

Madras Journal of
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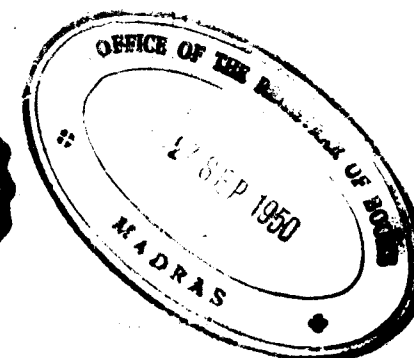
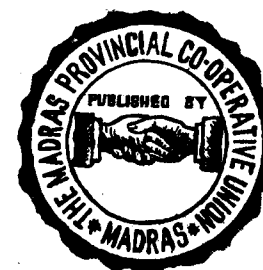
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The Madras Journal of Co-operation



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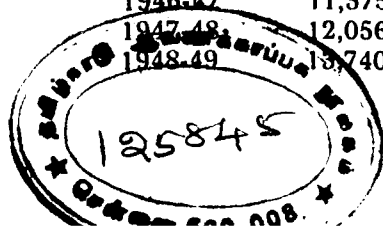
development of post-office savings banks "which are the most widespread Governmental agency and enjoy the confidence of the people and if developed can collect the savings of the rural people to an increasing extent." We feel that the Report indicates a bias towards the State institutions and the commercial banks.

The position assigned to the Co-operative financing institutions in the Report is a poor appreciation of the work done by them for several decades. Not that the Report is all silent about the role of the Co-operative banks in rural banking: The Committee have obviously ignored the work and status of the Co-operative institutions as democratic organisations working for the benefit of the rural classes. Regarding the role of the Co-operatives the Committee say that there is also need for developing Co-operative societies, as the largest part of the structure providing banking facilities to rural areas consist of such societies. Regarding the provision of long term credit however the Committee hold that land mortgage banks are the most appropriate agencies for the purpose.

Thus while the Committee are aware of the close and intimate contact of the Co-operative institutions with rural credit, they have not properly appreciated the possibilities of the Co-operative Movement in rural economy. None the less the Co-operative Banks are definitely growing in popularity as against the other types of financing institutions. We learn from the statistical tables relating to the banks of India for 1948 released by the Reserve Bank of India that the total deposits of Joint Stock Banks in the Indian Union declined from Rs. 1,051.77 crores in 1947 to Rs. 1,009.97 crores in 1948 and that those of the Co-operative Banks increased from Rs. 65.51 crores in 1947 to Rs. 70.92 crores in 1948. We also learn that about 53 per cent of the offices of the scheduled banks are in larger towns and cities and 67 per cent of the non-scheduled banks in smaller towns. Co-operative Banks on the other hand have about 63 per cent of their offices in smaller towns and villages. The spread of the co-operative movement in the countryside during recent years is remarkable: Rural Madras, for instance, is dotted with thousands of rural credit societies which are also small banks in the sense that they give loans to or take deposits from villagers. The following figures relate to their transactions during recent years:

Year.	No. of Rural Societies.	Loans issued. Rs.	Deposits taken. Rs.
1946-47	11,375	3,47,15,846	48,88,467
1947-48	12,056	4,40,00,620	53,16,281
1948-49	13,740	4,96,10,290	72,66,228

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Rural Industrialisation—A Plea For Realistic Outlook :

The Government of Mysore have adopted Sir Visweswarayya's scheme of rural industrialisation which visualises the planned development of about 150 cottage industries. Under the scheme the basic unit is the Rural Group. Each group comprises villages having a total population of 10,000. In each group a Village Group Development Committee is elected under the Village Panchayats Act. Each Committee appoints a Village Group Development Inspector. These Inspectors would receive a six-week training in basic economics and the basic principles of the possible rural industries of their districts. The scheme contemplates voluntary contributions from the villagers, the Government contributing an equal amount.

This scheme has been now implemented in the districts of Bangalore and Kolar. About Rs. 70,000 has been reported to have been collected from the Public of Bangalore district towards the starting of rural industries societies, and a training centre has been opened at Doddballapur. In Bangalore district alone one hundred circles have been created for working out the scheme.

Mysore is probably foremost in the Indian Union to take up the development of cottage industries on "planned lines." It is no wonder that it should be so, considering that Mysore is industrialising itself under the guidance of one of India's greatest industrial planners and engineers.

It is a pity that in most other Indian States, the need for early and quick action for the development of rural industrial economy has not been properly appreciated. The country is passing through the twin perils of soaring cost of living and increasing unemployment and under-employment—the Scylla and Charybdis of our ship of State. Only very recently Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Chairman of the Fiscal Commission, told a Press Conference: "When agriculture is rationalised, on a very rough and moderate estimate, one and a half crores people will be displaced from agriculture. Added to this every year will be three to four million people representing the increase in population. You must also realise that in spite of all the industrialisation that has taken place, our industries employ less than three million people in all. This is the magnitude of the problem of providing employment and avoiding under-employment.

"We attach a great deal of importance to cottage industries, but cottage industries can afford gainful employment to a much

larger number of people than at present, only if they are rationalised if their techniques are improved, if power is given and if the State helps them in many ways."

Most of the State Governments and, for the matter of that, even the Union Government have failed to realise the gravity adequately and to rise to the occasion. The efforts made and the sums of money spent by them so far have generally resulted in achieving little progress in the right direction. Of course, a Cottage Industries Board has been constituted at the centre to co-ordinate the activities of the State Governments. No co-ordination, worth the name, has, however, been in evidence, probably because few State Governments have taken definite constructive measures which will fit into an All-India Scheme of development. It is now reported that recently the Executive Committee of the Central Cottage Industries Board decided to undertake, as part of the Board's immediate programme, a "quick survey

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HON'BLE SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMY RAJA,
Chief Minister, Government of Madras.

(Opened the VII Tamil Nad Co-op. Conference at Rameswaram.

*Also opened recently a Branch of the
South India Co-operative Insurance Society, Ltd. at Madura
and the P. T. Rajan Hall at the Hood Co-op. Institute, Tanjore.)*

