappear the better.

Foundations of Secular State

Therefore, I will appeal to the House, particularly to the Scheduled Castes, not to resent or grudge the concession that is made in the case of the Sikhs, and I concede that this is a concession, It is not a good thing, in the interest of the Sikhs themselves. But till the Sikhs are convinced that this is wrong, I would allow them the latitude, consistent with what we think to be our principles of just and fair dealings.

So far as the other communities are concerned, I feel that enough time was given when we met in February in the Advisory Committee when these proposals were brought forward on behalf of the minorities, particularly the Muslims, enough time was given to consult their own constituencies, their communities and also other minority communities.

It was not our intention to commit the minorities to a particular position in a hurry. If they really have come honestly to the conclusion that in the changed conditions of this country, it is in the interest of all to lay down real and genuine foundations of a secular State, then nothing is better for the Minorities than to trust the good sense and sense of fairness of the majority, and to place confidence in them.

So also it is for us who happen to be in a majority to think about what the minorities feel, and how we in their position would feel if we were treated in the manner in which they are treated. But in the long run, it would be in the interest of all to forget that there is anything like majority or minority in this country and that in India there is only one community (*Hear, hear*)——that is one Nation. With these considerations, Sir, I move that the Report of the Advisory Committee be taken into consideration.

JMKR

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

A Department of Parliamentary Affairs under the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs has been created with immediate effect, according to a notification in the Gazette of India dated May 21.

This Department will take over from the Ministry of Law the work in connection with the functions of the Government Chief Whip and other Parliamentary Affairs.

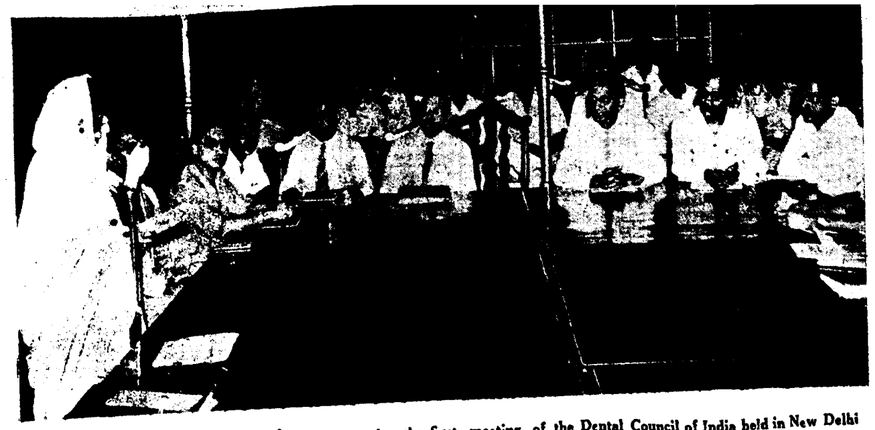
DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The Executive Board of UNESCO are organising an exhibition on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which will be held at the end of September, 1949, at the time of the 4th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO which is being held in Paris this year. The object of the exhibition will be to show the contribution made by different countries and cultural groups to the development of Human Rights.

The Government of India has been invited to participate in this exhibition with a view to bringing out the contribution of Indian philosophy and culture to the development of Human Rights, particularly with reference to the evolution and application of the idea of non-violence in India; India's contribution to the idea of religious tolerance; the universalism of Indian philosophy and the respect for human personality in Indian religions; the respect for women in Indian society; and the rights of the citizen. Efforts will be made to trace the historical development of these ideas with the help of documents, charts, pictures, inscriptions and archaeological and other evidence available.

The Ministry of Education will welcome the assistance of scholars and artists for the compilation of the material required. Any authoritative information on the subject mentioned above, supported by suitable texts, sculptures, pictures, or models and replicas of these which may be useful in preparing the data required will be gratefully received in the Ministry. All communications may be addressed by name to Mr. P.N. Kirpal, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education, North Block, Central Secretariat, New Delhi, by June 15, 1949.

The Government of India has appointed Mr. L. R. Sethi, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education, as Secretary, Central Advisory Board of Education vice Professor Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India, nominated as a member of the Board, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on May 21.



Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, inaugurating the first meeting of the Dental Council of India held in New Delhi

ENCOURAGING STUDY OF DENTISTRY

Health Minister Inaugurates Dental Council

"No national health service can be considered satisfactory or complete unless there is adequate provision for dental service to the people and for their education in the principles and practice of dental hygiene," said Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, inaugurating the first meeting of the Dental Council of India in New Delhi on May 14.

Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, presided. Members of the Council, who are nominees of the Central and various Provincial Governments, attended.

Dr. N. N. Berry of New Delhi was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council and Dr. S.K. Majumdar, Dr. V.M. Desai, Dr. R. Ahmed, Dr. U.S. Malik and Dr. R. Prakash were elected members of the Executive Committee of the Council.

A committee consisting of the following members was elected to draw up a suitable curriculum for dental colleges in the country: Dr. R. Ahmed, Dr. V.M. Desai, Dr. U.S. Malik, Major I.M. Manchanda (Convenor), and Dr. M.L. Watts.

The Council decided to allow registration in Part A of the Register of Dentists of the diploma holders of the American Dental College, Karachi, now defunct.

The Council resolved that no amendment of the Dentists' Act, 1948, in respect of the provisions regarding the registration of foreign dentists is at present necessary.

The Health Minister continued:

At long last the Dental Council of India has come into being and it is indeed a great pleasure for me to associate myself with its establishment. Dental education and dental service to the people have suffered neglect in this country to an even greater extent than medical education and the provision of medical services. It is high time we turned our attention to this important limb of the medical profession.

In order to promote the cause of dentistry in India the Bhore Committee put forward a programme of development which was intended to include (a) a considerable expansion of training facilities in this field (b) of the regulation of dental training and the practice of the profession through the establishment of Dental Councils at the Centre and in the Provinces, and (c) the organisation of dental services for the people in urban and rural areas.

An Important Step

Each of the three parts of this programme is organically related to the other. For instance, the production of a large number of workers in dentistry is a pre-requisite to the creation of a machinery for the regulation of the profession while the establishment of adequate dental services for the people is dependent on the extension of training facilities, the creation of the required number of practitioners of dentistry and the maintenance of desirable standards of professional conduct among these practitioners.

We have indeed to travel a long way before we can claim to have successfully worked out even the modest short-term programme in dentistry put forward by the Bhore Committee. I am happy, however, to feel that, in inaugurating the Dental Council of India today, we are taking a very important step towards the realisation of our plans. For, I have no doubt that this Council will play in the coming years an increasingly significan role for regulating dental education and for promoting the development of a high standard of efficiency and of professional ethics.

Elimination of Unqualified

I have already said that dental education has made very little progress in this country. How little can be seen from the revealing fact that the total number of qualified dentists in this vast land is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of only 1,000.

The Dentists' Act of 1948, while it will throw open the right of entry to the Register to all persons of Indian domicile who have been practising dentistry as the principal means of livelihood for a period of two years during the five years before the commencement of the Act, will at the same time prohibit registration thereafter for unqualified persons and will also make it impossible for unregistered persons to practise dentistry in the country. Thus it will be ensured that, after some years, dental service to the community will be given only by duly qualified persons.

This is doubtless a most desirable end but it must be remembered that, if the country is to secure an adequate number of practitioners of the profession, every effort will have to be made in the intervening years to expand greatly the existing training facilities which are altogether insufficient.

The Bhore Committee has suggested th training of three classes of dentists—th dental surgeon with a University degre

of saffron-meadows, or the spinning-wheel at which the rural women-folk work.

The emotions and moods expressed in this folk-lore are the collective embodiment of social and emotional experiences. And when we study the "Ruph" ("Rohv") or the dance-songs of the Kashmiri women-folk sung at festivals and harvests—the chords of cultural and racial unity are once more echoed through them. On the basis of these facts relating to language and literature of the Kashmiris, one might with justification hold that the Muslims and Hindus of Kashmir have evolved a common point of view and a common mental and spiritual culture.

KASHMIR'S TOURIST TRAFFIC

There are few places in the world which offer so many attractions to the tourist as Kashmir. Its invigorating climate, its gardens and lakes, flowers and birds, valleys and landscapes—make it an ideal place for rest and recreation. The valley also abounds in springs, at Islamabad, Woin and Khru, Chashma-i-Shai, Kookernag, Achabal and Gandarbal, the waters of which are well-known for their medicinal properties.

The country is rich in bear, ibex, sorow, wild sheep and leopard, found in the jungles and the outlying frontier places like Ladakh, Guraiz and Astore and Kishtwar. And while Gulmarg, has a fine golf field, Tos Maidan Jamianwali Gali and Sonmarg provide facilities for summer and winter skiers.

Sources of Revenue

Tourist Traffic to Kashmir constitutes an important source of revenue to the State and is the mainstay of some of the trades and craftsmen. The statistics below will give some idea of the approximate income that accrued to the State from tourist traffic and handicrafts during the years 1944-47.

Visitors come to Kashmir not only from various parts of India, but also from abroad particularly from Europe and America. In 1944-45, the total number of tourists who visited Kashmir was 34,142 out of which 18,890 were foreigners and 15,252 Indians. In 1945-46, the total number of tourists was 36,841 out of which 18,331 were foreigners and 18,510 Indians.

In 1946-47, however, the number of tourists from foreign countries dwindled considerably. Among the non-European visitors, the largest number came from territories which are now included in India—Bombay, West Bengal and East Punjab. Available statistics show that 90 per cent of the tourist traffic to Kashmir was from India and foreign countries while only 10 per cent was from Pakistan.

The income from tourist traffic as between areas in India and Pakistan works out as follows:—

Year	India	Figures in lakhs of rupees Pakistan
1944-45	200.00	25.00
1945-46	220.00	30.00
1946-47	200.00	25.00

While distributing the income between India and Pakistan, income from foreign countries has been completely excluded.

Customs, tolls, Income-tax and Licence fees are the main heads under which the State derives income from the tourists. To this may be added the income from the sale of its luxury goods and handicrafts and its fruits. Other products like saffron, Banafsa and Silajit also find great favour with visitors. Silk and silk manufactures are carried by Amritsar merchants who distribute them to other parts of the country.

As regards wool, Kashmir provides an excellent quality from Ladakh and other parts from which fine shawls are made. Woollen fabrics and Pashmina find extensive markets throughout India. Gubbas and carpets and namdas are partly purchased by foreign visitors and partly by Indians.

Stone-Work

Kashmir's stone-work, papier-machie work in the form of delicate articles of decoration and woodcarving on teak and walnut wood, are also among the attractions which appeal to tourists. Willow-work and basket making are ancient crafts of the land. Kashmir's silverware is in great demand in India and most of the total output of Rs. 50 lakhs worth of silverware is sold in Bombay and Calcutta. There is also a great demand for skins and furs.

It would, therefore, not be an exaggeration to say that Kashmir's economy largely depends upon her tourist traffic. The invasion of the State by raiders and Pakistan, greatly crippled this traffic, while the raiders' brutalities, particularly the burning of Baramulla convent and the sacking of Gulmarg kept away prospective visitors from foreign countries. Thanks, however, to the restoration of internal communications and transport and the air and road links between India and the State, tourists can visit once again the famous beauty spots in Kashmir.

The 65 mile long Pathankot-Jammu road is a first class all-weather road connecting the State with India. In addition there is a regular air-service between Delhi and Srinagar and between Amritsar and Srinagar which has now been running since the Spring of 1948. Measures to encourage tourist traffic have been taken by the Kashmir Government and the Government of India and a well co-ordinated plan has now been evolved. The Kashmir Government has opened a Visitors' Bureau, with branches scattered over the State to look after the needs and comforts of visitors. The permit system has been simplified so as to allow the securing of permits without delay.

Kashmir which was almost virtually shut off from tourist traffic for two years, this year beckons to all those who plan a really restful holiday.

FOOD SUPPLIES TO KASHMIR

Inquiries made in the Food Ministry show that foodgrain supplies to Kashmir are reaching the State on schedule. The Government of India have agreed to meet the full demand of the State which amounts to 31,500 tons of foodgrains for the current year. Of this quantity, as required by Kashmir, 11,000 tons have already reached the State during the period January to April.

For the period May to September, Kashmir's requirements are 13,000 tons, but this quantity has to reach the State within the months of May and June. Of this quantity a total of 10,000 tons, consisting of 3,000 tons each of rice and maize and 4,000 tons of wheat, is moving to Pathankot by special trains for transport to Kashmir.

The balance of 3,000 tons will reach the State by the middle of June; thus making a total of 24,000 tons for the first nine months of the year.

Should the situation so demand, the Government of India are reported to be ready to despatch the balance of 7,500 tons of foodgrains within the shortest possible time.

TRAINING IN ARCHIVES ADMINISTRATION

Arrangements for the training of a limited number of students in archive administration have been made in the National Archives of India, New Delhi, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on May 16.

It added: The training is imparted free of charge but the candidates have to make their own arrangements for board and lodging.

The next session commences from July 1, 1949. There are three alternative courses; a two-year comprehensive course; a one-year course in any two subjects and a six-month short course in preservation of archives only. A candidate must be an M.A. in History for the full course; a graduate in History for the one-year course; and a graduate in Chemistry for the 6-month course.

No guarantee of employment either in Government service or otherwise can, however, be given to any candidate.

Further information about the courses can be obtained from the Director of Archives, National Archives of India, New Delhi.

JUTE GOODS QUOTA FOR NORWAY INCREASED

The Government of India has decided to increase the jute goods quota allotted to Norway for the half-year ending June 25, 1949, from 430 tons to 1,430 tons, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 30.

SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORITIES

Sardar Patel's Speech in Constituent Assembly

"IT was not our intention to commit the minorities to a particular position in a hurry. If they really have come honestly to the conclusion that in the changed conditions of the country, it is in the interest of all to lay down real and genuine foundations of a secular State, then nothing is better for the minorities than to trust the good sense and sense of fairness of the majority, and to place confidence in them", said the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister, in the Constituent Assembly on May 25, while moving that the Report of the Advisory Committee be taken into consideration.

The following is the full text of Sardar Patel's speech:

Sir, I have come before you to move for the consideration of the report of the Advisory Committee which met during this month for the last time and the Committee has after completion of its work been dissolved. The House will remember that in August 1947, probably on August 8, a report was submitted by the Advisory Committee, and the Minority Committee taking into consideration the Advisory Committee's report then submitted its proposals advising this House to adopt certain political safeguards for the minorities by way of reservations of seats in the legislatures on the basis of population and also certain other safeguards.

Now the House will remember that the report was made at a time when conditions were different and even the effect of partition was not fully apprehended or appreciated. At that time even, when the report was based suggesting the acceptance of reservation of seats in the Legislature on population basis, there was difference of opinion. Well a group of people of highly nationalistic tendencies led by Dr. Mookerjee, Vice-Chairman of this House, from the beginning opposed such reservations in the Constitution.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur also at that time stoutly opposed these reservations, but the minorities then were apprehensive of getting the quantum of their representation due to them on basis of population and the Advisory Committee in spite of the difference of opinion thought it necessary to allay the apprehensions of the minorities at that time, which they considered might be regarded as reasonable.

Advisory Committee's Proposals

The House will also recall that the representative of the Muslims in South India Mr. Pocker, the no-changer and confirmed Muslim Leaguer, then proposed an amendment in this House when the proposals were submitted to the House, for introducing or continuing the separate electorates, the effects of which have been fully known and felt all over the country and perhaps, known outside too. My proposals as Chairman of the Advisory Committee were then accepted by the House practically unanimously and a general sense of appreciation was expressed by the minorities when these proposals were accepted.

At a later stage we had to meet again because our proposals were incomplete in so far as the Punjab and the Bengal provinces were concerned, because when the House passed the proposals in the August sessions of 1947, the effects of partition were not felt or known and the vast migrations that took place were at that time in a process of continuation and the position of the Sikhs was practically uncertain at that time.

So also in Bengal the effect of the partition was not fully realised, and both the Provinces were desirous of postponing the question till the conditions were fully settled and the effects were fully realised. At a later stage a Committee was appointed in December to consider this question. A Sub-committee of five persons was appointed by the Advisory Committee, of which our revered President was also one of the members; Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, myself, Mr. Munshi and Dr. Ambedkar were the other members of this Committee. This Committee met and made its report in February.

Sikh Attitude

When this report was made the representatives of the Sikh Community wanted time to consider the report and consult their Community in this matter. Also when the Report was put before the Advisory Committee, the Muslim representatives, some of them, had changed their opinions after full reflection for a long period since the passing of the principles of the Constitution in the August Session of 1947; they put forward the plea that all these reservations must disappear and that it was in the interests of the minorities themselves that such reservations in the Legislature must go.

It was strongly pressed by the representative from Bihar and supported by other representatives. There was then a little difference of opinion and I was anxious, and so was the Committee anxious with me, that we should do nothing to take a snatch vote on such a question of vast importance. As the Sikh representatives wanted time to consider their position, we naturally adjourned and met again, during the early part of this month.

When we met this time, we found a considerable change in the attitude of the minorities themselves. Dr. Mookerjee moved a motion for the dropping of the clause on reservation of seats in the legislature on population basis. When this proposal was moved, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, who was representing the Scheduled Castes, moved an amendment to the effect that the provision for reservation so far as the Scheduled Caste were concerned may be continued for a period of ten years.

The general opinion in the Advisory Committee was almost unanimous, that this reservation so far as the Scheduled Castes were concerned, should be continued for that period and that Mr. Muniswami Pillai's amendment should be accepted.

Sikh Proposal

The Sikh representatives brought in a proposal which, to a certain extent, was an improvement on the previous position. Whatever may be the object of that proposal, the Advisory Committee thought it fit to give due consideration to the proposal of the Sikhs, because the members of the Committee always felt a sort of responsibility for the susceptibilities and sentiments of the Sikh community which has suffered vastly by the partition of the Punjab.

After a full debate, the Committee came to the conclusion that the Sikh proposal to fall in line with the dropping of the reservation clause was, although tinkered with another proposal which, in effect, gave them a sort of reservation on certain conditions, a great improvement. The Committee considering the whole situation came to the conclusion that the time has come when the vast majority of the minority communities have themselves realised, after a great reflection, the evil effects in the past of such reservation on the minorities themselves, and that this should be dropped, and the Minorities Committee's proposals should be accepted.

In a House of about forty members of the Advisory Committee, there was only one solitary vote against the proposal. So we thought that although these proposals were accepted by this House in August 1947, it was due to us and to the House that we should advise this House to reconsider the position and put before the House a proposal which is consistent with the proclaimed principles of this House for the establishment of a genuine democratic State based purely on nationalistic principles. Therefore, when we found the changed atmosphere, we considered it our duty to come before this House to revise its former decision, which was provisional as has been laid down by this House in several cases. It is under these circumstances that these proposals have been brought before the House.

So far as the Sikh community is concerned, there is only one proposal which, in effect, does not really differ from the principles that have been laid down by the Advisory Committee because the Advisory Committee also has accepted the amendment of Mr. Muniswami Pillai that the reservation for the Scheduled Castes must continue. The Sikhs themselves have thought that certain classes of people amongst them, who have been recent converts, and who were originally Scheduled Caste Hindus, are suffering from the disabilities which the Scheduled Caste Hindus are suffering from for the fault of the Hindu community The Sikhs are suffering for the fault of the Sikh community and nobody else. Really, as a matter of fact, these con-

ments. Progress with these cannot for reasons of finance be as fast as we would wish. But in the meantime it is for this Council to suggest how to make the best use of our resources, how to ensure that trained nurses are doing the work for which they have been trained and to suggest the type and number and scope of auxiliary nursing personnel. And I myself lay great stress on the need for expansion at a rapid rate of what is termed auxiliary personnel. In this service, as in all others, I would emphasize the need for thinking more and more in terms of rural India whose barest needs have not uptil now been given their due consideration.

Objective of Training

One of the main functions of the Indian Nursing Council will be to lay down minimum standards for the training of nurses. The objective of training should be to produce nurses who are skilled, not only in bedside nursing but who also have an adequate grasp of the principles of health conservation and of health education, so that they may be able to give skilled and complete nursing care in whatever situation it is needed.

The wider basic training which will fulfil this aim is engaging the attention of nurses in many countries. The Bhore Committee syllabus which designed to give this type of training has not been adopted widely because of lack of teaching facilities and, sometimes, because of lack of knowledge and experience as to how to make the best use even of the facilities that exist. I trust the Indian Nursing Council will be able to survey the situation and make recommendations which will result in the universal adoption of this syllabus.

The Indian Nursing Council has been vested with the power to inspect training institutions and examinations. While some variation in standards of training and examination is inevitable at present, our efforts must ever be directed towards attaining a uniformly higher standard than that which exists today. All the Provincial Councils are represented on this Council and it should not, therefore, be difficult to reach an agreement in this matter.

Another point which should, in my opinion engage your attention is the question of providing text-books. Lack of good text-books on nursing written for Indian conditions, is a serious handicap to giving a sound course of training.

All-India Register

About a thousand nurses pass the qualifying examination every year in India. Where do they go? The acute shortage of trained nurses that we experience does not suggest that the number of 1,000 trained nurses assessed by the Bhore Committee has not been increased by even four or five thousand. A correct assessment of trained nursing personnel is necessary for a planned expansion of training centres. For that purpose the creation of an All-India Register with appropriate divisions is a matter which this Council should consider straightway.

In commenting upon the Provincial Councils the report of the Bhore Committee states: "It seems obvious to us that a council designed to regulate the training and practice of the nursing profession should consist primarily of members of the profession it designs to regulate." This has not been the case with most provincial councils. Therefore, nurses in all parts of this country will note with great satisfaction that it is nurses who constitute a majority among the members of this Council.

Nursing is an essential service to the community. The nurse, midwife and health visitor are in closer contact with the patient in the hospital and in the home than other medical personnel and have, therefore, special opportunities to spread the gospel of healthful living.

The Nurses' Lot

The nurses' lot is a hard one. I have already referred to poor living accommodation and low salaries. In addition, there is the strain of long hours of work due to understaffing in most of our hospitals and the depressing atmosphere that must always surround sick and suffering humanity. It is, therefore, not only personnel skilled in the art that are required but the strength of spirit within that will radiate sympathy, kindness, human understanding and patience that are necessary if the profession is to rise to the high standard expected of it. Not for nothing is the great woman who founded this profession called the "Lady of the Lamp." The torch she lit may never be dimmed.

It hurts me to hear and read and often receive complaints of low standards of professional ethics in all branches of the medical profession. I have always felt that women are special custodians of correct behaviour and instinct with the desire to alleviate pain and suffering. I, therefore, expect them to make their full contribution to the raising of ethical standards in all hospitals and nursing homes.

On this Council will, therefore, rest the responsibility so to direct the training of nurses, midwives and health visitors that they may be enabled not only to use wisely the great opportunity open to them to contribute to the building of a healthy nation but also to enrich hospital service by the beauty and purity of their own lives.

I wish this Council every success in the fine field of service that is opening out to them in free India.

The Government of India have decided to exclude from the scope of Open General Licences Nos. X and XIV. 'Barley Raw' and 'Bengal Gram' said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 24.

The import of these articles from Pakistan, Ceylon, Iraq, Portuguese Possessions in India and the Persian Gulf Sheikdoms will hereafter require import licences. Notifications giving effect to this decision have been issued recently.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO W. H. O. ASSEMBLY

The Government of India have decided to send a delegation to the Second World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization of the United Nations which will meet in Rome on June 13, 1949, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Health on May 25.

The Assembly, which will consider important questions of policy and programme in the field of international public health will last for about three weeks.

India's delegation will be composed of:

The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India (Leader).

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University (Deputy Leader).

Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, Director-General of Health Services (Member).

Advisers:

Dr. P.V. Benjamin, Adviser in Tuberculosis, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India,

Shri Dhiren Mitra, Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner for India in London,

Lt.-Col. C.L. Pasricha, Medical Adviser to the High Commissioner for India in London,

Dr. S.C. Sen, Radiologist, Delhi, and Dr. R.G. Cochrane, Honorary Medical Superintendent, Government Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium, Chingleput, Madras.

LAWRENCE MEMORIAL SCHOOL

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Education on May 17 said:

The Ministry of Education, Government of India, have taken over the administration of the Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School, Lovedale (Nilgiris) with effect from May 14, 1949. This institution will henceforth be run as a residential public school and admission thereto will be open to all, irrespective of class or community.

The rate of fees charged will be Rs. 1,200 per annum per student. Parents who wish to send more than one child to the school will be given ten per cent concession for the second child and twenty-five per cent concession for every subsequent child. The question of award of scholarships to deserving but needy students is under consideration and a further announcement will be made in due course.

Admissions to the school are still open. Applications should be sent to the Principal direct.

DEVELOPMENT OF DRUGS INDUSTRY

"BLACK MARKETING in drugs and the use of patent drugs in general by laymen who do not understand their reactions on the body are matters of grave concern to me and my Ministry," said the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, inaugurating the first meeting of the Pharmacy Council of India in Delhi on May 16.

Dr. K. C. K. E. Raja, Director-General of Health Services, Government of India, who presided over the meeting said: "The main functions of this Council and of similar organisations such as the Medical, Dental and Nursing Councils are to prescribe and enforce desirable standards of training in their respective fields and to ensure that the practice of the profession in each case attains a high standard of professional and ethical conduct."

In all these bodies, he added, the majority of members belonged to the profession concerned, the underlying idea being that the regulation of the profession should mainly be the responsibility of men of standing in their profession.

Personnel of Council

Thirty members of the Council, who are nominees of the Central and Provincial Governments and those elected by the Inter-University Board and the Medical Council of India, attended the meeting.

Mr. M. L. Schroff, Principal, Birla Colleges of Arts, Science and Commerce, Pilani, was elected Vice-President of the Council and Mr. P. M. Nabar, Dr. H. R. Nanji, Dr. B. Mukerji, Mr. B. V. Patel, and G. P. Srivastava were elected members of the Executive Committee.

A sub-committee consisting of the following members was appointed to draw up a suitable curricula for training in pharmacy in the country: Prof. R. P. Patel, Prof. S.P. Srivastava, Dr. B. Mukerji, Mr. K.C. Chatterjee, Prof. T.R. Seshadri, Mr. S. N. Bal and Mr. A. N. Lazarus.

The Council approved the following foreign qualifications in Pharmcy for purpose of registration under the Pharmacy Act:

1. Degrees in Pharmacy obtained from any of the accredited colleges of pharmacy in the U. S. A. as issued by the American Council of Pharmaceutical Education from time to time:

2. Degree of B. Pharm. or B.Sc. (Pharm.) of a British University; and

3. Diplomas of Chemist and Druggist and Pharmaceutical Chemist of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

The Council further authorised the Executive Committee to approve such other foreign qualifications in Pharmacy as it may consider satisfactory for purposes of registration.

Health Minister's Address

The following is the text of the Health Minister's address:

The inauguration of the Pharmacy Council marks a definite and important step in the campaign for the regulation of the quality and purity of drugs made available to the people of this country.

It was as far back as 1930 that a Drugs Enquiry Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Col. Ram Nath Chopra, the terms of which included (a) an investigation into the extent and necessity in the public interest of controlling the importation, manufacture and sale of drugs (b) the extent to which known and approved medicinal preparations other than those in the British Pharmacopoeia should be accepted for use, including medicines made from indigenous drugs and chemicals and (c) the question of legislation to restrict the profession of pharmacy to duly qualified persons.

The recommendations of this Chopra Committee have formed the basis on which all subsequent legislative and administrative action has been taken in India in order to promote improvement of the quality and purity of drugs made available to the people.

For instance, a Drugs Act which was passed by the Central Legislature in 1940 and was brought into force in 1947 provides for adequate control over imported drugs as well as over those manufactured and sold in the country.

Another committee which met in 1944 under the chairmanship of Col. Ram Nath Chopra prepared a fairly long list of drugs of Indian origin which was published by the Government of India as an Indian Pharmacopoeial List in 1946. The next stage has been the appointment of a committee which met in March last to prepare a complete Indian Pharmacopoeia similar to the British and the United States Pharmacopoeias. It is expected that this Indian Pharmacopoeia will ultimately give adequate standards of strength and of purity in regard to many indigenous drugs.

The third and very important recommendation of the Drugs Enquiry Committee of 1930 related to the question of regulating the profession of pharmacy. For this purpose the Pharmacy Act of 1948 was passed and it is under this Act that the Central Council of Pharmacy is now being inaugurated.

Its function is, as in the case of other Councils like the Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India in their respective fields, to prescribe the minimum standards of education for qualification as a Pharmacist.

The standards it prescribes are to be adopted by the provinces and the Central Pharmacy Council has the right to inspect the provincial institutions in which the courses of training are to be given and to ensure that these courses are in conformity with the regulations it has laid down.

In India, as we all know, the profession of pharmacy is still in its infancy. A great responsibility therefore rests on the Central Pharmacy Council to guide the development of training in the subject on sound lines so as to bring about, as early as possible, a uniformity of standards throughout the country.

Three Types of Workers

The Bhore Committee has recommended the production of three types of pharmaceutical workers in this country: (i) the Licentiate pharmacist, (ii) the graduate pharmacist, and (iii) the pharmaceutical technologist.

The licentiate course is intended to provide for a large number of persons engaged in dispensing work in chemists' shops, dispensaries and hospitals. Such personnel are today known as compounders and the period of their training varies from province to province. It is essential in the public interest to ensure that a uniform standard is prescribed and enforced.

The graduate pharmacist should have a course designed to train him for work in manufacturing concerns, analytical laboratories and educational medical institutions. At present the universities of Bombay, Madras, Banaras, Agra, East Punjab and Andhra provide training courses for degrees in Pharmacy for Pharmaceutical Chemistry. The regulation of these courses of training in the interests of increasing efficiency and ensuring high and uniform standards will also be the responsibility of the Central Pharmacy Council.

The Bhore Committee rightly envisages the pharmaceutical technologist as one who, after taking the degree in Pharmacy, undertakes further training in the matter of the large scale manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations. The production of an adequate number of such technologists is also essential from the point of view of promoting the development of the drug industry in India.

The functions which the Central Pharmacy Council will perform in the coming years will have profound effect on the public health of the country. If the insufficiently trained compounders who are today responsible in many places for dispensing medicine to patients are replaced by properly qualified persons a great advance will have been made in proper medication for the sick.

and two lower grades of dental perecnnel, the dental hygienist and the dental mechenic.

It will be the responsibility of the Dental Council to ensure that the curricula of studies for these three types of workers are sound, that the training institutions maintain the requisite standards of teaching and that the examinations which are conducted are also of the necessary standards. I have no doubt that, with the present composition of the Dental Council, these objectives will be constatnly kept in view and pursued vigorously.

Training Facilities

On the Governments— Central, Provincial and State—lies the responsibility for developing an adequate number of teaching institutions and of raising the standards of existing dental colleges. The Bhore Committee recommended that Dental Colleges should be established at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Lucknow and Patna as well as one at Delhi in association with the proposed All-India Medical Institute.

I need not here reiterate my burning desire to bring this Institute into being as soon as ever possible, for it is an urgent necessity and I have always had it in mind to give a first class Dental College high priority in this scheme. Meanwhile, I am glad to learn that the Government of Bengal is raising the Dental College there to the status of a College affiliated to the University of Calcutta and that the Government of Bombay is proposing to raise the standard of the Sir Ebrahim Currimbhoy Dental College which is already of University standard.

It is equally necessary that the Nair Dental College should similarly be improved and affiliated to the University of Bombay while the other Provincial Capitals should also have, without delay, properly equipped and staffed dental institutions of the University standard. The fact that medical colleges exist in these places should make it possible to combine the teaching of medicine and dentistry in a number of subjects such as Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology and thus reduce expenditure.

The Central Government has been compelled, during the past 20 months to devote most of its time and funds towards attempting an even partial solution of the almost crushing problems that the large scale displacement of people has brought about. Even so we have not lost sight of the need for promoting the training of health personnel in all branches.

The possibility of establishing a Dental College in Delhi will receive the attention of my Ministry as soon as conditions permit. In this regard I would like to appeal to you to try to raise some funds. A nation building activity like health must today look to public in addition to Government support because of the dire financial stringency with which Government is faced.

The short-term dental programme put forward by the Bhore Committee suggested the establishment of dental sections in all the secondray health unit hospitals and the provision of dental clinics which will bring to the rural areas, and particularly to mothers and children, a reasonably good dental service and instruction in the practice of oral hygiene.

Dental Vans

A pre-requisite to the development of this programme is the production of an adequate number of dental surgeons, dental hygienists and dental mechanics and it is to be hoped that the co-ordinated efforts of the different Governments in the country will promote as rapidly as possible an adequate training programme.

I was greatly struck last year by the Dental vans in use in the United Kingdom for schools in towns as well as for rural areas. I am quite sure that we should go in for these and not wait for buildings which, in the circumstances of today, will take a long time to come into being. In the proper direction and control of this training and development programme the Dental Council of India will, indeed must, play an important part."

In conclusion, may I say, as I have often said before, that medical science knows no barriers of race or creed or colour. Its servants have to be men and women with a broad vision willing always to subserve the larger interests of humanity as a whole. This is all the more applicable in our country today when provincial interests are often apt to narrow our outlook. We must have the best men and women serving our institutes regardless of all interests other than the general good. I wish the Council all success in the tasks on which it is entering today.

PILOT SCHEME FOR MALARIA CONTROL

A pilot scheme undertaken by the Malaria Institute of India, on behalf of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, for malaria control in the betel nut growing area in South Kanara District, the results of which are now available, has been successful and the Council has recommended to the Provincial Governments adoption of similar methods for control in the malaria tracts in their areas.

Malaria, which is one of the most widely prevalent diseases in India, causes tremendous loss of man power in the country; more so, among the agriculturists who have to work under water and in moisture which provide good breeding grounds for the mosquitoes. It has been estimated that out of 8 million deaths in India every year from all causes, about 2 millions are due to malaria alone, directly or indirectly. Further there are large areas of land in the country where development has not been possible mainly due to the prevalence of malaria.

Operations in Villages

The operations under the pilot scheme were conducted in 16 villages in South Kanara District covering approximately an area of 250 sq. miles in the foot hills of the Western Ghats. While the entire area was generally malarious, in some of the villages the disease was prevalent in hyperendemic form. Almost every year the number of deaths in this region exceeded that of births. Thirty-seven to fifty-seven per cent of the total deaths recorded were due to fevers alone.

The control party had to tackle a large unmber of problems, including lack of local labour, communications and indifference of the people of the locality. The latter difficulty was, however, soon removed and the villagers readily co-operated as soon as the first effects of control measures were visible by way of reduction of the incidence of the disease. The operations were conducted by spraying stagnant water and other breeding places with D.D.T. mixture and a few other insecticides, thrice at periodic intervals, between June 1947, and May 1948. Stirrup pumps as well as kanpsack sprayers were used with success.

An organization is also proposed to be set up to tackle malaria in this area on a permanent basis with the co-operation of the villagers. For the first few years the organization proposes to employ paid workers to do the spraying and dusting work. But with the formation of village Co-operatives the work will be undertaken on a voluntary basis and the need for paid workers will be obviated.

Exports to Hard Currency Areas

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 28 said :

In order to encourage exports to hard currency areas, the Government of India had decided to allow the export of samples of cotton, silk, art silk and mixed piece goods worth less than Rs. 50 without any export licence to the following countries:

(1) Countries in North, Central and South America with the exception of Brazil, Peru, Chile and Uruguay;

(2) The Philippines;

(3) Belgium and Belgian colonies;

(4) Portugal and Portuguese colonies, excluding Portuguese possessions in India;

(5) The Joint U.S., U.K. and French Zones of Germany ; and



Rajkumari Amrit Kaur addressing the first meeting of the Nursing Council of India

NURSES' ROLE IN SPREADING GOSPEL OF HEALTHFUL LIVING

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur's Address

"THE nurse, midwife and health visitor are in closer contact with the patient in the hospital and in the home than other medical personnel and have, therefore, special opportunities to spread the gospel of healthful living," said Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister, inaugurating the first meeting of the Nursing Council of India in New Delhi on May 19.

Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, Director-General of Health Services, presided.

Miss F. Taylor, Dean of the School of Nursing of the Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, was elected Vice-President of the Council and Rev. Mother M. Kinesburge, Miss T.K. Adranvala, Miss E.H. Paull, Mrs. B.A. Indra, Miss L. Williams, Miss Doctor and Dr. Chaman Lal Mehta were elected members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will appoint a sub-committee to inspect and report on the training facilities available in the existing Nurses' training institutions and put forward proposals for a uniform standard of training and examinations in nursing throughout the country.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at Vellore about the middle of October.

The following is the text of the Health Minister's address :

It gives me very great pleasure to be amongst you today—you who are members of a profession to which every woman by reason of her very nature belongs and which brings solace and relief from pain and suffering, both mental and physical.

This Council has come into being as a result of a long-felt need, voiced repeatedly by nurses themselves for a body which will co-ordinate the activities of the Provincial Councils and will lay down minimum standards and safeguard their maintenance.

At present the regulation of the Nursing Profession which includes midwives and health visitors is vested with the Provincial Nursing Councils. These Councils prescribe conditions for training and examinations for nurses, midwives and health visitors and maintain registers of persons who have completed approved courses of training and passed the examinations. There is unfortunately a great disparity in the standards laid down for training and examination by the various nursing councils. The actual quality also of the training varies greatly even in each individual province although the training schools appear to conform to minimum requirements.

A Welcome Change

This is by no means a satisfactory state of affairs, as indeed is the case with many other conditions affecting nursing. The reasons why the profession has not gone ahead in this country, as in most of the western countries, are not far to seek. In the main, the nursing profession in India has not attracted the right type of candidates. Lack of status, low salaries and poor housing have been among the causes which have deterred many intelligent and keen young women from joining its ranks.

I do feel, however, that the picture is now changing. There is, for example, a most welcome change in the attitude of the public. The concept that nursing is the province of the poorly educated, the orphan and the widow is gradually dying. There is a growing appreciation of the services that a trained nurse can render.

The establishment of the Colleges of Nursing in Vellore and Delhi, the scheme for sending young women abroad for basic training in nursing and the conferment of gazetted status on nurses in senior positions are some of the factors which have brought about this change. There is, moreover, a growing awareness of the nurses' role in the public health field and I rejoice that a scheme for training public health nurses is under consideration.

Training Facilities

The number of nurses who have taken post-graduate courses in teaching and administration, though still far too small, has grown sufficiently to be effective in helping to raise the standard of nursing in this country. Some of the Universities are considering the institution of a university programme in nursing and the two existing Colleges of Nursing get many more applications from well-educated girls than they can entertain. This is deplorable and the Centre as well as the Provinces must see to it that teaching facilities are at least equal to the demand. Nurses themselves are becoming increasingly aware of the need for means to refresh their knowledge and are eager to improve their standards.

It is in this setting of changing concepts at a time ripe for the reception of new ideas, when there is a yearning for better things, that this Council comes into being. Therefore, it has tremendous possibilities before it of bringing about a real reform in nursing education and nursing practice.

Bhore Committee's Target

There is no gainsaying the fact that we have a great deal of leeway to make up before we can even put ourselves on the road to reach the target set by the Bhore Committee—a million nurses in 30 years' time. The setting up of new training schools, the enlarging of existing schools, the provision of nurses' homes and teaching staff, are the responsibility of the Central and Provincial Govern-



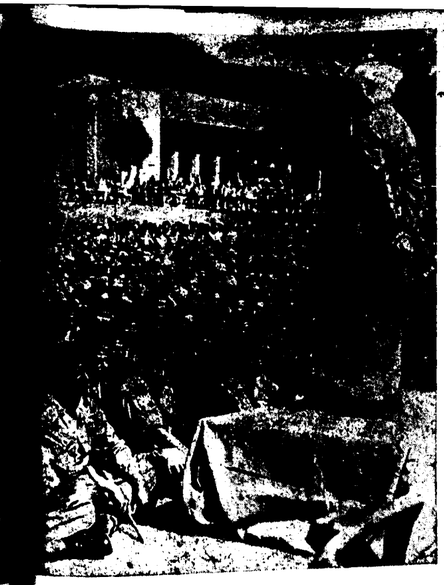
Pandit Nehru and Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah with women workers who greeted India's Prime Minister when he visited the Co-operative Farm at Gopalpur (Srinagar). (Below) Pandit Nehru in a Silk Weaving Factory in Srinagar.





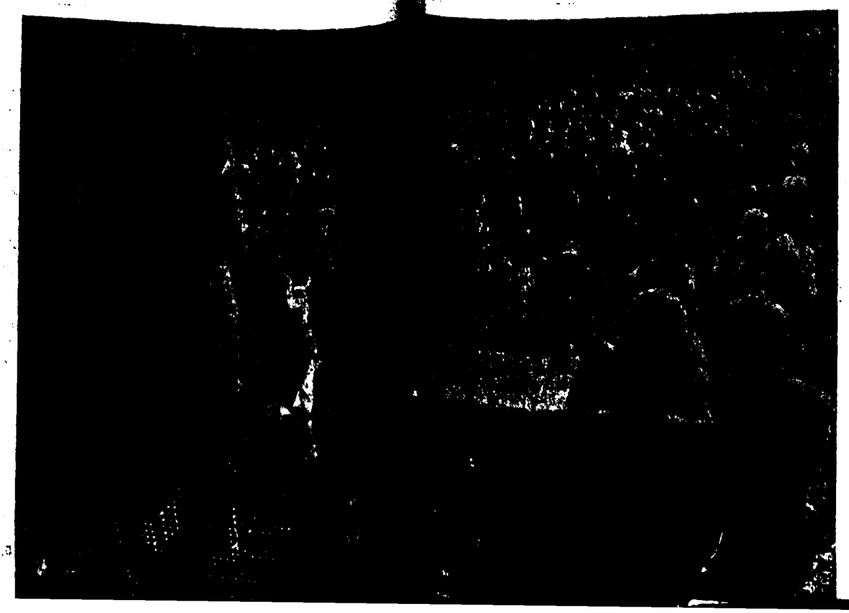
PANDIT NEH

Pandit Nehru, Prime Minister, vi
addressing Indian Troops at Ba
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VISIT TO KASHMIR

mir recently. (Above) Pandit Nehru (Srinagar). (Below) The Prime Minister eeting in Srinagar.





Pandit Nehru took a few moments off to go on a Shikara (a Kashmir boat). With the Prime Minister are Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Education Minister, and Lady Nye, wife of the U.K. High Commissioner in India. (Below) The Prime Minister photographed with the organisers of a canteen which he visited in Srinagar.



The Pharmacy Councils at the Centre and in the Provinces will be concerned not only with the raising of standards of their training but also with the regulation of their professional conduct. In this vast country of ours, with the existing inadequacy of medical attention available to the people, an appreciable proportion of this class of health workers often overstep their normal functions and take upon themselves even the duties of doctors. This is to be strongly deprecated and it is to be hoped that the Pharmacy Councils will be able to deal with this situation effectively.

Control of Imports

The graduate pharmacist will play an important part in the organisation of adequate control, under the Drugs Act, over the import of drugs of proper quality as well as their manufacture in the country and distribution to the people. Today the proper enforcement of the Drugs Act suffers to an appreciable extent from the inadequacy of properly trained licentiate and graduate pharmacists.

Black marketing in drugs and the use of patent drugs in general by laymen who do not understand their reactions on the body are matters of grave concern to me and my Ministry.

The Pharmacy Act has therefore come into being not a day too soon. As has already been pointed out, the development of the drugs industry in India on a large scale depends mainly on pharmaceutical technologists of a high degree of competence.

The Central Pharmaceutical Council which I have the privilege to inaugurate will, I have no doubt, be able to play an important part in improving the health of the people and the responsibility that lies on it for raising the standards of education in this subject and for enforcing desirable professional conduct is immense.

Training Facilities

It will be the duty of the Central, Provincial and States' Governments to provide the necessary facilities for the training of these three classes of workers. Their task will not be an easy one for such facilities are at present wholly inadequate. It might be commendable to draw up an estimate of the number of trained personnel that are likely to be required for the next five to ten years and have a concerted plan of action to attain the goal during this period.

If the plan is to succeed, the services of training institutions of various types such as hospitals, medical colleges and science departments of universities will all have to be brought into the picture.

Let me say again how glad I am to be associated with the inauguration of the Central Pharmacy Council and that I wish it all success in the great tasks which lie ahead.

FILLIP TO INDO-PAKISTAN TRADE

Agreement on Rebate of Central Excise

THE Government of India have for some time past been exploring in informal consultation with Pakistan the possibilities of increasing Inter-Dominion trade by removing or reducing fiscal or other barriers to such trade, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 24.

It added: As a first step in this direction even before any serious discussions took place it would be recollected that they liberalised the export of a number of commodities to Pakistan.

The following is the text of the Agreement:

Central Excise rebates to be given by other Government on its exports to the other

(1) With effect from June 1, 1949, each Dominion will grant full rebate of excise on excisable commodities exported to the other Dominion if such rebates are given on exports of the same commodities to any other country.

Further for a period of one year from the same date, the two Governments will give such rebates on all commodities that are at present excisable or may during that period be made subject to excise duty irrespective of whether such rebates are given on exports to other countries or not.

(2) In view of Clause (1) above the Pakistan Government will withdraw their complaint before the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade regarding rebates of excise duties.

Supply of Mustard Oil

(3) With effect from June 1, 1949, and subject to India continuing to supply to Pakistan mustard oil free of export duty, Pakistan will withdraw their export duties on bamboo and fish exported to India, and provided the necessary administrative arrangement can be made India will reduce the import duty on unmanufactured tobacco from Pakistan to rates corresponding to the rates of excise duty which would be payable on similar Indian tobacco used for similar purposes, this being the position that obtains and will continue to obtain in Pakistan.

(4) An Inter-Dominion Conference will be held on a suitable date before the expiry of the current arrangements to negotiate a fresh agreement for the supply of commodities. The two Dominions will exchange lists of requirements at least a week before the conference begins.

(5) The two Dominions will also enter into negotiations at a separate conference on a date convenient for both to consider (i) the abolition or reduction of import or export duties on certain items and (ii) the simplification of import and export control regulation. For the purpose of these negotiations each Dominion will communicate to the other Dominion a list of items on which such fiscal relief is desired and also a minimum list of articles on which they consider it necessary to maintain import or export control.

(6) Either Government will give due consideration to any representation that may be made by the other Government should the latter feel that the achievement of the full benefits of this agreement is in any way hampered.

The mutual remission of excise duties on exports ought to give a good fillip to the Inter-Dominion trade. It is also hoped that the further agreements contemplated relating to the exchange of commodities and for the abolition or reduction of import and export duties on certain items and the simplification of the import and export control regulations, will be negotiated without delay and further result in augmentation of mutual trade and bring with it all the benefits that generally go with trade.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Reciprocal Recognition in India and Pakistan

The legal position regarding recognition in India and Pakistan of powers of attorney executed in Pakistan and India, respectively, has been clarified and it has now been accepted by both the Governments of India and Pakistan that reciprocal recognition should be given to powers of attorney, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 24.

It added: Powers of attorney executed and authenticated in Pakistan Dominion in the manner prescribed in Section 85 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, or Section 33 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908, as adapted in Pakistan by the Pakistan (Adaptation of Existing Pakistan Laws) Order, 1947, should be accepted in the Provinces of India.

The Ministry of External Affairs in a communication to Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners have explained the legal position and requested them to communicate the same to the authorities concerned for their information and guidance.

The Provincial Governments have also been asked that Courts in their area be requested to afford the necessary facilities to persons who wish to execute powers of attorney in India for use in Pakistan.

Similar instructions have been issued by the Government of Pakistan to their Provincial Governments.



H. E. Ato Emmanuel Abraham, Ethiopian Minister to India, presenting his credentials to H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari at Government House, New Delhi, on May 30

ETHIOPIAN MINISTER PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

THE Ethiopian Minister in India, His Excellency Ato Emmanuel Abraham, presented his credentials to H. E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, at a formal ceremony in Government House, New Delhi on May 30. He was accompanied by Shri K.P.S. Menon, Foreign Secretary, Shri Y. D. Gundevia and Shri B.K. Kapur, Joint Secretaries of External Affairs Ministry, Government of India.

His Excellency the Governor-General welcomed the Ethiopian Minister in the Ball Room. Later a group photograph was taken. The Governor-General then conducted the Minister to his study where they talked for a few minutes before joining the other guests at lunch who included Mrs. Abraham, Shrimati Ammu Swaminathan and Sardar Sant Singh.



The Ethiopian Minister to India with Pandit Nehru

NORWEGIAN NATIONAL DAY

Prime Minister's Message

THE following messages were exchanged between the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and His Excellency the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Norway in India on the anniversary of the Norwegian National Day on May 17.

From the Prime Minister of India:

"May I convey to you and, through you, to the Government and people of Norway, the cordial greetings of the Government and people of India on the National Day of Norway. We rejoice with the people of Norway on this historic day and look forward to the continuance of our friendship and co-operation with them in the common task of building up world peace and prosperity."

From H.E. the Norwegian Minister:

"Please accept, Your Excellency, my heartiest thanks for your kind greetings on the occasion of Norway's National Day, the 17th of May—the 135th year's anniversary in commemoration of the adoption of the Constitution of Norway.

"I feel certain that the Norwegian Government and the Norwegian people will receive with sincere joy the good wishes which Your Excellency has so kindly expressed on this day.

"We Norwegians would on our side like to convey our best wishes for India's happiness and success in solution of the big tasks ahead, and we look forward to a friendly and prosperous co-operation for peace and progress in the world."

FILM ADVISORY BOARD

The Government of India have constituted a Film Advisory Board to advise the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Board will preview all documentaries and newsreels produced by the Films Division and advise Government on such matters as may be referred to them.

The members of the Board are: Shrimati Lilavati Munshi, Shri V. Shantaram, Mr. Frank Moraes, Shri M. T. Vyas, Shri S. A. Iyer and Shri P. C. Chaudhuri, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Films Division has planned to produce 52 newsreels and 36 documentaries in a year. To encourage the production of good documentaries by the film industry, 16 documentaries are also proposed to be purchased from the trade.

Films produced by the Films Division will be supplied for exhibition in all cinema houses in India and selected films will also be sent abroad. Films will also be supplied to Provincial Governments for exhibition in rural areas through mobile vans.

IMPORTANCE OF BANANAS IN INDIAN DIETARY

THE refrain of an old, now almost forgotten song "We have no bananas" expresses not only the wistful longing for a delicious breakfast fruit, but as is often times the case, opens up a field of knowledge—this time into the "new science of nutrition."

How valuable is the banana? That is not a mere rhetorical question. The exact protein, calorie, and carbohydrate contents of the banana, its average yield per acre, and its cost of production are matters of considerable economic importance to India, in context of its overall shortage of food, and the Government's determination to free the country from the dead weight of imported foodgrains, within a specified period.

The banana tree is one of the ancient denizens of India. Alexander the Great found the plant in the Indus Valley in 327 B.C. and the Arabs seem to have introduced it from India into Palestine and Egypt. Today, among the fruits grown in our country, with the exception of the mango, the largest area is under banana cultivation.

Madras is first with over 128,000 acres and Bengal a distant second with about 44,000 acres. It is believed that parts of Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, the U. P. and South India possess abundant scope for the expansion of banana cultivation.

The banana tree, whose fruit needs no introduction, furnishes food in a variety of forms, fodder for cattle, thatching for the poor man's house and fibre for a number of purposes. The banana contains vitamins A, B, C, D and E, and a larger percentage of potash, phosphorus, calcium and iron than the apple or orange.

A Valuable Food

If the yield of all crops under optimum conditions are considered, the banana stands first in the number of calories produced per acre, over 50,00,000. The sweet potato is the second best with 38,80,000 and the calorie yield of wheat and rice per acre is 12,80,000 and 12,80,000 respectively. In its yield per acre of proteins and carbo-hydrates also the banana is markedly superior to rice, wheat and the potato. In well-kept plantations an annual yield of 60,000 lbs. of bananas per acre has been secured.

It has been stated that a few bananas a day taken with milk provide all the ingredients of a balanced diet for a sedentary worker. The banana is easily digestible, and is used as a corrective both for over-weight and under-weight and for combating diarrhoea as well as constipation. Persons allergic to milk or eggs have found the banana a delicious alternative.



The Banana furnishes food in a variety of forms It is easily digestible and contains many vitamins

India grows 600 varieties of bananas, but only a few are of any commercial importance. In Madras the best known variety is the *Poyan* which accounts for 54 per cent of the total acreage under bananas, with the Malabar variety *Nendran* coming next.

West Bengal and Bombay also grow many varieties, the more popular being the *Sabri, Champa* and *Kachkela* in the Eastern province, and the *Basrai, Safed Velchi* and *Lal Velchi* in Bombay.

Banana consumption figures for individual provinces also show a wide variation ranging from 87 lbs. per annum per head in Bengal, 51.6 lbs. in Madras, to only half a pound per annum in the U.P. While it is true that centres of production show a high percentage of consumption, lack of quick transport is not the only explanation for the low intake of bananas in some parts of the country.

Uses of Banana Fibre

Greater efforts should be made to popularise the banana as an essential item in the daily dietary of our countrymen. It was probably this lack of endeavour which led the Bengal Famine Enquiry Commission to state that "Whereas half a pound of milk daily for every Indian child is unfortunately a remote ideal a banana a day is a practicable and attainable objective."

Besides the fruit of the banana tree, its other parts are also useful. The tender portion of the stem is cooked and eaten : the ash of the plant is used as food in Assam and also for washing clothes. Banana leaves are widely used as plates, and its stem as fodder for cattle. Experiments have shown that banana stems cut into short pieces can furnish as much as half of the roughage necessary for oxen. While not as valuable as Manila hemp, the fibre of the banana has been used for a number of purposes.

Green bananas are used as vegetables and also dried and ground into what is variously called 'banana flour,' plantain meal, etc. This is a cottage industry in Madras and on the West Coast of India.

The banana therefore furnishes food in a variety of forms, fodder for cattle, thatching for the poor man's hut, and fibre for a number of purposes. The fruit contains many vitamins, protein, fat, essential minerals and an abundance of easily digestible sugar. The banana justifies its claim among fruits to be the best by every test. It reserves a more important place in the Indian dietary than it has secured so far.



Tractors assembled at the Central Tractor Organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture to be sent to various pieces for opening up new land for cultivation

PLEA FOR CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

Achievements of Central Tractor Organisation

ONE hundred and eighty tractors left derelict by the U. S. Army after completing their work of building the famous Lido Road in Assam, were built anew and are now ploughing up vast stretches of land in North and Central India which has long been out of cultivation. This work of rehabilitation of old tractors to meet India's new demand for increased food production, was undertaken by the Central Tractor Organisation whose workshop is situated in New Pusa, a suburb of New Delhi.

Started on a modest scale in March, 1947, as an "experimental venture," when a tractor was a costly curiosity which aroused ill-feigned suspicion of the villager, the Central Tractor Organisation has now introduced mechanised agriculture into large tracts of weed-infested land in C. P., Madhya Bharat, East Punjab and the U. P.

The Organisation has now a staff of 1,400 consisting of 450 tractor drivers, an equal number of apprentice drivers, and techniest personnel, most of whom have had all their training in the Pusa workshop. If the Central Government's scheme of importing 375 heavy tractors during the course of the next few months materialises, it is hoped to start regional tractor centres to meet the requirements of the 3 regions of U.P., West Bengal and Orissa, Central India and North-West India.

The Central Tractor Organisation will supervise the work of the regional offices and the Directors of the Central Organization are confident of providing the requisite staff when needed. It is estimated that this would involve the training of 750 drivers, 375 apprentice drivers, and a proportionate number of mechanics, supervisors, assistant engineers and divisional agricultural engineers, excluding the technical personnel which would be necessary to run the workshops.

The higher staff might have to be trained abroad for a period not exceeding 6 months. This should not prove very difficult, for the manufacturers have agreed to train Indian personnel in their workshops, and in addition have offered the services of their own engineers, who will stay in India for about 1 year.

The Dreaded Kans

The tractors of the Central Organisation have shown the only way of meeting the challenge of the pernicious Indian weed *kans*, which has turned millions of acres of cultivable lands into bleak wastelands. Experience has shown that ploughing up three areas to a minimum depth of 12 inches, which no bullock driven plough could ever reach, not only destroys the roots of the *kans* but produces bumper crops which are the envy of villagers.

On several thousands of acres of land reclaimed in the C. P. and U. P. last year, stand rabi crops which average 1,200 lbs. an acre as against 400 lbs. in other areas. In some plots the yield has gone up to over 1,500 lbs. an acre and this on land which has had no manure and no irrigation! It is not surprising therefore that the Provincial Governments are unable to meet the ever increasing demand of more and more tractors from villagers who have watched bleak lands produce bumper food crops.

Working with its old machines which become scrap after 7,000 hours of work as against a normal of 10,000 hours for new machines, the Central Tractor Organisation has reclaimed during the first 4 months of the current year over 40,000 acres of land. These areas are in Meerut, Nainital and Jhansi districts of U. P., Khurai, Patharia, Piparia, Dularia, Bhilsa and Garakota in the C. P. and Kernal in the East Punjab.

Mobile Workshops

Associated with each unit of 15 tractors is a mobile workshop consisting of trained mechanics, one of whom is an expert on implements and another on the tractor engine. In charge of the unit is a supervisor who is himself a trained mechanic. The work is hard and exacting, especially during the summer months when the temperature in the shade often rises over the 115° mark. But the work has its compensation—such service is for 6 months only and the emoluments are handsome according to Indian standards.

The Chairman of the organisation, who prides on being called a farmer, is no blind enthusiast of tractor cultivation. His considerable experience of Indian agriculture and the Indian cultivator

has convinced him that mechanisation in India is a very distant dream. He is not even sure that such a step would be practicable or even desirable. His views are that there are about 87 million acres of wasteland in the country of which about 25 per cent can be reclaimed.

Let us concentrate on 6 million acres during the next 6 years, keeping in mind the fact that wherever large areas of culturable wastes are reclaimed, they should be framed on a commercial basis in order to make them yield to their utmost capacity. Convert these areas into co-operative farms. Let the tractors do the heavy work of reclamation which should be supplemented with bullocks for other lighter tasks of farming.

There is yet another type of land on which the use of tractors can yield lasting results i.e., the land which is gradually going out of cultivation because of the spread of *kans* and *harials* weeds. These lands which are good wheat and jowar producing areas can be made productive again, by deep cultivation alone, with heavy machinery. This destroys the primary root system of the grasses and enables the farmer to work the land with his own indigenous implements. "This is where the heavy machines of the Central Tractor Organisation have tried to help" says the Chairman, "and in a few cases where there is a dearth of bullocks the Central Ministry of Agriculture has also undertaken the necessary task of follow-up cultivation." Put this way one gets the feeling that there is very little room left for argument.

ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD LAWS

In a letter issued to all Provincial Governments and the Chief Commissioners of Centrally Administered Areas, the Central Food Ministry has stressed the necessity of making the observance of food laws obligatory on all sections of the people, and also to see that all persons, irrespective of their status, who are found guilty of contravention of food laws, receive adequate punishment.

The Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) (Amendment) Act 1949, which was passed during the budget session of the Legislature, empowers the trying court to award greater punishment for contravention of food laws, by making imprisonment compulsory, and provides for the confiscation of vehicles used for smuggling foodgrains.

The trying court may, however, award a sentence of fine, if it is of the opinion that this would meet the ends of justice, but the reasons for this have to be recorded in writing.

It has also been suggested that Provincial Governments should set up local advisory committees in each district and its sub-division, consisting among others of local members of the provincial Legislature.

These committees would periodically review the working of food laws, give advice, and make their recommendations to the Deputy Commissioners and Collectors of various districts on the strict and impartial enforcement of food laws.

DEVELOPMENT OF ARECANUTS

Central Committee Constituted

THE Government of India have decided to set up a Central Arecanut Committee for the improvement and development of the production and marketing of arecanut and its products, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on May 28.

It added: The committee will consist of the Minister for Agriculture, Government of India, as President and the following members: The Agriculture Commissioner and the Marketing Adviser, Government of India, a representative each of the Ministries of Finance, and Commerce to be nominated by the Central Government; 4 members of the Dominion Parliament who are neither growers of nor traders in arecanut who will be nominated to represent consumers; 8 members representing arecanut growers of whom 4 shall be nominated by the Government of Madras, one by the Governments of Travancore and Cochin and one each by the Governments of Bombay, Assam and Mysore; 7 persons representing the Departments of Agriculture of Assam, Bombay, Coorg, Madras, Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and West Bengal to be appointed in each case by the Government concerned, and 6 persons representing the trade in arecanut, one each being nominated by the Government of Madras, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin, All-India Supari Federation, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Palghat Chambers of Commerce.

Committee's Functions

Inter alia the committee will assist and encourage agricultural, industrial, technological and economic research in arecanuts; produce, test, and distribute improved varieties of seed; encourage the adoption of improved methods of cultivation; assist in the control of parasites and diseases which affect arecanut; encourage the adoption of improved measures for arecanut marketing; give financial and technical assistance to organisations engaged in growing, processing, grading and marketing arecanut; establish a market intelligence service and recommend maximum and minimum prices to be fixed for arecanut and the controlled purchase and distribution of arecanut imports.

The Government of India will give an annual grant to the Committee not exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs and will appoint a Secretary and Co-operative Arecanut Marketing Officer to assist the Committee.

The establishment of the Central Arecanut Committee follows the recommendations made by an *ad hoc* committee set up by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1946, which considered the preliminary measures necessary for effecting improvements in the arecanut industry.

The Central Government had been receiving numerous representations from individual producers and arecanut association in South India, on the difficulties facing the industry. These were: lack of scientific research to improve the cultivation and production of arecanut, the ravages of a disease and the ill-developed marketing methods in existence.

The possibilities of cheap and heavy imports of arecanuts from the Straits Settlements, Ceylon and other areas in South-East Asia, and their depressing effect on the prices of the indigenous variety were also stressed and it was suggested that there should be some control to regulate the marketing of the Indian and the imported varieties.

Madras is the largest grower of arecanuts in India with 107,000 acres under this commodity and Coorg the smallest with 800 acres only.

Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Agriculture and Food Minster, who is the President of the newly constituted Arecanut Committee, has appointed Mr. K. Madhava Menon, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Madras, to be its first Vice-President.

COMMERCIAL AND TRADE JOURNALS

From time to time, trade notices and Press Notes are issued by the Commerce Ministry relating to important matters concerning export and import trade. Owing to the limitations of space, it is not always possible to give due publicity in the Press to all the items of news which are likely to be of interest to the trade.

All notifications, trade notices and other items of news relating to commercial matters are, however, published in the Indian Trade Journal, which is issued weekly by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, and in the Indian Trade Bulletin which is issued fortnightly by the Editor, Commercial Publications, Commerce Ministry, New Delhi.

Those who are interested in commercial news including notices issued by Government relating to export and import trade are advised to refer to these publications. The Indian Trade Journal can be had on payment from the Manager, Government Publications, Calcutta and Delhi, and the Indian Trade Bulletin can be subscribed by sending a sum of Rs. 3/- by M.O. to the Editor, Commercial Publications, Commerce Ministry, New Delhi.

PEASANT'S ROLE IN DRIVE FOR FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Agriculture Minister's Address to Kisans

ADDRESSING a gathering of over 15,000 kisans at the Meerut District Political Conference held at Bhaghpat on May 18, 1949, the Hon'ble Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, India's Food and Agriculture Minister, said that the Kisans of India must rise to the occasion and offer their wholehearted co-operation to implement the decision of the Government of India to achieve freedom from food imports by 1951.

Out of the entire revenue of the Government of India, the Hon'ble Minister pointed out, an amount of Rs. 120 crores was used annually for the import of foodstuffs. This was the money of the Indian kisans which was going to the pockets of the peasants of other countries. The result was that the money which the Government could easily utilise for purchasing machinery which would in turn produce goods for the everyday use of the people was being spent only on feeding the people with foreign food.

Iron and steel which was in great demand by the peasants themselves was in short supply because the Government could not spend more money to increase its production in the country itself. If India could get freedom from import of large quantities of foodstuffs, she would have the wherewithal for increasing production in other directions, thus relieving the scracity of various articles of day to day use by the peasants.

The world looked on with admiration, the Minister added, at unarmed India's success in winning freedom from foreign domination. Today it is watching India and her people to see whether they would really achieve not only the political freedom which they had won but freedom in all respects in order to usher in a real Swaraj which must mean prosperity for the masses.

Question of Procurement

The Minister hoped that the Kisans of India would put forth their best effort, as they did during the period of India's struggle for freedom and show to the world that India does attain freedom from food imports within the date fixed by it. The Indian Kisans had their destiny in their own hands and they could, with the will to do it, achieve high standard of living for themselves as well as for the whole country as the wealth of a nation depended primarily on the land and its product.

Referring to the question of procurement which unfortunately has been made a matter of controversy by some people, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram said that the real necessity of procurement was to ensure sufficient food for all from within the country's resources so that conditions might be created for India's all round progress.

Compost Production Drive in Provinces

Several Provincial Governments have launched schemes for the preparation of compost from town and village refuse as part of their food production drive. Millions of tons of good quality manure which can be prepared from town and village refuse are at present wasted as arrangements do not exist for composting the refuse. Efforts are now being made by some of the Provincial Governments to utilise as much of the refuse as possible for manurial purposes.

In about 4,000 towns in India with a population of 5,000 and above it is estimated that the refuse materials available would produce 10 million tons of good quality compost which can increase our food production by 15 to 20 million maunds per year. The compost production is being organized through municipalities and under the supervision of special officers appointed by the Provincial Governments.

In the East Punjab, the Compost Development Scheme is already in operation in over 300 villages and a few towns under the supervision of a whole-time officer assisted by biochemists, agricultural assistants and a large number of *mukaddams*. During the last four months alone, about 40,000 tons of compost were manufactured as against a total production of 46,000 tons during the year 1948. Legislative measures are also under the active consideration of the Government with a view to ensure the proper conservation and utilisation of village and town refuse by municipalities and other non-official bodies.

In Madras, 65 municipalities are at present preparing composts. The latest reports received from Madras indicate that the stock of raw compost at present on hand is about 43,000 tons. The compost will come in very handy for use within the next two months when the cultivation season will be in full swing.

The Central Provinces and Berar have made arrangements for the training of staff in the technique of composting village refuse into manure and such training is being given at 11 centres in the Province. During the month of April, 440 tons of compost were distributed. With further expansion of training facilities more towns and villages will come under the compost scheme and the production is expected to increase considerably.

Ajmer-Merwara Agrarian Relief Ordinance

THE Government of India have promulgated the Ajmer-Merwara Agrarian Relief Ordinance, 1949, to provide special measures to prevent agrarian disputes and to afford immediate relief to the tenants of Ajmer-Merwara in respect of rent, impositions and certain other matters. The Ordinance extends to the whole province and comes into force immediately, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on May 17.

It added: Over three-fifths of the cultivable area of Ajmer-Merwara belongs to Istimrardars (feudatory chieftains) who originally received grants largely from the Moghul and Mahratta rulers in lieu of military service rendered to the State.

The Ajmer Land and Revenue Regulation 1877, which governs these estates lays down that all tenants shall be presumed to be tenants-at-will. The Istimrardars have usually failed to protect the rights of their tenants or to improve the cultivation of their estates. There have been numerous complaints of rack-renting, levy of illegal cesses and the arbitrary eviction of tenants.

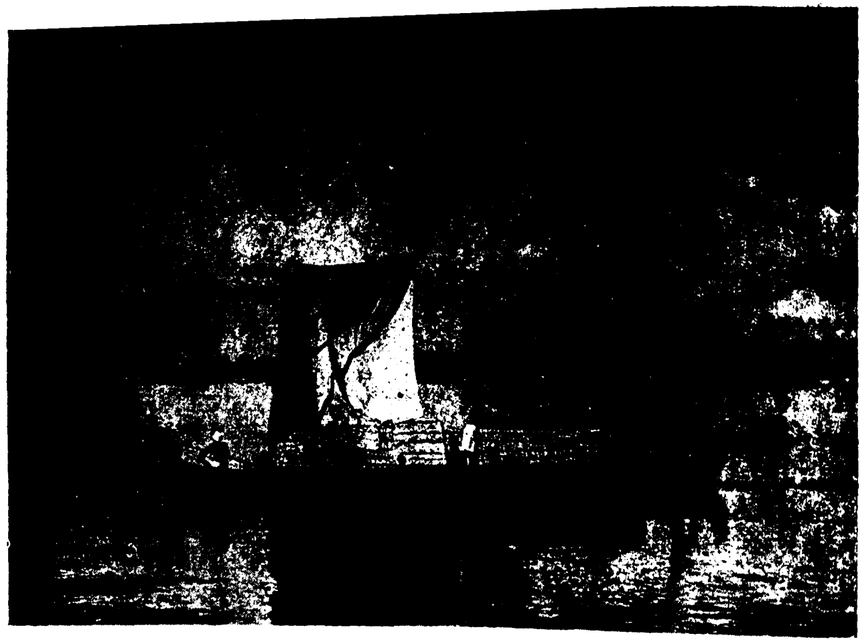
Reasons for Enforcing Ordinance

After careful consideration, the government decided to give the tenants rights of fixity of tenure, fair rent and restricted freedom of transfer by undertaking special legislation. Accordingly, the Ajmer-Merwara Tenancy and Law Records Bill was introduced in the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) in March, 1948, which referred it to a Select Committee of the House. Owing to pressure of other urgent business, however, the last session of the Parliament could not consider the Bill.

A state of emergency has arisen in the area owing to tension between the landlords and tenants. The Istimrardars are reported to have resorted to illegal ejectment of tenants and other devices to deprive the cultivators of the benefit of the proposed tenancy law. There are also complaints of some tenants having started taking illegal possession of vacant lands.

As a time lag between further consideration of the Tenancy Reforms Bill, if final passing and its actual enforcement is inevitable, the Ordinance has had to be promulgated. It seeks to afford immediate relief to tenants in matters of certain impositions now being collected, to prescribe the procedure of division of produce, appraisement of crops and assessment of rent, which create innumerable occasions for friction.

The Ordinance also provides against a possible no-rent campaign by tenants and the forcible seizure of land by them or their landlords, and lays down the penalties for infringement of rights conferred by the Ordinance.



Inland river navigation is the most economical form of transport for commercial wares, etc. in India. Several schemes are in hand to develop inland navigation

INDIA'S RIVER PROJECTS

Constitutional Checks on Development

The success of river valley development projects in India and elsewhere in the world has fired the imagination of planners in provinces and States to such an extent that almost every Government today has one or more irrigation or power projects of its own. Altogether, the country now has about 160 such schemes, which may cost well over Rs. 120 crores.

NATURE has generously so laid out India's river system that almost every Province or major State has a sizeable waterway passing through it.

To some parts of the country, rivers have brought abundant wealth and prosperity, thanks largely to the engineers who built the many barrages and canals which have given India the largest irrigated area in the world. In other parts of the country, however, rivers have repeatedly been responsible for heavy floods and the consequent misery, disease and loss of life and property.

The heart-breaking devastation caused by the Damodar and the Kosi floods in 1943 and 1945, respectively, were, to a large extent, responsible for the subsequent consultations between the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power on the one hand and representatives of the Bihar and (united) Bengal Governments on the other to devise measures to check what had become an annual calamity.

A new policy was born as a result of these discussions.

The basic idea underlying the new policy was not to take lying down, any more, the kicks of Nature; but, to control the floods and at the same time to exploit the waters of the rivers concerned for additional irrigation, power generation inland navigation, fish culture, soil conservation, afforestation, supply of drinknig water, and provision of recreation facilities.

The new policy really meant that a beginning was to be made towards planning for the 'multi-purpose' utilization of India's waterways.

Dawn of Independence

With the dawn of independence, less than two years ago, thoughts of leaders and administrators naturally turned to the speediest means of making the country prosperous through fuller utilization of its large natural resources. Reflective eyes turned to the map, and discovered in India's many well-dispersed rivers the means necessary to make the country a land of abounding plenty.

The "multi-purpose" idea caught on. It fired the imagination of planners throughout the country. Their enthusiasm knew no bounds. Numerous plans have already been produced and more are under preparation.

Understandably enough, the pendulum has swung to the other side. As a result, almost every Province or State, today, has under construction one or more irrigation or power projects and almost every one of them is anxious to go ahead with more as soon as possible. It is estimated that there are at present about 160 such projects, large and small, under contemplation, planning, investigation or execution in the country. Together, the cost of all these is likely to exceed Rs. 12,000,000,000.

estimated revenues of the Central Government for 1949-50, or approximately 12 times the combined revenues for this period of the five Provinces of West Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces, Assam and East Punjab. At an optimistic estimate, the quantities of materials required to carry out all those projects cannot be procured even in the next 20 years. As for technical personnel and trained staff, one can easily visualize the scramble that is bound to result with Provinces and States trying to compete with one another for the limited manpower available to execute their respective projects.

Clearly, all this must be avoided. The layman, quite naturally, looks to the Central Government to allocate priorities and co-ordinate the various schemes in different parts of the country. But the Centre's own powers are circumscribed under the provisions of existing law.

Prior to the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919, no large irrigation work could be undertaken without the sanction of the Secretary of State who was advised in this respect by the Government of India. All matters of dispute between Provinces or between Provinces and States were resolved either by mutual agreement or by the orders of the Secretary of State.

After 1921, irrigation became a provincial but a reserved subject. Hydro-electric development, on the other hand, became a provincial but a transferred subject. All irrigation projects which affected more than one Province or cost more than Rs. 50 lakhs, had to be submitted to the Government of India for the sanction of the Secretary of State.

The position changed drastically with the introduction of provincial autonomy in April, 1937. Under item 19 of List II of the Seventh Schedule, it was laid down that "water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power" shall be under the exclusive control of Provincial legislatures. While inland navigation was made partly a Central subject, partly a Provincial subject and in some respects a concurrent subject, irrigation, flood control and water power development became purely Provincial subjects. A further anomaly was that while hydro-electric development was made a responsibility of Provincial Governments, the law relating to electricity was subject to concurrent legislation.

Development Slows Down

Every administrative unit in the country thus became competent to do what it pleased with the water which flows through its territory, and there was no machinery left to deal with the development of waterways on an all-India basis and in the interest of more than one unit. It was open to a Provincial Government to complain to the Governor-General in case it felt that any action being taken by another administration with respect to the use, distribution or control of water would affect it prejudicially, and the Governor-General was authorized to appoint a Commission to investigate the matter and on receipt of the report pass such orders as he deemed proper.

But the whole procedure was so involved as to make the provisions of the Act almost ineffective. Little progress could, therefore, be made in the development of the waterways of the country on an all-India basis.

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In view of the situation so created, the Government of India, in 1945, created the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission—a body of experts—and charged it with the responsibility of initiating, co-ordinating and furthering, in consultation with the Provincial and State Governments concerned, schemes for the control, conservation and utilization of the country's water resources. In cases of dispute, the Commission's chief weapon, of course, was to be persuasion. The results have been encouraging. A number of schemes which had been held up for settlement of disputes have since moved forward.

A further step has been taken by the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power, which is in charge of river valley development. A conference is proposed to be convened in New Delhi in the near future to recommend priorities *inter se* various projects. It is hoped that it will then be possible to follow a phased programme of investigation and construction, keeping pace with the availability of material and manpower resources, and avoiding bottlenecks and hold-ups in actual execution.

Waterways Under New Constitution

But the provisions of the 1935 Act relating to waterways still remain, inconvenient reminders of the fact that the Central Government has no legal powers to intervene in any project in which the parties concerned are not amenable to persuasion.

An attempt has been made under the Draft Constitution for India which is now under discussion to rectify the anomalies of the 1935 Act. Item 74 of List I under the Seventh Schedule deals with waterways. While a decision remains to be taken by the Constituent Assembly, some formula like this may meet the situation: "Development of inter-State rivers and inter-state waterways for purposes of flood control, irrigation, navigation and hydro-electric power and for other purposes, where such development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest," will be a Union subject.

The constitutional difficulties which have been experienced in India are nothing new in the field of waterways development in other parts of the world. In the United States—a federation of a large number of autonomous states—at first federal responsibility for the maintenance of navigation was recognized. Although Congress was reluctant to commit itself to works other than navigation, certain flood control measures were also subsequently undertaken by the Federal Government.

By force of circumstances, however, Congress was led to larger and larger commitments and the culminating step for the development of federal flood policy was taken in 1936 when that body adopted an Act in which a national flood control policy was declared. This Act authorized the construction of flood works on all navigable streams or their tributaries by the Federal Government. Australia's experience has also been similar.

T. V. A. Example

The contribution made by the T. V. A. is an outstanding example not only of the well-recognized principle that river valleys cannot be dealt with piecemeal according to political jurisdiction and must, therefore, be treated on a unified basis, but also of the multi-purpose aspect of river valley projects.

From a study of the practice in other countries, too, one principle is clearly deducible. According to this every river system is "an individual physical unit" which should be so developed "as to render the greatest possible service to the whole human community, which it serves, whether or not that community is divided into two or more political jurisdictions."

National Register of Scientific Personnel

The work of compiling a National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel in India has been entrusted by the Government of India to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Scientific Research on May 21.

It added: "The requisite questionnaire form which has to be filled in for registration of names in the National Register can now be obtained from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Council will also entertain demands for supply of service personnel from educational and research institutions and industry."

The purpose of the National Register is to ensure effective utilization of scientific talent. The country needs a large number of scientific and technical personnel of different categories for its defence and planned economy. So far no organized efforts have been made to take a census and collect statistical data about the available man-power.

Soon after independence the Government of India set up a Scientific Man-Power Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. S. S. Bhatnagar and its terms of reference included "the maintenance of register of scientific and technical personnel to facilitate their utilization to the best advantage."

The Government of India have allotted Tripolitania a quota of 200 tons of Jute goods for the half year ending June 25, 1949.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

Standing Finance Committee Approves Scheme

GRANT of scholarships to Scheduled-caste students, an Overseas Scholarship scheme, construction of an aerodrome at Mangalore and the construction of buildings at Santa Cruz airport were among the items approved by the Standing Finance Committee at its meetng on May 13, with the Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Finance Minister, Government of India, in the chair.

Construction of traffic control and administrative buildings at Gauhati and Santa Cruz aerodromes are estimated to cost Rs. 16,20,018 and Rs. 49,99,750 respectively. The sinking of the Tulsi pipe-lines (one of the main lines which feed Bombay) and diversion of trolley tracks at Sant Cruz airport are estimated to cost Rs. 21,38,150.

These two projects are vital to the development of Santa Cruz airport, India's main aerial gateway. The pipe line now cuts across the propsed taxi tracks, apron and runway extension, and its burial has to be completed before any large-scale development work can proceed. For similar reasons, diversion of the trolley lines demands precedence over other works connected with the airport's development.

Meteorological Schemes

The Committee approved of the scheme of the Indian Meteorological Department which relates mainly to the provision of office accommodation and residential accommodation to staff near airports; these are estimated to cost Rs. 16 lakhs.

It is proposed to construct in New Delhi a workshop and radiation and radio-sonde laboratories to provide adequate facilities for observational purposes. The requisite instruments will be installed at Lodi Road for determination by radar of the wind's velocity and directon up to a height of 50,000 feet in cloudy weather, measurements of solar rotation and state of turbulance at different levels near the ground.

Training Centre For Blind

The Committee also approved of Government's proposal to establish a training centre for adult blind. The Government propoes to take over St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian War-Blind at Dehra Dun and convert it into a National Centre for the blind, to serve both civilians and military personnel.

This institution might otherwise have to close down since most blind ex-servicemen have by now completed their training. Establishment of the centre will involve no initial expenditure, as St. Dunstan's Committee has offered to transfer to government, free of charge, all the existing equipment of the Institution.

A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs was approved to the Lucknow University on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee as a mark of appreciation of the work done by the University in the field of education. It has recently added to its curriculum, the study of Geology, Statistics, Diplomacy, Foreign Affairs, Education and Home Science and is carrying on research in Spectroscopy, Wireless and X'rays. The value of its work on Palaeo-botany and allied subjects under the guidance of the late Dr. Birbal Sahni has been recognised throughout the world.

It is proposed to make a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs this year to students from Scheduled Castes and other educationally backward classes, including aboriginal and hill tribes, for pursuing courses of higher study, particularly in scientific, technological and professional subjects. The scheme has already become popular and since 1944-45, when it was introduced 2,233 awards—costing Rs. 17,21,680—have been made to Scheduled Caste students.

The scheme has now been extended to students from all the educationally backwad classes on the ground that they deserve equal treatment in the educational field. Selection for scholarships will be by merit.

Overseas Scholarships Scheme

The Committee also sanctioned the expenditure of Rs. 6,70,000 on the implementation of the modified Overseas Scholarships Scheme in 1949-50. The total expenditure on all scholars selected under the scheme this year is to be met from this sum. The great majority of scholars to be selected would be from among those already in service either under the Central or Provincial Governments or educational institutions.

Scientific and technical subjects, military training, medicine and also the Humanities to a limited extent will be included in the Scheme.

Government Scholarships.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on May 16 said:

A meeting of the Board for Government of India scholarships for 1949-50 to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and other backward classes was held in New Delhi on May 15, under the chairmanship of Dr. Tara Chand, Educational Adviser to the Government of India.

Decisions regarding rules and regulations governing these scholarships were taken at the meeting. It was also decided to invite applications for these scholarships through advertisement immediately.

The four backward sections of Sikhs, namely, Ramdassis, Mazhabis, Sikligars and Kabir Panthees which were recommended by the Minorities Advisory Committee of the Constituent Assembly for inclusion among the scheduled castes will now be eligible for scheduled castes scholarships under the scheme.

These scholarships are tenable in recognised institutions in India and will be awarded to students intending to pursue studies in the following courses mentioned in order of preference :—

(1) Medicine and Allied subjects including Nursing (2) Engineering and Architecture (3) Agriculture including Forestry and Veterinary science (4) Technology (5) Science (6) Education and Social Service (7) Commerce (8) Law (9) Arts, Social Science, Fine Arts and Library Science.

Application forms and full particulars regarding rules and regulations can be obtained from the Secretary, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes Scholarships Board, Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

The last date for receipt of applications is July 31, 1949.

EXPORT OF HANDLOOM COTTON PIECEGOODS

A Press Note issued by the Chief Controller of Exports (Ministry of Commerce) on May 30 said:

It was announced on February 8, 1949, that exports of handloom cotton piecegoods would be allowed freely up to June 30, 1949. The position has since been reviewed, and it has now been decided to extend the period of free concession up to the end of December 1949.

In regard to powerloom cloth, the Government has decided that exports be allowed freely, as for handloom cloth, to all permissible destinations, including Pakistan, up to the end of December 1949.

Eport of cotton ready-made garments will also be licensed freely.

In addition, certain items of cotton manufactures such as cotton waste durries, cotton handloom blankets, cotton bags, cotton waste ropes, tents, tapes, lantern wicks, newar, laces and lacing cord, including shoe laces, have been decontrolled for purposes of export.

INDIA TO HAVE EMBASSY IN IRELAND

The Governments of India and of the Republic of Ireland have agreed to raise the representation of India in Ireland to the level of an Embassy, said a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on May 30.

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

THE Central Government has decided to bring the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India into existence on or about July 1, 1949, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 23.

It added: The names of all persons enrolled on the Register of Accountants maintained under the Auditor's Certificates Rules, 1932, up to May 31, 1949, and the holders of Restricted Certificates under the Restricted Certificates Rules, 1932, will be entered in the Registar of Members of the Institute as required by Section 4 (4) of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

All the members of the Institute residing in India will be eligible to vote in a particular constituency to which they belong according to their address in the first election to the Council of the Institute to be held by the Central Government some time in August next.

Electoral Roll

An electoral roll will be published shortly. In order to enable completion of the new Registor and the electoral roll, the Central Government have decided to close the Registor of accountants on May 31, 1949, and no applications for enrolment received after that date will be entertained by them.

All Registered Accountants who have not yet paid their annual fee of Rs. 32 are advised to pay it immediately; otherwise their names will be liable to be excluded for the electoral roll for the first election.

All Registered Accountants who satisfy the conditions of sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, namely, those who have been in continuous practice in India for at least five years before the date of the commencement of the Act which is likely to be July 1, 1949, and who wish to be enrolled as Fellows of the Institute are requested to send in their applications stating the name, address, number of enrolment as Registered Accountant and date of continuous practice in India, together with a chalan showing a deposit of Rs. 200 under the head "XXXVI—Miscellaneous Departments—Miscellaneous Registration of Accountants," so as to reach the Ministry of Commerce as soon as possible but not later than June 15, 1949.

ELECTION TO COUNCIL

Another Press Note issued on May 31 by the Ministry of Commerce said:

The Government of India has decided to bring into force from July 1, 1949, the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949. The first election to the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India is due to be held in August, and regulations for this purpose together with the electoral roll are published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) dated June 1, 1949.

Main features of the Council (First Elections) Regulations, 1949, are:

Election will be from the following five regional constituencies: (i) Bombay (ii) Madras (ii) West Bengal, Assam and Orissa (iv) U.P. Bihar and C.P. and Berar and (v) Delhi and East Punjab. The number of persons to be elected from these constituencies will be as follows: Constituency No. (i)—5. No. (ii)—4; (iii)—4; No. (iv)—1; and No. (v)—1, the election being held on the basis of the single transferable vote.

Persons entitled to stand for election will be those Registered Accountants who have already completed, or will have completed on or before July 1, 1949 five years' practice, and who apply to the Ministry of Commerce before June 15, 1949, in the manner announced in the Press Note dated May 23, 1949, and in terms of the rules published in the Gazette Extraordinary of June 1, 1949. In order to avoid the possibility of names being omitted, applications should be sent immediately and in any case by June 15, 1949.

Further programme for the election is: Publication of list of persons oligible to stand for election—July 4, 1949; Nomination papers to reach the Ministry of Commerce—July 15, 1949; Withdrawal of nominations—July 17, 1949; Despatch of voting papers, etc.—July 25, 1949; Receipt of voting papers—August 8, 1949; Date of election—August 12, 1949; First meeting of the Council—August 15, 1949.

"HYDROGENATED OIL" TO REPLACE "VANASPATI"

By an order published in *the Gazette of India Extraordinary* on June 1, the Government of India have made it obligatory on all factories manufacturing Vegetable Oil Products to stop the use of the words "Vanaspati" or "Vegetable Produtcts" on the containers in which Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil Products are packed and sold from August 1, 1949.

The factories have further been asked that every container in which Vegetable Oil Product is packed shall at the time of sale by the producer or any dealer, bear the name of the producer and the words "Hydrogenated Groundnut Oil" or "Hydrogenated Groundnut and Cottonseed Oil" or "Hydrogenated Groundnut and Cocoanut Oil", as the case may be, in English and the equivalent of the same in one or more Indian languages.

This has been done to remove all doubts about the ingredients used in the manufacture of Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil Products.

Banking and Insurance Disputes Ordinance

A PRESS NOTE issued by the Ministry of Labour on May 16 said:

The Industrial Disputes (Banking and Insurance Companies) Ordinance, recently promulgated by the Central Government, appears to have created doubts regarding the agency for dealing with disputes in banks and insurance companies having branches or establishments in more than one Province and the validity of existing awards, a number of which have been passed under Provincial laws.

As these disputes have now come within the Central sphere, the Chief Labour Commissioner to the Government of India, the Regional Labour Commissioners and the Conciliation Officers of the Central Government posted at various places are hereafter responsible for dealing with them.

Persons who are concerned with disputes covered by the Ordinance should, therefore, approach the Conciliation Officer or the Regional Labour Commissioner having jurisdiction over their area instead of corresponding direct with the Central Government, as the latter will only cause delay in disposal.

Though adjudication or allied proceeding pending before a Provincial Tribunal or other authority abate on the commencement of the Ordinance, the Central Government propose to refere all such disputes to the Central Tribunal which is being constituted. Government hope that employers will do nothing either by way of retrenchment of staff or otherwise which they would not have been competent to do but for the abatement of the pending proceedings.

Existing Awards

The provision in the Ordinance regarding awards and decisions already passed by Tribunal or other competent authorities seems to have been misunderstood. All awards or decisions passed by competent authorities which were in force on the date of commencement of the Ordinance continue to be binding until their implementation is stayed by a specific order of the Central Government.

The Ordinance does not automatically have the effect of wiping off all previous awards and decisions. In view of certain complaints received by Government that there is a tendency to treat existing awards and decisions as null and void, the Central Government wish to utter a warning that persons violating or refusing to implement an existing award or decision which is binding on them will render themselves liable to prosecution under the law.

Restrictions in the use of Code in telegrams to the British and U.S. Zones of Germany are now lifted. Code telegrams to the Russian and French Zones and Berlin are still subject to the special authority of the Allied Control Commission, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on May 31

HYDERABAD ISSUE BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL

Shri B. N. Rau's Speech

"HYDERABAD was not a State in the international sense before the Indian Independence Act. She is not one now by virtue of the Standstill Agreement and the arrangements that followed it and she can not be one at any time in the future if India is to live. We can not defy or ignore geography," said Shri B. N. Rau, India's representative, speaking on the Hyderabad issue in the Security Council on May 19, 1949.

Shri B. N. Rau said :

I am very grateful to the members of the Security Council for giving me this opportunity to amplify what has been stated in regard to the issue of competence in the letter which members have already received. When I speak of competence I prefer to say that the question I am arguing is the competence of Hyderabad to make this complaint. I do not wish to be discourteous in any way and although it comes to the same thing I would rather not refer to the competence of the Security Council to hear Hyderabad. I hope to be very brief.

Let us see where we stand now. This case started as a complaint by Hyderabad on August 21, 1948, under Article 35(2) of the Charter of the United Nations. That article reads :

"A state which is not a member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute to which it is a party if it accepts in advance for the purposes of the dispute the obligations of pacific settlement provided in the present charter."

You will notice that the article opens with the words "A state." Hyderabad has never been a state in the international sense as I shall explain presently. India contended and still contends that Hyderabad was not competent to move the Security Council under the article in question.

Issue of Competence

While the issue of competence thus raised was pending India was forced to take certain action in Hyderabad to put an end to the prolonged lawlessness and disorder which was disturbing not only Hyderabad itself but also the adjoining districts of India. When I say lawlessness and disorder, I am not using an idle phrase.

The disclosures made at the trial of Sydney Cotton, which has just concluded in London will probably come to the members of the Security Council as a surprise, although I am distressed to say that they will not be a great surprise to the people in India.

Cotton was convicted two days ago and was ordered to pay a fine for gun-running in Hyderabad. It is to be noted that he pleaded guilty according to the evidence at the trial. The trial was held in a London Court. The offences related to the carrying of arms and ammunition of war at the Warrangal Airfield in Hyderabad State on July 10, 1948. I ask the members of the Council to note the date July 10, 1948, at least a month before Hyderabad made its complaint to the Security Council. Cotton first went to Hyderabad and met General El Edroos, who was in charge of the Hyderabad Army.

I am mentioning the facts which came out at the trial. General El Edroos gave Cotton letters to Pakistan officials asking them to assist by giving landing facilities. Arms and ammunition were always described as fruit and vegetables and anti-aircraft guns as cheese. Cotton met an official of the Pakistan Defence Department—the name has been given but I do not wish to repeat it here—at the offices of Cotton's firm in London. Another Pakistan official was also present at the meeting. His name also has appeared in the evidence but I would rather not mention it here.

The next meeting took place on May 20 at Secunderabad. Giving the details of the contract which is said to have been destroyed when Hyderabad capitulated, an Official witness said that the sum of 1,400,000 sterling was to be paid to the firm. There was also mention of payment to certain officials in Karachi. The contract was finalized at the house of the Hyderabad Agent-General in Karachi on May 27, that was nearly three months before Hyderabad's complaint to the United Nations.

From the start until June 2, daily air trips carrying arms and ammunition were made and the effort was speeded up towards the end of June. On July 10 a plane was flown into Warrangal carrying 920 rifles or sten guns and 64 boxes of ammunition, each box containing 1,000 rounds. That was the particular transaction for which Cotton was convicted.

I ask the members of the Security Council to note the dates. The contract was finalized on May 27, 1948, and the complaint was dated August 21, 1948.

Nizam's Letter

The operations which India was compelled to take did not start until about the middle of September. In these circumstances the surprise is not that India acted but that she did not act earlier. India was ultimately driven to take action. The operations lasted only three or four days because the people of the State were really behind them. At the end of this period the Ministry which had authorized the complaint resigned and the Ruler, the Nizam withdrew the complaint. The letter of withdrawal addressed by him to the Secretary-General on September 22, 1948, concluded as follows :

"To resolve all doubts in the matter, I now formally address this letter to you and request you to note that the complaint made by my Government to the Security Council has been withdrawn by me. I would add for your information that on September 17, 1948, the Ministry at whose instance the said complaint was made resigned and I personally assumed charge of my State. The delegation to the Security Council which had been sent at the instance of the said ministry has now ceased to have any authority to represent me or my State."

Nizam's "Firman"

On October 5, 1948, the Nizam followed this up with a "Firman" or decree in the following terms :

"It has been brought to my notice and I have also seen in the foreign Press that statements have been made to the effect that I am acting under duress and that I am not allowed free movement, in short, that I am not a free agent in any matter. This is absolutely incorrect.

"On the contrary my relations with the Indian Union and the Military administration are extremely cordial. No pressure of any kind is being brought on me. In fact I am paid all the respect and the courtesy due to the high position I hold as head of the state."

Razakar Menace

It will thus be clear that whatever action India took was in effect directed not against the head of the State nor of course against its people but against a particular set of ministers who were kept in power by a military organisation known as the Razakars. How did these ministers get into power ? I shall not use my own words but shall borrow Lord Mountbatten's. "They got into power by engineering a *coup* in November, 1947", which caused India completely to lose her faith in Hyderabad.

The document in which these words appear has been printed in Hyderabad's Complaint, Second Volume, Page 135. What were the methods which these ministers used ? Once again let me quote from a letter written to the Nizam by Lord Mountbatten who referring to certain incidents which had happened shortly before the above *coup* said :

"If these methods of coercion had not been permitted to interfere with the carrying out of Your Exalted Highness's wishes at some crucial moment the story of the relations between India and Hyderabad would have been written by a very different and far happier pen."

These are Lord Mountbatten's words and the document appears in Hyderabad's complaint, Second Volume, Page 83.

What support did they enjoy ? Once more I shall not use any words of my own because I represent one particular side in this controversy. I shall quote again from Lord Mountbatten's letter to the Nizam, written on April 8, 1948, nearly five months after the *coup* :

"You will have noticed that during the course of the last few months the ruler of nearly every State in this sub-continent which is in relationship with the Dominion of India has introduced or has declared his intention of introducing in the near future truly responsible and representative Government. I say 'nearly every State' for there is one exception—Hyderabads.

"It is impossible for any fairminded person in the outside world to view the present Government of Hyderabad but as one representing and indeed dominated by a party which command the support of only a part of the minority community in the State. I am not saying this as Governor-General of India. I am saying it as an impartial observer and as a well-wisher of Hyderabad."

Pecuniary Transactions

What did these particular Ministers do while in power ? That they could not maintain law and order has already been stated but they also made pretty free with State funds. I have here a list of pecuniary transactions, not exhaustive, running to over 2½ million pounds, that is ten million dollars, which, to put it mildly, require a good deal of explanation. Some of them find a sinister explanation in the facts that have just come to light in the course of Sydney Cotton's trial.

Let me repeat the action which India was forced to take was not directed against the people of Hyderabad or even against the Ruler but against a Fascist clique which had usurped power and was misusing it in a manner that threatened the tranquility of India as well as of Hyderabad itself. As soon as these men resigned and the Nizam was free to assume charge he withdrew the complaint which they had made to the United Nations.

I ask, Mr. President, is there anything of international significance in all this ? Do not let us be led away by words. This complaint is not really by Hyderabad but by certain individuals who had once usurped a little brief authority in Hyderabad and have now lost it. They have ceased to represent the Ruler. They never represented the people. Whatever dispute or situation they created in Hyderabad has now come to an end and conditions are gradually settling down to normal. The Nizam and his officers have been co-operating with the Indian authorities in Hyderabad for the restoration of law and order.

No Hindu-Muslim clashes have been reported during the last two or three months. Relations between the two communities are cordial. Various goodwill missions have toured Hyderabad which were led by prominent Muslims from various parts of India. There is no ban or restriction on the entry of any visitor into Hyderabad. Press representatives from India and abroad have visited the State without let or hindrance.

The future of the State and its relationship with India are matters which have been left to be decided by the people. Arrangements are in train for convening a Constituent Assembly for this purpose. Electoral rolls based on adult franchise are under preparation. It is hoped that all arrangements for elections to the Constituent Assembly will be completed by this autumn.

Meanwhile distinguished retired British Official who was Sir Mohammad Zafrullah's Secretary when Sir Mohammad Zafrullah was Law Member in the Government of India, nine or ten years ago, I refer to Sir George Spence, has been appointed by the Government of India as an Adviser to the Hyderabad Administration. This will show to the Security Council how anxious the Government of India is to see that even the Provisional Administration is conducted in accordance with the highest standards with no discrimination against any particular section of the people.

I referred a moment ago to the question whether Hyderabad is a State for international purposes. Up to the passing of the Indian Independence Act in 1947, it had beyond controversy no international existence. The fact is so well known that it is unnecessary to cite any authority. It has, however, been contended by some persons that it became an independent State as the result of the Indian Independence Act.

It is on this footing that its position has sometimes been sought to be assimilated to that of Indonesia. There is not the slightest analogy between the two cases. The Indonesian Republic has been granted *de facto* recognition as a state by several countries, by the United States of America, by the United Kingdom, by Egypt, by India and by other countries. But no country has ever recognised Hyderabad, either *de jure* or *de facto*, as an independent state. During the debate on the Indian Independence Act the Attorney-General of the United Kingdom, the very country that passed this act, speaking in the House of Commons said :

No International Entity

"This at least can be said with certainty that we do not propose to recognize the states" that is the Indian States—"as separate international entities on August 15 when the bill comes into operation."

Thus even the United Kingdom which knew intimately all the facts relating to the Indian States including Hyderabad declined to recognize them as becoming international entities upon the passing of the Indian Independence Act. It should be remembered that from November 1947 onwards there has been a Standstill Agreement or an equivalent arrangement under which the Dominion of India has exclusive charge of Hyderabad's foreign relations. That is one great difference between Hyderabad and the Indonesian Republic.

The other difference is equally important. I am sure that the members of this Security Council are familiar with the Map of India. There is a chain of Indian States stretching in a line from North to South and East to West. If Hyderabad and the rest of them can claim to be independent states as a result of the Indian Independence Act and if they can become independent by virtue of their own claim irrespective of recognition by any other country, then there will be an end of India.

Indonesia is not in the heart of the Netherlands as Hyderabad and the other Indian States are in the heart of India. As some one has said "You can live without your appendix and be the healthier for it but you cannot live without your heart." I should like to make this perfectly clear that India cannot possibly recognize any of these Indian States lying within her borders as independent any more than the United States of America can allow the independence of her southern states.

Example of Burma

Let us not forget that the trouble in Burma started with a claim of independence by a certain state of the Union. With this object lesson in front of her India cannot possibly agree to be dismembered or disintegrated by allowing any of these Indian States to claim international statehood. Hyderabad was not a state in the international sense before the Indian Independence Act. She is not one now by virtue of the Standstill Agreement and the arrangements that followed it and she cannot be one at any time in the future if India is to live. We cannot defy or ignore geography.

It follows that any dispute with Hyderabad is not an international dispute. All matters relating to Hyderabad are now dealt with regularly by the Government of India, as matters of domestic concern. Questions are put and answers are given in all such matters in the Indian Constituent Assembly to which the Government of India is responsible.

Muslims in India

India has at present, even after the partition of Pakistan, a population of something like thirty million Muslims and no Government can possibly afford to ill-treat so large and influential a population or indeed any section of it. They have been granted representation according to their numbers in the Indian Constituent Assembly. The Indian Cabinet is a composite one. It contains seven Hindus, two Muslims, two Christians, two members of the Scheduled caste or the so-called Untouchables and one Sikh.

Any genuine grievance of the Muslims in any part of India can be voiced by any Muslim or other member in the Constituent Assembly which is at once a safeguard against incorrect or exaggerated statements and a means of prompt redress where the facts call for redress.

In recent months there has sprung up



Prof. Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser, Ministry of Education, addressing a gathering when he opened the Educational Training Institute at Najafgarh, a village near Delhi, on May 26

Training Teachers for Social Education

A CAMP for training social education teachers was inaugurated on May 26, at Najafgarh (Delhi Province) by Prof. Humayun Kabir, Joint Educational Adviser to the Government of India. About hundred volunteers, including about a dozen students and two women teachers, joined the camp which was held in the premises of the District Board School at Najafgarh. There was a good sprinkling of refugees among the volunteers who were mostly young men though there were a few older enthusiasts also.

The camp was organised by the Department of Education, Delhi Province, and lasted three weeks during which the volunteers received training in the theory and practice of social education and its technique. Lectures by specialists on various subjects concerning public health, sanitation, adult literacy, citizenship, etc., were also arranged. The volunteers also did practical work in the surrounding villages.

This camp was organised to implement the decisions of a conference of representatives of voluntary organisations engaged in social education work which was convened by the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, in April 1949. The objective is to mobilise all available talent for furthering the cause of social education.

While the students among the volunteers will carry on the work during the summer vacation only, the rest of the volunteers are likely to be absorbed permanently in the scheme of social education. It is hoped that social education would be carried on in Delhi in such a manner that other provinces may also benefit from the experience gained here.

While inaugurating the camp, Prof. Humayun Kabir, in his address to the volunteers stressed the importance of a sympathetic approach to the villagers generally and particularly the adult illiterates among them. He appealed to the young men to realise that it was their patriotic duty to work for removal of illiteracy and asked them to carry on their work in a true missionary spirit.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

The Government of India have appointed Mr. S. C. Rajkhowa, M.A., Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Assam, the nominee of the Assam Government on the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission, as an associate member for the period up to March 31, 1952, vice Dr. B. K. Kakati, retired, according to a Press Note issued by the Indian Historical Records Commission on May 19.

According to a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on May 19, telegrams are accepted with telegraph delivery to the following places in southern part of Korea, namely Pusan, Inchon, Mokpo, Taiji, Taichun, Chunjy and Kwangpu. Telegrams to other places are posted.

Unesco Social Science Fellowship

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation has placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, a fellowship which will enable Indian students of Social Science to undertake a period of travel and study abroad for a maximum period of six months. The fellowship is to be known as "Unesco Social Science Fellowship," said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education on May 21.

It added: The fields of study are: techniques for the study of national differences; techniques of attitudes Change; development of aggressive behaviour in children and adults; and methods of diagnosing and measuring attitudes of hostility of constituent ethnic groups in the population.

Candidates must be mature persons who can assist the enquiry and study of Group Tensions. The fellowship will enable the selected candidates to visit one or more foreign countries according to an approved programme. The award includes all maintenance expenses up to $ 1,500 and all study expenses up to $ 500 as well as one way travel expenses from India to the country of study.

Applications on the prescribed form should reach the Ministry of Education by June 12, 1949, through the Vice-Chancellor of the University or the head of the institution concerned in which a candidate is working. Applications received direct will not be considered. Full particulars about the scheme and copies of the prescribed application form can be obtained from the Ministry of Education or from the Universities and institutions concerned.

AMERICAN EXPERT ON HOW TO SPREAD LITERACY

DR. FRANK Laubach, American Literacy Expert, who toured India under the joint auspices of the National Christian Council and the Ministry of Education, Government of India, met officers of the Education Ministry and some other educationists at a tea party on April 1, 1949, organized by the Ministry of Education at the Constitution House, New Delhi.

In a brief talk, after the party, Dr. Laubach spoke of his experiences in the literacy movements he has helped to organise in various countries since he came to India last time in 1939. He described how the 'Each One Teach One" method had been a great success in Mexico where a million people were being taught every year. He mentioned how to start the capmaign, the President of Mexico had set an example to the people by himself teaching some illiterate adults. Dr. Laubach also spoke of his experiences in Siam where he said very fine work was being done for the spread of literacy.

Dr. Laubach asked Indian educationists to launch a cnmpaign to wipe out illiteracy and suggested that all patriotic literate citizens should be mobilised for this purpose.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Laubach addressed a meeting of educationists in the Delhi Polytechnic, where he demonstrated his methods of spreading literacy.

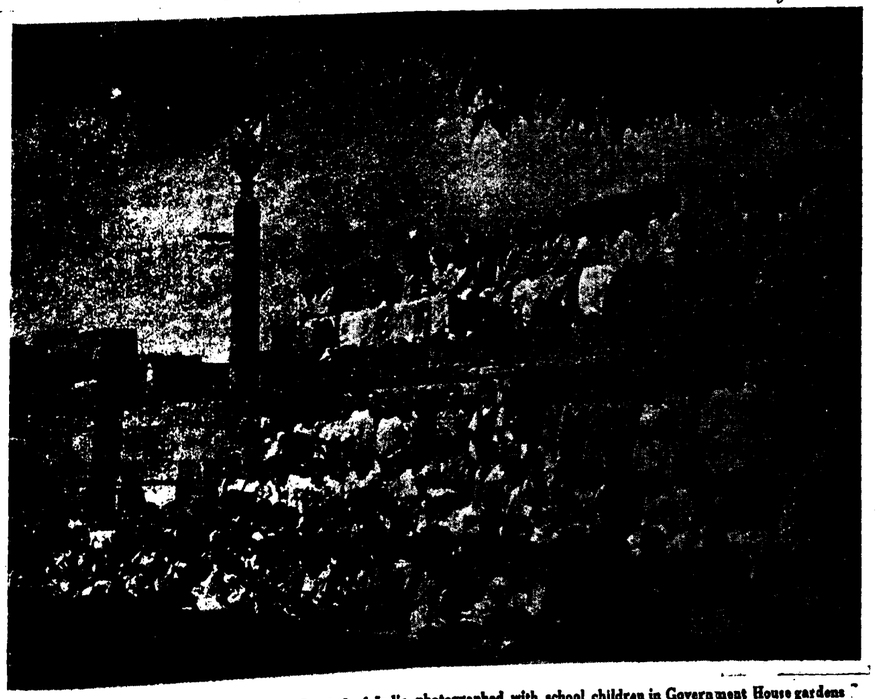
On March 31, Dr. Laubach was welcomed at a public meeting held in the Y.M.C.A., New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Tara Chand, Education Secretary to the Governmnet of India. In a very instructive lecture at this meeting, Dr. Laubach explained his method of imparting literacy within a very short period.

His method consists of three stages. In the first stage, the adult illiterate would be taught 12 pages or lessons giving him ten new words everyday in each lesson. In the second stage, useful ideas and information would be imparted through a 75-page book, again introducing ten new words in each page or lesson. At the end of this stage, the illiterate concerned will have picked up about 800 words in a period of three months. Then in the third or final stage, Dr. Laubach thinks that a four-page bulletin giving general knowledge and useful information should be distributed among the illiterates. This bulletin will again introduce five to ten new words on each page.

In about a year's time the pupil will thus acquire a vocabulary of about 3,000 (three thousand) words and a lot of useful ideas and information, which would be so designed as to be of special interest to him. He would thus be brought to a level of literacy when he would be able to read the average newspaper.

Lack of Teachers

Introducing Dr. Laubach at the public meeting, Dr. Tara Chand said the Government of India were greatly interested in Dr. Laubach's ideas and methods of spreading literacy, as illiteracy was one of the biggest problems in India. He felt that the spread of literacy was an absolute necessity in a democratic country. Dr. Tara Chand spoke about the formidable problems that the Government of India were encountering in their programme of universal education and among these, he mentioned, the lack of sufficient teachers and adequate funds. He hoped that with Dr. Laubach's help they would be able to tackle the problem.



H. E. Shri C Rajagopalachari, Governor-General of India, photographed with school children in Government House gardens

a very salutary practice of what are called Inter-Dominion Conferences between India and Pakistan to discuss problems such as the rehabilitation of refugees, the treatment of minorities and so on.

May I ask whether any useful purpose is served in the circumstances which I have described by keeping the subject of Hyderabad any longer on the agenda of this Council? As I have said what has happened or what is happening in Hyderabad cannot be said to be a matter of international concern. Not only that but adequate constitutional means of redress exist in India itself for any matters requiring redress.

These recurrent attempts to agitate the subject in this Security Council which is thousands of miles away from the actual scene of events, can I submit, serve no useful purpose. They merely give opportunity for statements which inflame communal passions in India and disturb India's internal tranquility.

Quite apart from any question of jurisdiction, if the Security Council desires any information on any specific points from India, there should be no great difficulty in supplying it. But I respectfully urge that to retain this subject any longer on the agenda of this Security Council is neither necessary nor desirable, apart from the question of competence on, which I have already said a great deal.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR STANDARDISATION

India will be represented by Dr. Lal C. Verman, Director of the Indian Standards Institution (I. S. I.) at a number of conferences being held by the International Organisation for Standardisation (I. S. O.) in Paris from June 25, to July 11, next.

Apart from the I. S. O. Council, of which India is an elected member, the General Assembly of the I. S.O. including representatives of 27 Nations of the world, will meet for the second time since its inauguration in 1946 in London.

Ten of the 69 Technical Committees of the I.S.O. are also expected to hold working sessions in which concrete proposals for international standardisation of several subjects will be discussed and programmes for future work in these fields will be laid down. Revision of I.S.O. Statutes will also be considered by a Special Committee of the I.S.O. Council, of which Dr. Verman is a member.

Dr. Verman, who will leave for Paris on June 24, will hold informal consultations with delegates from other countries concerning international standardisation of Shellac and Mica in which India is most interested from the export point of view.

The Indian Standards Institution has already circulated draft proposals for standardisation in these two fields to all the I.S.O. Members interested in the subject, and Dr. Verman will endeavour to arrange that the I.S.O. Committees on Shellac and Mica may meet in India during the coming winter.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR CALCUTTA

NEARLY 13,000 subscribers residing in Central Calcutta will be first to get rid of "Number Please" in putting through telephone calls when first instalment of automatic telephone service comes into operation in the city.

These telephones operated from three new exchanges named as Jorasanko, Avenue and Central, will be installed and put into service from June 1952.

Under this new system a person will be able to obtain telephone connection automatically without depending on the attention of the operator. This will provide speed, ensure efficiency, obviate "wrong numbers" and last but by no means least, eliminate frayed tempers and angry reference to the clerk-in-charge. Telephone of each subscriber, who will be allotted four-digit number, will be provided with a dial having both letters and figures painted in the fingerholes.

For making a call, first three letters of exchange which will be shown in capitals in Telephone Directory followed by four-digits of number of subscriber concerned, will have to be dialled. Mechanical devices in home exchange will automatically direct call to relevant exchange and then to the desired subscriber.

Total number of telephones in Calcutta under six manual exchanges including Howrah and Dum Dum prior to destruction of Calcutta Central Exchange by fire in October 1948, was a little over 20,000. The proposed automatic telephone system, when completed will provide for approximately 51,000 telephones initially and will have a reserve capacity of over 50,000 lines adequate to meet the needs of Calcutta on present estimate till the year 1980.

Automatic exchanges were first considered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department in 1944. On invitation of the Government of India a team of six engineers from U. K. came in Calcutta in November 1945 for carrying out a detailed survey of Calcutta Telephone area. The Consultants report was received in 1947 but a number of changes were necessitated due to increased population of Calcutta as a result of partition and other causes.

15 New Exchanges

The scheme was, therefore, studied afresh in November 1948 in conjunction with the Chief Consultant who came to India and later a Posts and Telegraphs official was deputed to U.K. to work out details of revised requirements.

Under the automatic system there will be 15 new exchanges. In view of the vastness of the project conversion will be carried out in five successive stages. After Jorasanko, Avenue and Central exchanges which represent the first stage of the scheme, the second stage comprising of construction of bank and city exchanges for serving the business area of the city will be completed by April 1953.

For the sake of expedition, work in each stage has again been divided into following sections (1) selection and acquisition of sites, and design and construction of exchange buildings (2) provision of internal exchange plant (3) setting up of necessary external equipment, viz., underground telephone cables, overhead wires, etc., and (4) subscribers internal installations, that is rewiring of premises and fitting of new telephone instruments.

The sites for all exchanges have been selected. The plans for building of remaining exchanges are also under preparation. Orders have been placed with the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, for equipment which will at least for the first two stages of conversion have to be obtained largely from automatic telephone and the Electric Company, London. By the first quarter of 1953 Calcutta with another 11,000 lines of bank and city exchanges will have nearly 15,000 telephones, more than what it has at present. The entire scheme is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1954.

POSTAL ARTICLES BY SEA MAIL

In view of the present irregular steamer sailings to other countries, a notification will be made in advance to the public in all important towns regarding steamer sailings which will be utilised for the despatch of mails to other countries.

Particulars of the ship which will be utilised, the probable date of sailing from Indian port, the probable dates she will be calling at the other countries and the latest timings of postings will be included in the notification.

The Postal Authorities desire to make it clear however, that they do not guarantee that all mails posted in time will be actually despatched by the ship as this will depend on the shipping space available. The public are, thereore, advised to post their sea mails as early in advance of the sailing date of the steamer.

The Postal Authorities announce that the Eastern Air Service, by Bharat Airways Ltd., will be utilised for the despatch of surcharged airmails to Siam, China and other countries served through this service in addition to the existing services that are being utilised for conveyance of surcharged airmail to Bangkok and Hongkong. The rates of postage and air fee for these places remain unchanged.

INTER-PROVINCIAL MOVEMENT OF GRAM

AS the Government of India still continue to receive a number of complaints from merchants about large stocks of gram deteriorating in some of the surplus areas, it is necessary to explain the present position regarding inter-Provincial State movement of gram, said a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Food on May 22.

It added: In pursuance of the policy of gradual decontrol adopted by the Government in December 1947 gram was decontrolled early in 1948. Owing, however, to the low priority admissible to trade movement and the urgent necessity for sending maximum quantities of gram to Madras where there was an acute shortage of food following the failure of monsoon last year, the Government undertook to sponsor movements of gram from surplus to deficit areas particularly to Madras, on the basis of applications from the trade.

About 80 special trains carrying approximately 70,000 tons of gram were moved from the East Punjab States (now known as PEPSU), Bikaner, etc., to various destinations, including 39 specials to Madras Province.

The main areas now surplus in gram are PEPSU, East Punjab, Bikaner and Vindhya Pradesh. Following the decision to recontrol foodgrains in September 1948, the surplus Administrations were requested in October 1948 to examine their gram supply position, and to declare maximum surpluses to the Ministry of Food for allocation to deficit areas.

The total quantity offered by these Administrations in October 1948 was 94,000 tons only and this was allotted immediately to the deficit areas, and movement started. As the gram season began to draw to a close, the Ministry of Food began to receive a large number of representations from traders, reporting accumulation of heavy stocks in the surplus areas, and the need for their immediate clearance to avoid deterioration.

The Central Food Ministry took up this matter with the surplus Administrations and carried out investigations on the spot. The total declared surplus stood at 3,10,000 tons on May 1, of which a total 218,900 tons has already moved.

Transport Problem

Late declaration of heavy surpluses to the Central Government has created serious problems. Available transport is limited and substantial quantities of gram have become weevilled as is normal towards the end of the crop year. To avoid delay and further deterioration, it was agreed in early February, 1949 that the recipient Administrations should not reject gram on account of quality, but that they should be given necessary quality allowances, as are admissible in normal trade.

A schedule of such allowances was prescribed by the Government. With the co-operation of the Ministry of Transport and the Railway administration, gram was moved from PEPSU and East Punjab to the extent of nearly 34,000 tons in February and 54,000 tons in March and 46,800 tons in April and over 14,000 tons during the first two weeks of May. Recipients were entitled to reject all stocks where weevilling was above 15 per cent.

It was decided that the price of gram weevilled between 16 to 30 per cent should be Rs. 7/8/- per maund F.O.R. and for gram weevilled above 30 per cent, a slightly graduated scale of reduction on the basic price should be fixed. In view of the deterioration that has already taken place, and a further deterioration which is bound to occur before the stocks could be put into consumption in deficit areas, the price agreed upon was considered to be fair both to sellers and buyers.

It was also decided that as it would be difficult for the trade to find the necessary transport, movement of the deteriorated stocks should be on a Government to Government basis. All those stockists whose stocks are weevilled and which have not been accepted by the local Governments concerned for human consumption, may now offer their stocks to their respective Governments for allotment as fodder.

It is felt that some stockists of gram are holding on to their stocks in the mistaken hope that gram would be decontrolled and movement would again be free. The Government of India have no intention of revising their policy of control, and movement of gram will continue to be on Government to Government basis in accordance with their Basic Plan.

For the new crop season, surplus Administrations have been asked to submit their provisional estimates of gram surpluses to the Central Government. Stockists are, therefore, advised to declare their surpluses to their respective local Governments in time in accordance with the Foodgrains Control Orders. A declaration of surpluses at the beginning of the crop year, will enable the Government of India to make allotments to deficit areas at the beginning of the year, and plan movement from month to month.

ENCOURAGING TOURIST TRAFFIC

A wide range of subjects relating to the promotion of tourist traffic in India was discussed at the second meeting of the Tourist Traffic Advisory Committee, held recently in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Shri K. Santhanam, Minister of State for Transport and Railways.

The Committee reviewed the progress so far made by a sub-committee which was appointed to go into various aspects of the tourist traffic problems in detail and which has held two meetings in this connection.

Facilities for Foreign Tourists

It discussed the sub-committees' suggestions aimed at providing to the foreign tourist the max mum convenience and comfort on arrival, during travel and throughout his stay in the country. Arrangements in this connection would embrace reception on arrival, customs formalities, information about India, hotel facilities, comfortable accommodation at railway stations en route, provision of air conditioned travel, if possible, etc. The Committee noted with approval the the progress made so far in this direction.

A "Letter of Introduction" for tourists was placed before the Committee for approval. Armed with this, tourists would be able to secure prompt attention and assistnce from various authorities with whom they would come into contact during their stay in India. The Committee suggested some improvements in the "Letter of Introduction".

The Committee went into the question of recognition of travel agencies and discussed conditions on which travel agencies should be recognized. It was noted that all Indian Government Railways had already been requested to scrutinise the present list of recognised travel agencies and to recommend what modifications, if any, were necessary. The Committee decided that this question should be examined in detail by the sub-committee.

Tourist Publicity

Mr. B.L. Sharma, who represented the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, informed the meeting that the Ministry had already produced posters, illustrated colour brochures, and technicolour films on Kashmir with a view to inducing foreign tourists to visit the State.

The Committee heard from Mr. Y.N. Sukhthanker, Secretary, Ministry of Transport, who has recently returned to India after a two-month tour of U.S.A., Canada, United Kingdom and Switzerland, his impressions of the arrangements in these countries for tourists. He emphasised the need for a Central Tourist Office in India to attend to various matters connected with tourists.

Telegrams to Hankow in China are suspended until further notice, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on May 23.

EXPANDED METAL INDUSTRY: TARIFF BOARD INQUIRY

"WHILE it is true that costs of production cannot be reduced without an increase in the quantum of production which is dependent on a large available market, it is not possible for Government or any other authorities to provide a guaranteed market particularly when there is no serious competition from imports, or to expand the existing market because fundamentally the market is dependent upon the purchasing power and standard of living of the people," declared Mr. G.L. Mehta, President of the Indian Tariff Board, on May 19, opening the inquiry into the claim for protection or assistance to the expanded metal industry.

Two other members, Dr. B.V. Narayanaswamy Naidu and Mr. M.B. Rahman, also sat on the Panel of the Board which is conducting the inquiry into this industry.

Started and developed during the war as a result of the shortage of expanded metal which was required for the Defence Services, Railways, ports and general constructional purposes, the industry today comprises four manufactures with an annual production of 1,500 tons of expanded metal against a rated capacity of 3,000 tons per annum.

Commenting on the large diversion between the rated capacity and the acutal production, the President stated that, as in other industries which depended on semi-finished articles for their raw materials, the dearth of black steel sheet impeded the full utilitation of its productive capacity. This shortage also effected an increase in the cost of production.

"It is evident that the establishment of a sound engineering industry in the country", added Mr. Mehta, "depends ultimately on the output of adequate steel and its price which is the backbone of the cost structure of every mechanical industry."

Imports

Referring to the demand of the industry for the banning of vital imports to enable the industry to reach a stage of productivity at which it could bring down costs, Mr. Mehta made it clear that quantitative restrictions on imports, could not be imposed as a matter of course but should be resorted to in exceptional circumstances for protective or developmental purposes. The Government of India, he said, did not generally favour the use of exchange control for affording protection to an industry. The imposition of a protective duty also depended upon the existence of unfair competition from imports. This circumstance did not exist as no imports were allowed from dollar and hard currency areas while imports from the sterling and soft currency countries were subject to a monetary ceiling.

In the course of the proceedings it was agreed that the inquiry should be confined to ferrous expanded metal, as production of the non-ferrous variety was still in the experimental stage in India.

As regards the present productive capacity of the Indian factories, it was pointed out that manufacturers were unable to attain the maximum productive capacity of their plants due to the non-availability of principal raw material, namely, steel, in requisite quantity and quality. While the rated capacity was estimated at 3,300 tons per annum, the actual production has been about 1,500 tons a year during the last two years, and this was expected to increase to about 1,800 tons a year in the next two or three years. The manufacturers, however, argued that they could step up production as and when needed, that they were also in a position to produce all the varieties of expanded metal provided they were able to obtain the requisite raw material, namely, steel plates and sheets.

Future Demand

In regard to the future demand for the product in the country, it was argued that while the demand of the civil market was likely to decline owing to changes in methods of road building, housing construction, and slackening of industrial development it was urged that the demands of the Provincial Governments were likely to increase considerably as a result of their undertaking construction programmes which involved the use of expanded metal. The estimated demand was provisionally placed at 3,000 tons a year for the next three years.

The quality of the indigenous product was reported to be satisfactory. The representative of the Public Works Department, Government of Bombay, emphasised the need of some kind of research with a view to enabling Indian expanded metal to withstand climatic conditions in India. The manufacturers complained of the difficulty in obtaining adequate and regular supply of raw materials. They also pointed out that in certain cases Government had placed orders abroad for expanded metal and requested Government to purchase their requirements from Indian manufacturers provided that indigenous products were of the requisite standard. It was disclosed that, since there had been no appreciable imports, no adequate data was available regarding C.I.F. prices and landed costs for comparison with the fair selling price of the Indian producers.

All telegrams to China are subject to indefinite delay, said a Press Note issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs on May 28.

PRICE OF STEEL INCREASED

A Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply on May 27 said:

It will be recalled that pending examination by the Tariff Board of the question of the fair retention prices of steel produced by the Tata Iron and Steel Co., and the Steel Corporation of Bengal, the Government of India in January 1948 allowed an increase of Rs. 23/8/- per ton, and to meet this additional payment and to equalise the high prices of imported steel with those indigenous steel, in order that all essential consumers might get steel at the same price, the selling prices of steel was increased by Rs. 75 per ton.

The Tariff Board has since submitted its report and the Government of India, after examining it, have decided to increase, with effect from May 1, 1949, the fair retention prices, which will give both Companies an average increase of Rs. 18/- per ton. A resolution embodying the recommendations of the Tariff Board and Government's decision thereon has been published in a *Gazette of India* (Extraordinary) on May 20, 1949.

Since the decision to equalise the prices of imported steel with those of indigenous steel was taken in January 1948, not only has the price of imported steel gone up but the flow of imports is also on the increase. To meet this extra liability and the increase in retention prices, payable to both Companies, the Government of India have decided to increase, with effect from June 1, 1949, the existing selling prices by Rs. 50 per ton on the average. The increase for bars and rods will be Rs. 33 for structurals Rs. 35, for plates and black sheets Rs. 67, for galvanized corrugated sheets Rs. 80 and so on.

It has also been decided to increase the existing differential of Rs. 10 per ton between the price of tested and untested steel to Rs. 30 per ton. The Notification announcing the new prices will be published in *the Gazette of India* on May 28, 1949.

NO PROTECTION FOR SLATE INDUSTRY

The Government of India's Resolution on the Tariff Board's Report relating to protection or assistance to the Slate and Slate Pencils Industry was published on May 18 in the *Gazette of India* (Extraordinary).

The Board considers that there is no case for protection because the costs of production of slates (stone and metal) and slate pencils are lower than the landed cost of the imported articles. The existing revenue duties of 30 per cent *ad valorem* are therefore, sufficient to safeguard the manufacturers. Government agree with the recommendations of the Tariff Board.

ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY TO BE SUBSIDISED

THE Government of India's Resolution on the Tariff Board's Report relating to the Aluminium Industry was published on May 15 in the *Gazette of India* (Extraordinary).

Government have decided that the Indian Aluminium Company and the Aluminium Corporation of India should be subsidised to the extent of the difference between the fair selling price of their products, having regard to their respective costs of production, and the fair selling price of similar imported articles.

Such assistance will be granted for an initial period of three years. The rates of subsidies that will be paid are as follows (See Table I below.)

The Subsidy will be largely met out of the additional revenue that is expected to be realised by the enhanced duties that will be imposed on aluminium ingots and sheets and circles.

The scheme involves the continued levy of import duty at the existing rate of 50 per cent *ad valorem* and the levy in addition of specific duties at the following rates (See Table II below).

(TABLE I)

Rates of subsidy in rupees per ton

Year	*Indian Aluminium Company*	*Aluminium Corporation*
1949-50	330 (on sheets and circles)	710 (on sheets and circles) 900 on ingots).
1950-51	230 (Do.)	610 (on sheets and circles) 825 (on ingots)
1951-52	130 (Do.)	510 (on sheets and circles) 750 on ingots)

(TABLE II)

Year	Rate of additional duty on ingots in rupees per ton.	Rate of additional duty on sheets, strips and circles in rupees per ton.
1949-50	328	121
1950-51	237	46
1951-52	146	*Nil.*

These rates of duty and subsidy are based on the landed cost ex-duty of aluminium ingots being Rs. 1,275 per ton and of 20 gauge circles being Rs. 2,614 per ton and are liable to suitable adjustments if these prices vary appreciably. A Notification under Section 2 of the Protective Duties Act, 1946, is being issued, imposing the additional duties indicated above in so far as it is necessary to cover the period before the necessary legislation is enacted.

The existing pool arrangements in regard to aluminium will be wound up as from May 15, 1949, and the import of aluminium ingots, sheets and circles will be allowed freely consistently with the exchange position.

REVISED OPEN GENERAL LICENCE

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Commerce on May 19 stated:

In the Press Communique issued on May 4, 1949, the Government of India announced the suspension of Open General Licence XI pending the review of the list of commodities which could be imported under that Open General Licence. This review has now been completed and the revised list is notified as Open General Licence XV, allowing continued imports without permits, of these commodities from soft currency areas, provided they are manufactured or produced in soft currency areas.

Principal commodities included in Open General Licence XV are:—asbestos manufactures; ball and roller bearings; jute mill stores (excluding bobbins and pickers) Cotton Textile machinery and spares (with the exception of spinning machinery looms, bobbins and pickers and hosiery machines) coal tar dyes; condensed and powdered milk; spices; cement; all sorts of mineral oil excluding white oil; raw film; certain pharmaceuticals; raw materials for manufacture of paints; cotton and woollen yarn and fabrics; artificial silk yarn; pulses other than gram; component parts of wireless sets; motor vehicle parts; printing machinery; agricultural implements and certain scientific instruments.

As regards articles which were on Open General Licence XI and which have not been carried over to Open General Licence XV, the Government of India have, in view of the representations received from the trade, decided to extend the date of shipment from May 20, 1949 to May 31, 1949. Shipments made on or before May 31, 1949, will be allowed clearance as if they were made under Open General Licence XI.

Unified Standards for Screw Threads

A recent issue of the ISI Bulletin, the quartrly journal of the Indian Standards Institution, announces an important development in the field of international standardisation.

Every major industrial country in the world has developed, in the course of decades, its own sizes, forms, pitches and angle of screw threads. This caused great confusion and unnecessary difficulties by users of screws—a basic essential in mechanical industries—everywhere. The matter came to a head during the last war when the Allies were trying to pool their resources for a total war. The lack of interchangeability of parts between Britain and U.S.A. in weapons and plant owing to the difference in sizes, form, pitch and angle of screw threads, caused enormous loss of time and money in the execution of the war. This realisation is responsible for the successful culmination of a 30-year effort to arrive at a compromise. Britain, the United States and Canada have now agreed to unify their standards for screw threads.

Interchangeability of screw-thread parts and threaded products has been assured by the sizes, the threads per inch, and the basic dimensions of the unified coarse and fine thread series that have been adopted. Incidentally it will step up production and reduce cost.

Coal Specifications

Another article in the Bulletin on Coal Specifications for Heating and Power has dealt with the anomalies that exist in the present scheme of grading and price-structure of coal. These have not only discouraged coal producers from attempting up-grading of coal, but the operation of the scheme is causing a great but undiagnosed strain on national economy and transport, since low grade coal carries with it refuse up to 50 per cent.

A simple formula has been suggested, connecting the ash content with price of coal, which places the coal grading scheme on a more rational basis.

Other articles of interest in the issue are a History of Standardisation in India, and a quarterly report of the ISI activities. During the quarter under review ISI brought out two standards—one for inch-millimeter conversion and the other for rounding of numerical values—for use in engineering industries in general. A draft Indian Standard on the grading of wool for export is under circulation for comments.

According to a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on May 19, telegrams are accepted with telegraph delivery to the following places in southern part of Korea, namely Pusan, Inchon, Mokpo, Taiji, Taichun, Chunjy and Kwangpu. Telegrams to other places are posted.



Women trainees at Army drill

INDIAN WOMEN TAKE TO MILITARY TRAINING

Girls' Division of National Cadet Corps

A batch of nine women professors to be trained as officers for the Girls' Division of the National Cadet Corps arrived at the Delhi Cantonment recently.

Hailing from the East Punjab, West Bengal and the C.P., these teachers have since been undergoing training at the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre under the direct supervision of the Officer Commanding, Lieut.-Colonel Sarup Kalaan. Having come for three months' training, during the summer vacation, they are putting up in the Sisters' Mess of the Military Hospital at the Cantonment.

Training Programme

They are Miss B.K. Dhillon, Miss S.K. Grewal and Miss K. Razdan of the Government College for Women, Ludhiana, Miss M. Dey, Miss N. Sinha and Miss I. Dutt of the Lady Brabourne College, Calcutta, and Miss T.D. Potdar, Miss P. Gautam and Miss S. Madura of the Central College for Women, Nagpur.

The programme of their training includes P.T. and drill, experience in driving military vehicles and motor mechanism, knowledge of wireless-signalling, radio-telephoning and Morse telegraphy, operation of telephone exchanges and visits to service installations and establishments. They are also being given lessons in first-aid, home-nursing, hygiene and sanitation and air-raid precautions. Soft-ball, volley-ball and swimming are included in their recreational activities, and they are given opportunities of developing organisational capacity.



Trainees working on an automobile engine



Women trainees practising despatching and receiving of wireless messages

Like Army officers, these women trainees wear olive-green uniforms (bush-shirts and trousers) and look smart. There has been some difficulty about fixing a head-gear for them and the question is at present engaging the attention of the Government of India.

As they were new to the kind of training being imparted to them, they found it a bit strenuous in the beginning but gradually got used to it. They now feel quite enthusiastic about it all and are keenly looking forward to being commissioned in the Cadet Corps after successful completion of their instructors' course. They will then go back to their respective provinces and raise Girls' Division units in the educational institutions they belong to.

Training School

Though these teachers are being trained in an Army unit, where special arrangements have been made for their free boarding and lodging, the proposal is eventually to start a training school.

This is the first venture of the India Government to set up an organisation on a military basis for the training of girls. They had raised the WAC(I) and WRINS during the last World War on the lines of the women's corps in the U.K., but the Girls' Division is being organised on an entirely different footing, though it cannot be completely divorced from military requirements.

The objects of the scheme briefly are to develop the personality of girls, to make them more self-reliant, to build their physique and to enable them, in a national emergency, to take upon themselves some of the duties normally carried out by men.

The intention is to make educated girls better citizens, with the essential qualities of discipline, initiative, self-confidence and responsibility, rather than to fit them to be absorbed in the Armed Forces. There are numerous jobs in which women can efficiently replace men, both in war and in peace and prove a great asset. They can be usefully employed in signal offices and exchanges, air-raid reporting centres and welfare work, relieving the men for harder duties in the frontline.

In order that the new scheme may be based on a firm and sound foundation, a beginning is being made with it on a small scale by raising a unit each in only three provinces. A unit will consist of 90 cadets and three teacher officers, and it is proposed to raise such units in both colleges and schools, though initially a start is being made with colleges.

The cost of raising and maintaining the Girls' Division, as in the case of the Senior and Junior Divisions of the National Cadet Corps will be met by the provincial Governments. The Central Government will, however, bear expenditure on the staff required at the headquarters to exercise control, over the units, the equipment also being provided to the units.

PRIZE AWARDS IN THE R.N.

The British Admiralty have announced that they are ready to receive applications for Royal Navy Prize Money, Campaign Stars and Medals. Members of the Navies of other Commonwealth countries are not entitled to these awards.

With regard to India, the amount of prize money to be allocated to undivided India has not yet been decided and further the ratio in which that amount is to be divided between the Governments of India and Pakistan has still to be agreed upon. On this point the Government of India will issue a separate announcement in due course. The present announcement does not refer therefore to serving members or to former members of the R.I.N.

Claims by former members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines etc., and by the next of kin of the deceased persons must be made in prescribed form and sent direct to the Director of Naval Accounts Admiralty, London, S.W.1. Copies of the requisite forms may be obtained from the office of the UK High Comissioner, 6, Albuquerque Road, New Delhi.

Prize money is payable to members and former members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Forces, Crews (including certain civilians) of H. M. Ships and members of the Royal Artillery who performed 180 days service at sea (as defined in the Regulations) between September 3, 1939 and September 2, 1945, and whose claims are received within 12 months of this anouncement. Persons killed in action etc., at sea qualify irrespective of length of sea service.

Members and former members of the R.A.F. are not eligible for Royal Navy Prize money (unless they were previously members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Forces who had qualifying service.)

In pursuance of the resolution passed by the local Self-Government Ministers' Conference held in August 1948, the Government of India have appointed a committee (1) to examine the present boundaries of cantonments and recommend their future delimitation (2) to examine the Cantonments Act, 1924 (II of 1924) with a view to suggesting such revision as may be necessary and (3) to report generally on other matters relevant to the administration of cantonments.

The committee consists of Mr. S. K. Patil, a member of the Standing Committee of the Legislature (Chairman), Mr. R. K. Ramadhyani, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Defence (Vice-Chairman); the Quartermaster-General; the Director-General of the Armed Forces Medical Services; Mr. R. K. Sidhwa, M. C. A., Mr. L. T. Gholap, Secretary to the Health and Local Self-Government Department, Bombay; Mr. Hargovind Pant, M. L. A. (U. P.), M.C.A; Mr. P. C. Bhandari, Executive Officer, Amritsar Municipality; and Sardar Rachpal Singh, Director of Military Lands and Cantonment (Secretary).

VISIT OF H.M.I.S. "DELHI" TO MAURITIUS

Event of Historic Importance

FOR the first time since India attained freedom on August 15, 1947, a ship flying the tricolour flag of free India paid a courtesy visit to Mauritius Island, when on may 24 India's "Man of Peace" cruiser H.M.I.S. "Delhi" entered Mauritius waters.

The hospitality of the people of Mauritius is proverbial and every time a battleship, whether from France, England or any other part of the Commonwealth, has come to Mauritius it has always received warm welcome from the local population.

But judging from the people's enthusiasm, this visit of H.M.I.S. "Delhi" was unique event, of its kind. Apart from the fact that the majority of the island's population is of Indian origin, a large section of the population of the colony look upon India as the champion of peace and freedom as well as the symbol of their own aspirations. It was therefore perhaps quite natural for all sections of the population to have manifested this enthusiasm on this historic occasion.

Warm Welcome

H.M.I.S. "Delhi" was welcomed by thousands of people standing ashore and by hundreds of them in gaily decorated barges and boats. Lusty cheers rent the air from thousands of voices which greeted her.

From a very early hour, thousands of men, women and children were seen wending their way from different parts of the Island to Port Louis, and by the time Commodore Brown stepped ashore, the crowd lining all along the route to the town was no less than ten rows deep.

As the ship entered harbour, the Indian Commissioner, Shri Dharam Yash Dev went on board accompanied by Major Donaldson, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor of Mauritius, who carried letters of welcome to the ship. A little later the Officer in command of the troops in the Mauritius Area and the Naval A.D.C. to the Governor went on board to welcome the Commodore and to escort him to the landing stage.

The Commodore who was accompanied by the Indian Commissioner and the Naval and Military entourage came ashore in his launch when the shore batteries fired a salute of 11 guns in his honour. At the landing shed he was received by the Colonial Secretary, the Mayor of Port Louis, the Deputy Mayor, Members of Port Louis Municipal Council and the Commissioner of Police. A guard of honour was provided by the King's African Rifles.

Commodore Brown after inspecting the guard of honour drove to Government House at Port Louis to call on His Excellency. As the car carrying him and the Indian High Commissioner drove out in the streets to Government House, the crowds which had been patiently waiting since early morning burst forth into loud cheering. The atmosphpre was filled with shouts of "Jai Hind", "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai", "Pandit Nehru ki jai".

After calling on the Governor, the Commodore called on the Mayor of Port Louis at the Town Hall where he was received by the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Members of the Municipal Council who were all introduced to him.

Later, the Governor paid a return visit to HMIS "DELHI".

Round of Parties

Ever since HMIS "Delhi" arrived in Mauritius on May 24, her officers and men had never had a single dull moment or free hour. By their behaviour, they endeared themselves to all sections of the local population. Officers and men of the ship were invited to visit some of the remotest villages of the Island and thus to see how thousands of Indo-Mauritians live there.

One of the most outstanding parties held in their honour was that arranged by the prominent Creole leaders like Hon. Dr. Millien, and by Hon. Dr. Shivu Sagar, Dr. Ram Ghulam, Member, Governor's Executive Council and Hon. G. Ahchuen, leading Chinese businessman and Member, Legislative Council.

On May 25, at a Garden party, the Commodore and his officers were welcomed on behalf of the Colonial Government by the Colonial Secretary and the Commissioner of Police.

The next day, the Indian Commissioner, Shri Dharam Yash Dev, and Mrs. Dev were At Home. It was attended apart from officers of HMIS "Delhi", by more than a thousand guests including the Governor and his wife. At night, there was a dinner party at Government House.

On May 27, Shri Ram Parshad Ram Din, the biggest Indian Tea planter of the colony, gave a garden party and at night a dinner party was given by Indian Cultural Association at which high tributes were paid to India.

On May 28, the citizens of Port Louis presented a welcome addres at the Curepipe Town Hall to the distinguished visitors. A beautiful casket made of the rarest specimen local wood was also presented.

At night the same day, Commodore Brown and his officers entertained the Governor and his wife to dinner on board the ship.

It was thrilling to see that every function started with India's National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana" and also ended with it.

Two papers owned and edited by Indo-Mauritians "Advance" and Hindi "Janta" brought out special editions on May 24 to commemorate this historic event.

Papers also carried special photographs of the cruiser and other pictures depicting important events in recent history of H. M. I. S. "Delhi." A two column editorial entitled "The Spirit of the Age" welcoming "Dolhi" to Mauritius dwelt at length on the ideals and aspirations of free India and hoped that the ship's visit would bring Mauritius closer still to India.

The Editorial added: "It is good that in moments like these we should have men like Nehru and Attlee. These pillars of Democracy have earned the gratitude of mankind. These men are the glories of our times and the whole world is indebted to them in fullest measure for their inspiring message of goodwill and understanding. It has been well said that where there is no vision, people perish. A Republic within the Commonwealth with the King as the undying symbol of unity is a great idea which will transform the world and serve as the greatest instrument for peace and prosperity."

Indian Commissioner's Message

In a Press statement issued on the eve of the cruiser's arrival, the Indian Commissioner, Shri Dharam Yash Dev, gave an outline of India's naval history and briefly narrated India's historic association with Java, Sumatra and other countries in East and West, which contacts were established many centuries ago by brave pioneers who had set sail from India in Indian made ships, long before Vasco da Gama or Columbus had set out on their historic voyages.

The Indian Commissioner concluding said: "Mauritius and India have known each other for very many years. We are old friends and I hope the visit of H. M. I. S. "Delhi" to Mauritius will further strengthen the agoold historic links and cultural ties between Mauritius and my country."

Special editions of two papers carried exhaustive summaries of Pandit Nehru's historic speech delivered at Bombay on September 15 last year when the Prime Minister went aboard "Delhi" to welcome the cruiser in Bombay harbour. Other articles gave the history of the Indian Navy and the remarkable story of the cruiser "Achilles" before she became "Delhi". Another interesting and informative article by Shri K. C. Neogy, India's Minister of Commerce, gave the story of India's mercantile marine.

Messages welcoming the ship were sent to the Press by leading members of the Mauritius Legislative Council, and one of these messages was from the Hon'ble Dr. Edgard Millien, leader of Creole community.

The visit of H. M. I. S. "Delhi" to Mauritius is likely to go down as a historic event for the people of this island which has heterogeneous population of Whites and coloured people of French, British, African and Indian origin, all living on best terms of friendship and cordiality.

PEACE RETURNS TO DARHAL VALLEY

Popularity of Indian Troops in Kashmir

YONDER, an orange glow in the western sky outlines a mighty crag on whose purple slopes is a picquet of the Indian Army at a height of 7,700 feet.

Here in the beautiful Darhal valley (5,400 feet) with running streams and terraced green fields, the rest of the battalion is billeted. Nearby lies a village of mud huts where Muslim villagers of the area live in safety and till the land in peace, wrote an Army Observer.

There was a time when the peace of the valley was shattered by the thunder of gunfire and the crack of rifles, and the villagers packed a few scanty belongings and fled into the mountains. One fine morning in September 1948, when the mist still lay heavy on the grass, the battle cry of the Indian troops rent the air and the invaders who had squatted in the valley for months, retreated pell-mell.

During the eight months that have since elapsed, the deserted villagers have gradually come back to life and no less than 25,000 Muslims have trickled through to be resettled on their own land and to till the soil again. A quiet but very genuine respect has since grown up between these proud hillmen and the Indian troops.

The young men of the village earn their livelihood by working for the Army —building roads and carrying supplies to high picquets scattered on the surrounding peaks. Indian troops also buy from the people of the valley home-made charcoal, fire wood and mule-fodder, for which they make ready payment in cash. This is in great contrast with the threats and empty promises of money held out to them by the raiders.

When Maj.-Gen. Atma Singh, GOC 26 Division, visited Darhal recently, the Indian troops posted there received him with a guard of honour, with their pipe band in attendance. It was as unexpected as it was surprising to drive for four hours from Nowshehra and then suddenly come upon a parade with a pipe band in full dress.

Fertile Valley

The temperature here is several degrees below that of torrid Jammu. Girt round by high mountains, the fertile Darhal valley resembles a green bowl. The mountain-sides all round are terraced with semi-circular wheat fields, with yellow flat roofed huts dotting the landscape. The buzz of the army camp is punctuated by the occasional 'whoa' of ploughmen in the fields.

A little way up on the hillside is an empty hut which serves as a regimental school, and the whole camp is tucked neatly into a mountainside.

At sundown, the retreat was beaten by the pipe band before the whole battalion. That retreat was different from the many that we had heard before and never did it sound more solemn or seem more impressive. As the bugles threw the familiar notes of the retreat against the echoing hillsides, the villagefolk must have wondered at the strange traditions of the Indian Army, which carried its iron discipline and picturesque customs even into the remotest wilderness.

The retreat concluded with the regimental march-past "A Hundred Pipers". On the way back, the General stopped many a time to speak to groups of local inhabitants, and it was always to ask them if they were satisfied with the behaviour of Indian troops at which they expressed their approval in no uncertain manner. At the General's offer to take the troops away if they did not like them, the villagers were visibly dismayed and begged him not to do so. They cried: "If the Indian troops leave us, we will be ravaged again."

It was a day to remember, and we recalled the events of that afternoon as we snuggled ourselves under the blankets and heard the sweet tones of the bugle sounding the last post, echoing and re-echoing from the sleeping mountains. Indeed peace had returned to the lovely valley of Darhal, and it had come to stay.



Indian Soldiers in Jammu give all the help they can to peasants of the border area during harvest time

STORY OF TITHWAL'S RECAPTURE

Indian Troops Celebrate Anniversary

THE anniversary of the recapture of Tithwal was celebrated by Indian troops at Chhambkot, four miles from Tithwal, on May 23, when Lt.-Gen. S. M. Srinagesh, G.O.C.-in-C, Western Command, took the salute at a parade.

In a speech, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Prime Minister of Kashmir, paid a tribute to Indian troops and recalled how they covered a distance of 60 miles in less than five days, marching by night along knife-edged mountain ridges and chasing the raiders out of their dug outs. Due to this rapid advance, he said, the lives of thousands of Muslims, who were at the mercy of the marauders, were saved.

Addressing the villagers of the area who had mustered in thousands to witness the parade, he said that they should search their hearts and be able to distinguish between their friends and foes.

When Brig. Harbaksh Singh, the hero of Tithwal, routed the enemy and chased him out of the valley, Sheikh Abdullah said, Muslim men, women and children came back from the jungles where they had fled out of fear of the invaders. He regarded Brig. Harbaksh Singh as a true follower of the teachings of the Prophet because he had brought peace to their land.

Lt.-Gen. Srinagesh thanked Sheikh Abdullah on behalf of the Indian Army, which, he said, was the servant of the people. He congratulated Army officers and men for the excellent work they had done.

Remarkable Feat

The Tithwal battle was a remarkable feat of endurance and fortitude. Starting on the night of May 14, 1948 from Handwara, the Garhwalis came into clash with the enemy the next day at the Trehgam ridge. There was fierce fighting and at 5 p.m. the enemy left the battlefield littered with several dead. The ridge was secured, and this Indian success demoralized the enemy completely.

While the Garhwalis were busy mopping up enemy pockets of resistance, the Madrasis and the Sikhs continued to move at night and established a firm base behind enemy-occupied territory. Small parties of fleeing raiders were liquidated on the way.

Indian troops, developing a healthy rivalry among themselves, now began a race for the beautiful 'tehsil' headquarters of Tithwal. They marched over knife-edged mountain tops without rest or sleep. To walk along these mountains in day-time is dangerous enough; to march and fight at night in this country is most hazardous. The Sikhs captured Chankibal on the morning of May 20, while the Madrasis took the pass, 12,200-feet high, the next day, killing five of the enemy, including an officer. Advancing further, the Madrasis secured Nichian-Gahi before nightfall. The Sikhs reached Chhambkot on the evening of May 22.

Driving along different routes, the Madrasis and the Sikhs entered Tithwal on the morning of May 23. Large quantities of arms and ammunition, including two 3-inch mortars, fell into their hands.

This advance of 60 miles, as the crow flies, over 12,000-feet high mountain peaks was completed in five days. This success would not have been possible without the whole-hearted co-operation extended by the local inhabitants, who greeted our troops as their deliverers and saviours.

Indian Army units in Tithwal celebrated the occasion by holding a pagal gymkhana, in which local civilians and their children took part. An interesting programme, including a fancy dress parade, a sack fight, a pony race, with riders facing backwards, and a children race, was gone through. Sheikh Abdullah gave away the prizes.

MONEY ORDERS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

Money orders limited to £2 per day per remitter, can now be forwarded to Saudi Arabia, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs on May 12.

Pandit Nehru goes through an album of printings in the Co-operative Cottage Industry Exhibition during his recent visit to Srinagar



REHABILITATION OF MUSLIMS IN JAMMU

MAJ.-Gen. Atma Singh, G.O.C., 26 Division, recently visited various districts of the Jammu province predominantly populated by Muslims, who had at first fled and then returned to be re-settled by the Indian Army in their original homes.

At a small but important town, he was garlanded by a large number of farmers from the surrounding hills and by local inhabitants. Situated at the head of a valley, this town serves as the marketing centre for produce from the mountainous region around. To reach it from the foothead, one has to journey on horseback for many miles on sure-footed hill ponies, who pick their way unerringly up the rugged pathways and through the stony 'nullahs'.

On his arrival there, Gen. Atma Singh was greeted by a deputation of farmers with the request that the area protected by Indian Army picquet be extended so that the farmers in the outlying fields might be able to carry on their work with safety.

The Gen. addressed the large gathering of villagers present and introduced to them an Army doctor who had been sent to conduct research into the causes of typhus, typhoid, cholera and other diseases that broke out in the town from time to time.

Popularity of Troops

When the Gen. suggested that he would withdraw Indian troops from the town if the people so wished, there were loud shouts of despair and protest, which ended in a concerted chorus of "Hindustan Fauj-ki-Jai".

During his tour of various units, Gen. Atma Singh visited a famous Indian battalion and congratulated it for the leading part it had played. He also thanked them for their assistance in the rehabilitation of Muslim families in the valley, where they were now living in great amity with Indian troops.

FACILITIES FOR DISPLACED LAWYERS

In response to a communication from the Government of India to all Provincial Governments to facilitate the rehabilitation of displaced legal practitioners the Government of Madras have waived payment for the first year of the annual fee of Rs. 25 payable by pleaders for renewal of their 'sanads.'

For practising in the Madras High Court there is no domicile restriction and any person who has obtained the Law degree of any of the established Universities in India may claim admission as an advocate in the Court. Besides exemptions may also be granted under Rule 16 of the Madras High Court Rules in special circumstances.

As regards pleaders, as early as 1942, when the case of refugee pleaders from Burma was taken up, the Madras High Court decided to relax the prescribed qualifications in their favour to enable them to practise in the subordinate courts in the province. This decision still holds good.

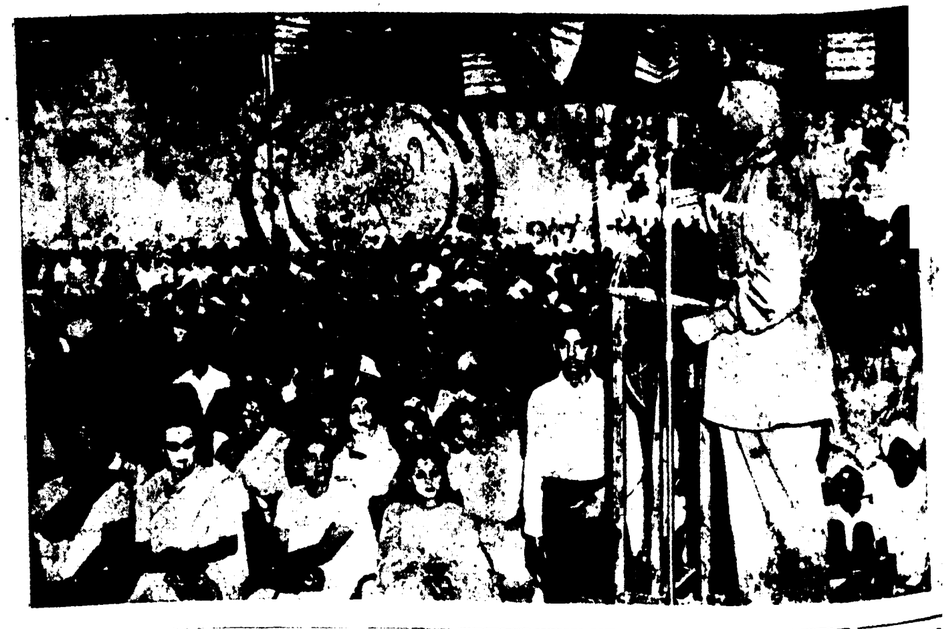
According to a Press Communique issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 7, the Government of India have selected Mr. A. K. Ghosh to succeed Mr. I. Majid as Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Mr. Ghosh is expected to take over charge of his duties early in July, 1949.



Shri H.M. Patel (second from left) Defence Secretary, and Leader of the Defence Services Delegation, with Major-General Kulwant Singh, Chief of the General Staff, Indian Army, F/Lt. Mehta and Col. Chopra at the Palam aerodrome, New Delhi. The Delegation toured U.K., U.S.A. and European countries for nearly six weeks.



FAUJI MELA AT GURGAON : A Fauji Mela attended by more than 20,000 people from all the neighbouring villages was held at Gurgaon recently. The object of the Mela was to bring the military and public closer. Widows of Servicemen who were killed in action received cash awards from Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister. (Above) Sardar Baldev Singh shaking hands with 62-year-old Subedar Jaswant Singh of Rajput Regiment. (Below) Gen. Cariappa, C.-in-C., Indian Army, addressing a gathering at the Mela.



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H.E. Shri C. Rajagopalachari replying to an address of welcome presented to him by Shrimati Feraza Taleyarkhan (one of the oldest disciples of Shri Ramana Maharishi) before opening the Pathala Lingam Temple at Tiruvannamalai on May 14. (Left) The Governor-General with H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore when the latter called on His Excellency during his recent visit to Bangalore.



General K. M. Cariappa, C.-in-C., Indian Army, photographed with the Ladakh Delegation led by the Head Lama (fourth from right) of the Pitok Monastery. The Delegation visited New Delhi recently to impress on the Government of India the unanimous desire of the inhabitants of the Valley to continue to remain a part of India.



Gen. Cariappa inaugurated a military training scheme for civilian volunteers in Delhi on May 18. Under the scheme, the volunteers are required to devote one hour per week to be trained in physical culture and army drill by army instructors. The volunteers will also attend lectures on hygiene, sanitation and civic obligations. Here, the C.-in-C. is talking to a volunteer.