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THE MUNICIPAL GAZETTE

Vol.21

JUNE 1958

No 1.

Local Government and The Problems of Unemployment

THE greatest evil of unemployment, "says Lord Beveridge, "is not physical but moral, not the want which it may bring but the hatred and fear which it breeds." This problem of unemployment has now become the most vexing in our country and it requires an immediate solution. The problem of unemployment in our country is not one of recent origin, but fundamentally a manifestation of a deep rooted economic slum due to continued mal-adjustment of different factors. In order to solve the problem attempts should be made from all quarters—Governments, both Local and Central, public, private and individuals. However, our subject should be confined to explore possibilities which a Local Self-Government institution can do.

Let us assume that all Local authorities are equally well-off in respect of population, area, resources and finances. At the first sight, it may sound well that the local bodies can go a long way in solving the problem of unemployment as almost all the employment and income-creating factors are permanent in its activities, such as levying rates and taxes incurring expenditures, executing public work and many other and functions, which are directly or indirectly contributory factors for creation of employment and income. But it is not so really as would be revealed from a comparison of the national finance and local finance. Firstly, public authorities impose taxes, while local authorities impose rates. Secondly, proceeds from taxes, are spent for general purposes, the proceeds from rates are meant for direct benefit of the individuals of a particular locality. Thirdly, the benefits of a public expenditure traced specifically, but the benefit of a local rate can easily be followed to a limited number of

individuals. Fourthly, National Income is raised mainly by taxation on income, on commodities, or on business turnovers while local authorities levy rates distinct from those which are imposed on nation as a whole. But the important difference between state finance and local finance is the rigid statutory limits of the latter one beyond which local rates cannot be raised. In fact, the important feature of local finance is that the gap, between expenditure and income has got to be filled up either by grants-in aid from the State finance or by raising loans.

A local body, in order to influence income and employment, has undoubtedly two sources and that is in the spheres of taxation and public work. But in fact the taxation policy of local bodies instead of giving an impetus to industrialization and brisk business activities rather hamper their progress in many of the civilized countries of the world.

Kingdom first by which relief was given to the business enterprises from the burden of local rates and the main burden was shifted on the householders in each locality. But this shifting was also uneconomic and regressive in the sense that the sound taxation policy, namely ability to pay was ignored. This anomaly can be removed and equity can be ensured to some extent if the local rates are levied in such a manner that its base should not necessarily be uniform in all local areas instead the base should be localized within the jurisdiction of the local taxing authority and the local authorities should adjust their taxes according to their needs. If the principle "sound finance" is to be practised by a Local Government, it should adjust its taxes

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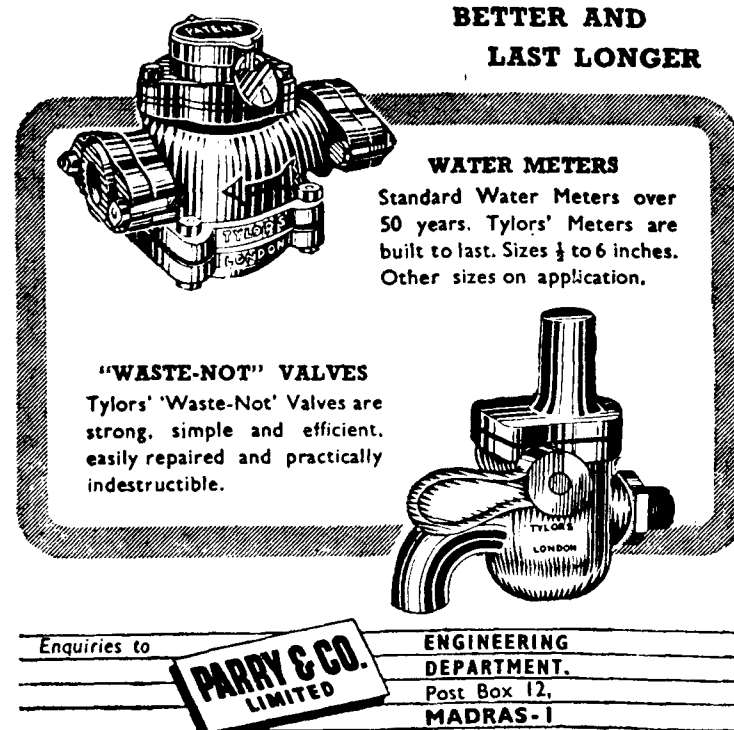
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in such a way that steady income is to be ensured in the period of boom as well as in the period of slump. But by applying this principle into practice a local body should, in no way, hamper the growth of business enterprises which in their turn may bring about slump and unemployment.

Next to taxation the other component of local finance is the grants-in-aid received from the national governments. These grants are mainly utilized to bridge the gap between income and expenditure of a local authority. If this source is properly utilized it may go a long way in creating employment and income. The proceeds from grants-in-aid are to be utilized for new venture mainly public utility work such as highways, bridges, electrification and others, which will create employment and income a multiplier effect may ensure which may become a helping factor in solving the problem of unemployment and depression.

Apart from the grants-in-aid, another source of income which a local authority may enjoy is the debt which may be classified into two. It may be borrowed either from the National Government or from the public. The latter one being a long term loan is generally utilized for the purpose of public work which in its turn ensure employment and income under the multiplier system. Taking a lesson from U.S.A. Municipalities in the thirties the policy of borrowing should always be guided by strict economic principles.

Relating to the expenditure side of local finance embodying its duties and obligations we can say that if the fund is properly utilized looking into the amenities and comforts of citizens it can, at the same time help to a great extent to create new income and employment.

Maharshi Dr. D. K. Karve

Saviour Of Indian Women

DR. D. K. KARVE, THE PIONEER OF INDIAN WOMAN'S EDUCATION HAS COMPLETED HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY ON THE 18TH OF LAST MONTH.

THE ENTHUSIASTIC CELEBRATIONS HELD IN BOMBAY FOR THIS OCCASION ON BEHALF OF INDIAN UNION REVEAL THE GREAT ESTEEM IN WHICH THIS GREAT EDUCATIONALIST IS HELD BY ALL INDIANS AND PARTICULARLY BY THE WOMEN FOLK WHO SHALL EVER BE GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR GREAT SERVICES RENDERED TO THEM.

WHEN the domain of womanhood was within the four walls of the kitchen, when the widow's fate was in brooming the halls of her husband's house, or when her craving for knowledge was considered to be the greatest sin and when, actually the status of her was just like a stone, without life and brain, which could be easily moulded into a beautiful statue or a terrible ghost there sprang from a little village, Shereoli, in Konkan a visionary known as Karve, on 18th of April 1858.

K. Karve had his primary education in Marud and finished his English fourth standard at Ratnagiri and went to Bombay for his further studies. He joined the Robert Money High School and passed Matriculation in the year 1881.

He passed his B.A. in the second class with mathematics as his voluntary subject. After passing his B.A. he joined the Elphinstone High School as a temporary teacher. When he was relieved, he started teaching mathematics in various High Schools and began giving private tuitions. He was married when he was only fifteen and when he was 33 years of age his wife died suddenly in the year 1891.

It is only after this incident, that the fire burning within his heart began to kindle and gradually took him to the status he reached to-day. He contemplated a second marriage, and decided to marry a widow, and accordingly married a friend's widowed sister. Persecution followed. Insult, calumny and ridicule were showered on him. He

could not openly see his relations, treated like an outcast he had to eat his food separately. He had done a thing which defied all conventions and for that he had to pay a high price. BUT BRAVELY, HE CONFRONTED THE ATTACK AND SET OUT TO REMOVE THE EVILS HE MET ON HIS CAMPAIGN.....With this entered into his life the ideal of service to womanhood, He began to feel the painful touch of sufferings of Indian widows. His marriage with a widow opened his heart to the services of Indian widows.

A Glance At His Life

One day while going to his daily routine work the idea that Education was the real salvation to the widows, struck his mind. And rose from that the institution, called Hindu Widows' Home Association in the year 1896.

With the zeal of a true reformer he set out to fight for woman's freedom and equip her with the necessary requisites to fulfill adequately her great mission in the making of India. The field of education had to be extended and benefits therein imparted to her.

At first the Hindu Widows' home was a home only for poor Hindu widows where the education was imparted freely. Later virgins or married sisters began to clamour for admission for education in the Home. So Dr. D. K. Karve started another institution called Mahila Vidyalaya, and in

a short time the two institutions were amalgamated into a full-fledged High School. His wife and sister-in-law were his first disciples and pride to the institution.

His zeal, knows no bounds, and seeing the good effects of education on woman, his eagerness increased to bring out the most and the best from her. He realized the great wisdom underlying the old saying "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world", and he inferred that the hand that rocks the Indian babe must be good and trained in a particular way to bring forth good fruits. Such a training could be possible only in a university for woman. He then thought of opening a university for women.

The walls of prejudices were not yet broken and though the people could just tolerate primary education for women, they would never accept the idea of university education for them. However Dr. Karve was too strong for any opposition and by his own efforts paved the way for the realisation of his dream. He toured through out India to collect funds and having a sufficient amount of funds he founded the Indian Women's University on the model of Japan University. Later the university was named Sreeemati Mathabai

Damodar Thackersey after the mother of Sir Thackersey who donated a large sum to the university.

The merit of the university lies in the attention paid to the woman's natural characteristics and aptitudes with a view to make her a real womanly woman.

Gradually the harvest flourished and the fruits ripened before the astonished eyes of many an onlooker. The helpless slave like woman turned out to be independent and self sufficient.

In 1942 Dr Karve was honoured by the Hindu University of Benares. Mahatma Gandhi, who delivered the convocational address conferred on him the title of Honorary D. Litt on behalf of the University.

Indian women cannot duly express their gratitude to Dr. Karve who raised them from shame and slavery, to a respectable position. They can best thank him by living up to the ideals he had laid down. He has been a father and a benefactor to them and with filial love and respect we, the Indian women pledge our service to the cause for which he lived.



LIFE IN THE SLUMS

THE time has come when we have got to penetrate into the dark murky interiors of the dwelling places where so many of our brothers and sisters live. It is our duty, as members of a free India, of a secular democratic State and as human beings, not only to know and understand the slums but to help in clearing them and reconstructing the hovels into habitable places where men and women and children like us live.

Slums are known in Calcutta as Bustees, in Bombay as Chawls and in Madras as Cheries, but whatever they are called they are all very alike. Slums are a world unto themselves, a world of living from day to day, of births and deaths, ignorance and poverty, disease, dirt, and destitution. Housing, sanitation, lighting, and ventilation are not above reproach. Medical help is scarce, food is adulterated, and toddy shops as the only means of relaxation play a prominent part in undermining the mental and moral conditions of the people.

HOUSING IN THE SLUMS

The general impression of housing in the slums is that the hovels are not fit to live in and should all be pulled down and new houses built. Various Commissions have condemned them. The Health Survey and Development Committee in 1943 in its Report stated:—

"Proper housing has a profound influence in the health of the people."

The bad housing now prevalent is the cause, or at least one of the main causes of the great incidence of tuberculosis, venereal diseases, gastric complaints and other diseases. Houses are usually one-roomed, airless and dark. A large number are made of bamboo and mud and these fall to ruin quickly and cause rain and wind to beat in. Thatched roofs bring vermin and insects and the constant threat of fire.

In these days when there is a dearth of tiles and cement and beams even the thatched huts can be made serviceable if a few essentials are catered to. There must, for instance be more a place kept separate for cooking and faciling and facilities must be given for washing. Each house should have a bore-hold latrine and a small garden opening on to a decent metalled road. If the slum houses are constructed with the minimum requirements, as in the above, the whole face of a bustee would be changed.

CLEANLINESS AND HEALTH

Next, arrangements should also be made for the disposal of rubbish and manure. There should be separate shelters and pens for cattle, goats and pigs which slum-dwellers usually insist on harbouring and also which bring with them vermin and stench. The flooring of slum houses is also most unhygienic and unhealthy. Some actually ooze with dampness causing tuberculosis and lung complaints. High plinths should be constructed for each hut and they should be raised well above the ground especially in Bengal, which is a low-lying province. The present-day drainage system is also most primitive. In the slums now many drains are just mud trenches and even the pucca drains are seldom cleaned and usually jammed, exuding a horrible stench. They are the breeding ground of mosquitoes, as are the village tanks and dobos.

Again no privacy is possible in the present condition of housing in the slums. There is practically open prostitution near the workers' houses. Over-crowding is one of the greatest evils in the slums.

THE SLUM WOMAN

The slum woman is the most gallant. She is backbone of India. There are immense possibilities if she educated to make her a leading citizen. Slum should be equipped with welfare centres, schools and hospitals. The change in the make-up of the woman will then be astounding. Evils such as caste early marriage, widows kept in subjection and a fairly low status of women still exist, Purdah is also prevalent. All these must rapidly be done away with, and can be abolished by us if we take enough interest. Certain fundamental necessities such as bathing places and latrines are necessary for the women of a slum. Then again, good hygienic markets should come within easy reach of a slum, and woman's co-operative societies and sewing and spinning classes should be opened by enlightened women in order to supplement the meagre income of a family. Working women have at present much too difficult a time. Their life is all work and no play. They cook, breed and nurture children, tend the sick, wash clothes and on top of it all, do a full day's work. They are indeed one of the most astounding species of human beings alive to-day.

THE SLUM CHILD

So far very little notice has been taken of the slum child. They play continuously in the dust and rains, learning fast to become goondas. The adults in the slums and especially the women are entirely ignorant and fully occupied in earning a small pittance which will give them one meal a day. It is, therefore, essential that the schemes the Government have in view for primary and even secondary education, are put into operation. The Wardah Scheme of Basic Education which combines the teaching of reading and writing with an occupation is indeed ideal for the slums. The Sergeant Scheme emphasizes a minimum education for all boys and girls and higher studies for those who show an aptitude. All children from 6 to 11 must attend school at the responsibility of the State. We hear of new rules being made of every prospective graduate having to teach a certain length of time in a village or rural area before he can become a graduate. This is indeed promising; but one does not need the bait of an examination to do this.

It does not need reports from commissions to tell us that the scarcity of medical facilities to the slum dwellers is appalling. Another outstanding evil is the indifference of the few doctors and nurses who can help the slums but at times they themselves are so low paid that their apathy cannot be understood, just as the village teacher has no incentive really to teach because he is almost starving himself.



THE FOOD POISONING

FOOD sustains life, but this very food, when prepared with no thought to elementary rules of hygiene, can become poison and, sometimes, deadly poison at that.

One now and then reads in newspapers of food poisoning occurring in hotels or resulting from the consumption of sweets bought at shops during a fair or festival. But there are cases of food poisoning occurring in homes which never get into the papers. Unfortunately, there are no statistics relating to such occurrences whether at public eating places or in homes.

It is true that there is greater risk of food poisoning in hotels than in homes, and so it is necessary that hotel owners should know how food poisoning is generally caused and take preventive measures. Housewives, cooks and servants who cook, store or, handle food every day in millions of homes also should have knowledge of the causes of food poisoning, so that they can avert tragedies resulting from the eating of vitiated food. This article is an attempt to throw some light on the subject.

THREE SOURCES

Food poisoning may be the result of endogenous poisons, which occur naturally in food, or exogenous poisons, usually produced by bacteria in stored or stale foodstuffs, or externally added poisons traceable to the adulteration of food by unscrupulous traders or to an inimical act.

Endogenous poisons can cause various diseases and at times, lead to acute food poisoning. For instance, it may, cause lathyrism—spastic paralysis. This can result from the eating of lathyrus pea, mostly in the form of 'kesari dal'. The disease, generally, occurs in times of food shortage when crops fail and large quantities of peas take the place of cereals.

Lathyrism is quite common in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The 'akta' pea is more poisonous than the lathyrus pea, and the plant being a common weed, its seed easily gets mixed with the lathyrus pea. This may be the reason why the disease is so common in the two States mentioned above. Vitamin A acts as an antidote to this type of poisoning. In the case of most victims it was found that their diets were deficient in this respect.

EPIDEMIC DROPSY

Epidemic dropsy and fish poisoning also come under, this category. Epidemic dropsy occurs among those who use

mustard oil for cooking. This is due to the poisonous prickly, Poppy seed getting mixed with mustard seeds. Endogenous poisons are also found in certain types of vertebrate and shell fish. In some of these, the poison is present only during certain seasons.

Exogenous food poisoning, which is due to bacterial toxins, is of three kinds—salmonella poisoning, staphylococcus poisoning and botulism. Salmonella poisoning occurs commonly in foodstuffs of animal origin like meat, fish and milk, but vegetables and fruits are also likely to be infected at times.

There are two types of salmonella poisoning. In the first case, owing mainly to toxins generated in stale food, there is a sudden onset of diarrhoea and vomiting. Deaths are rare in this case, and the victim is able to recover in a day or two. In the second type, the onset is not only sudden, but also more serious. The microbes infect the mucous membrane of the intestines and the victim suffers from enteric fever.

Two important points regarding salmonella poisoning should be remembered: firstly, the presence of the toxin cannot be found out by taste or smell and, secondly, although it is easy to destroy the organisms, the toxins produced by some of them cannot be got rid of by ordinary cooking.

Staphylococcus poisoning causes gastro-enteritis. It is caused by eating foodstuffs in which heavy growths of certain strains of staphylococci are present. Most of these cases are traced to eating stale ice-creams, milk, pastries, cakes and other kinds of confectionery.

The third kind of exogenous food poisoning, botulism, is the result of toxins produced by the spore-bearing anaerobic clostridium botulism,—an organism that can be isolated from a high percentage of samples of soils. Sausages, hams, bacon, tinned meat and canned fruits and vegetables usually get infected with this type of poison.

Though food poisoning may not take a heavy toll of life, it certainly undermines health and causes a great deal of suffering and misery to victims. The symptoms and duration of illness vary according to the different types of poisoning. Nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhoea, prostration and headache are some of the common symptoms. This may last from 24 to 36 hours, and death may result in 4 to 8 days in 70 per cent. of the cases or, in some cases, after months, if illness persists.

(Continued on page 7)

ALMOST A MENACE

There is also food poisoning caused by the addition of extraneous poisons through enmity or adulteration of foodstuffs. Many a marriage party has been marred by such occurrences. Food poisoning through adulterated foodstuffs has grown almost to be a menace today, and it has to be carefully guarded against.

Food poisoning in hotels and homes can be prevented to a great extent with a little knowledge and some care by the hotel owner and housewife. They should see that nothing harmful is mixed with food. Personal hygiene on the part of those cooking or having anything to do with food can prevent bacteria from breeding.

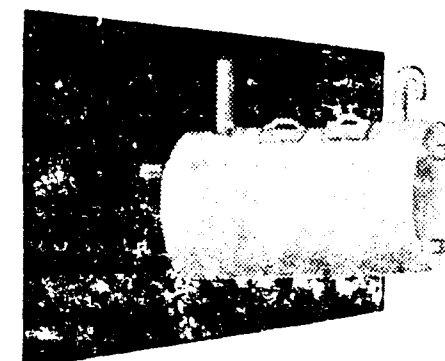
In cities, today, more people eat in hotels than at home, and consequently, millions run the risk of food poisoning. By compelling eating establishments to take certain preventive and hygienic measures, food in hotels can be rendered safe for consumption.

General preventive measures like a systematic examination of eating establishments and the taking of bacterial counts of food and utensils should be carried out by Food Inspectors, and there could be a well equipped epidemiological department to analyse samples of food promptly.

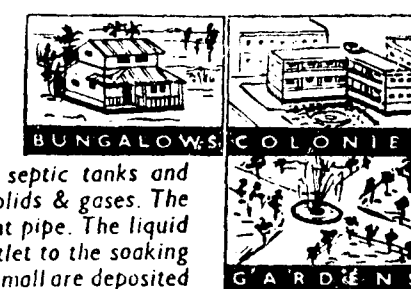
The work of classification of hotels by the Municipal Public Health Department is a step in the right direction, but other measures must follow. Hotel owners should be induced to go in for premises larger than required by Municipal regulations so that congestion might be avoided.

But there is also need to train and educate hoteliers and the public on this subject. This can be done through catering schools and also by means of visual education on hygiene and other allied questions. It is only an enlightened public that can help Government and the Municipality to tackle effectively this problem and eliminate the risk of food poisoning.

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OUR SOCIAL CLINIC

CHOLERA AND ITS PREVENTION

CHOLERA is a dangerous communicable disease. Its important features are:—

Its important Violent vomiting accompanied by cramps, urination and terminating in a large majority stoppage of cases in death.

Cholera is caused by an organism called the comma bacillus which gains entrance into the body through contaminated food and drink. This organism is discharged in large numbers by the sick person in his vomit and motions.

After infection, the disease may develop within a few hours to five days. The first sign of the disease is looseness of bowels. Very soon, the frequency of motions increases. The motions become rice water-like in colour and consistency. Later, the patient ceases to pass water. Vomiting also increases in frequency and the patient is prostrated and takes to bed. His eyes become sunken, cheeks drawn in, causing a pinched-up expression of the face. The tongue is dry. Cramps develop in the muscles, the especially in the abdomen and calves due to excessive loss of fluids from the body.

The chief modes for the spread of Cholera are:

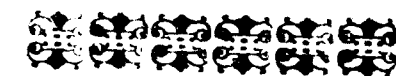
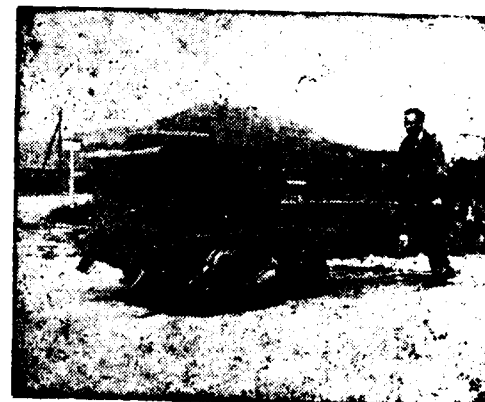
1. Water.....that has been contaminated with cholera germs. Sudden and severe outbreaks of cholera in a community are often traced to a contaminated public water-supply.
2. Contaminated food, milk and other drinks..... Contamination occurs when persons attending on cholera patients carelessly handles articles of food without washing their hands that are soiled with the vomit and motion of the patient,
3. Flies.....These sit on the vomit and excreta of the cholera patient, carry the filth on their wings, legs body and deposit it on the articles of food which they alight on.

Cholera is a preventable disease, provided the following rules are observed:

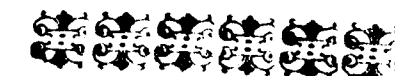
1. Report early all suspicious cases to the health authorities.
2. Keep the patient in a separate room and prevent other

members of the family from coming into contact with the patient.

3. Keep apart a set of utensils exclusively for the use of the patient.
4. Collect vomiting and motions of the patient in a receptacle, put some straw into it, pour a little kerosene oil and burn it.
5. Do not wash the clothes and utensils used by the cholera patient in a tank, river or pond or any source of water-supply.
6. Keep the articles of food in vessels properly covered, so that flies cannot get access to them.
7. Eat hot food. Never fail to boil the water and milk before use.
8. Keep the house and its surroundings clean. Burn all rubbish. Remove and bury manure.
9. Wash your hands well before taking food.
10. Do not eat sweatmeats, cut fruits and other things kept exposed in the shops.
11. Get all the people in the house inoculated with anti-cholera vaccine. Inoculation affords protection against cholera for at least six months.



RIGHT: Another exhibit on show is a copper image of Siva as Nataraja from South India dating back to 16th century.



Boston features Indian Art

THE Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts, is renowned for its collection of Indian art. No other museum in the United States has a larger or more varied collection, and the group of Indian paintings it has assembled is considered to be the most important in the world.

Arranged in chronological order, from the earliest prehistoric art of 3000 B.C. to that of the 18th and 19th centuries, the collection traces an unfolding panorama of Indian art through the five thousand years of its history.

From the beginning, Museum officials showed rare enterprise in the acquisition of ancient art from all parts of the world. In 1935, the Museum and the American School of India and Iranian Studies made an expedition to the Indus Valley, which resulted in the acquisition of a group of prehistoric Indian antiquities depicting a great civilization, comparatively unknown until recent years. Included in the collection are painted pottery, bronze and terra cotta statuettes and seals.

Carved in stone or ivory, or fashioned of a blue and white faience, the Indus Valley seals, inscribed with a hieroglyphic writing not yet deciphered, display animal forms of a startling vigour. The "Urus Bull" seal-amulet is one of the best examples. These items suggest a close affinity with the civilizations of Mesopotamia, and indicate that the Indus Valley civilization was indigenous to India and must be regarded as the source of the earliest native art of the country. Unearthed at Chanhu-daro in the Nawabshah District of Sind, the Indus Valley collection (the only one of its kind out-side of India) reveals of the Harappa and Mohenjo-daro culture dating back to 3000 B.C.

BESIDES the Indus Valley antiquities, the Museum is especially rich in Rajput and Mughal paintings, Nepalese and Sinhalese bronzes illustrated Jain manuscripts, Indian colonial sculpture, textiles and jewellery.

These collections reflect the changes in art and architecture resulting from the influence of different religions and the numerous invasions through the centuries. But perhaps no invasion had a more profound and lasting effect on Indian art than that of the Mongols in the 16th century, led by Prince Babar who established the Mughal Empire. There followed a succession of splendour-loving Indian Emperors who were ardent patrons of the arts, among them Humayun, Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jahan.

Dr. Anand Coomaraswamy, curator of the Indian section in the Museum from 1917 until his death in 1947, deserves a pre-eminent position among the people who helped compile the collections of Indian art under one roof. In 1910, he made an extended tour of northern India and acquired a remarkable collection of the finest specimens of Indian paintings and drawings. Later Dr. Coomaraswamy became drawing Keeper of Indian and Mohammedan Art, and in 1933 was made Fellow for Research in Indian, Persian and Mohammed Art. He prepared a voluminous Catalogue of Indian Art in six parts. He worked indefatigably in filling up the gaps in the Museum's collection of Indian art.

The Museum of Fine Arts was chartered in 1870, and its first building on Copley Square was opened to the public in 1876. The building soon became inadequate to house the growing collections, and in 1899 the present building was opened to the public.

The Museum contains seven structurally separate departments, each accessible without traversing the other—Egyptian, Classical, Decorative Arts (European and American), Oriental (Chinese, Japanese, Indian Persian and Mohammedan), Paintings Prints and the Library.

THE main floor is chiefly to exhibitions, historically arranged to show each object to the best advantage and the ground floor has reserve collections accessible to all visitors. The basement houses exhibitions of American domestic interiors and textile study rooms.

The grounds and open courts of the building, the halls and loggias connecting the departments offer opportunities for relaxation and diversion.

Most of the galleries are lighted by windows instead of from overhead. The size and arrangement of windows are the result of observation and experiment, undertaken long before the new structure was built, to secure ample and well-directed illumination in all parts of each room.

The Museum supported wholly by private gifts. It is administered by a board of trustees and a trained staff upon whose judgment falls the choice of new acquisitions and the arrangement of exhibits.

Admission to the Museum is free to all at all times. There are lectures trained guides, pamphlets to aid teacher,

and students, books on the more important collections story-telling periods for children services for high school classes, and periodicals telling of the activities of the Museum. There are classes in drawing, painting, modelling and design. At first these classes were permitted to use rooms in the Museum building but today a

Museum school occupies its own building on the grounds.

The influence of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston extends far beyond the city it serves. Each year it is visited by people of all ages, from all walks of life, from every section of the United States, from many other lands.

Britain's New Self-Contained Communities

By

Leonard Vigers

a member of the editorial staff of the
"Evening News", London

Some of Britain's New Towns have been celebrating their tenth anniversaries this year. Already it is being said of these towns that they show the greatest promise yet of providing for the good life in terms of pleasant, healthy homes, efficient industry and commerce, with, close at hand the facilities for education, culture and social life.

These ten years since the first of the towns were begun have seen an enormous growth in housing, industry and population in them. Several have, in fact, reached and passed their "half-way" mark.

There are eight of these towns—Basildon, Bracknell, Crawley, Harlow, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage and Welwyn—in a ring 25-30 miles from the centre of London, whose congested boroughs and districts they are meant to relieve. Three others are being built in England—Newton Aycliffe and Peterlee, in County Durham and Corby in Northamptonshire; another one is Cwmbran in Monmouthshire; and three in Scotland—East Kilbride, Cumbernauld and Glenrothes.

SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITIES

In round figures and omitting Cumbernauld which was only begun in 1957, 200,000 people have already moved into the New Towns.

New Houses and flats—58,000 of them—have been built in groups of "neighbourhoods" which are being formed into more or less self-contained communities.

Close on 300 firms have established themselves in new factories in the towns while some 900 new shops

have been opened and 100 new schools with places for 50,000 children completed.

The cost to date has been large: something like 6200,000,000 has been spent by the State-appointed corporations which plan and build the towns. A good deal of the money has gone into essential services like roads, water supplies and drainage.

Town centres are taking shape now. Crawley, in the county of Sussex, has a broad flower-lined boulevard with parking spaces and, at one end, a technical college under construction. More than 50 shops are open for business in the town centre while a grammar school and three secondary modern schools are built and in use. Their halls, gymnasiums, tennis courts and craft rooms are used by the community at large. Eleven playing fields have been or are being laid out.

BIGGEST OF NEW TOWNS

Harlow, 25 miles from London, in the beautiful wooded countryside of the Essex-Hertfordshire county borders, has changed from a rural area of scattered hamlets and one large village of 4,500 people into a substantial town with an extra population of 80,000. More than 60 firms have moved into Harlow to make telephones and cables, glass and furniture and a host of engineering products.

The town now has 9,000 houses, a market and 55 miles of new roads and can boast of the most modern
(Continued on page 12)

fire and ambulance station in Britain. A college will open next year.

Slightly ahead of schedule is Basildon, in the county of Essex which may be the biggest of the new towns. It has reached almost halfway to its "target" of 80,000 people.

To a greater or lesser degree that is the picture in the New Towns today

THE CITIZENS

Who have moved to the New Towns to form Britain's "new-society" as it has been called?

A typical New Town family consists of a young with two or more

very young children. (At Basildon it is estimated one fifth of the population is under school age.) The parents probably have come from a two-room flat or a cramped home shared with relatives.

Welfare & Education for Children

As China's economic development forges ahead, the People's Government has taken many steps in the interests of children's health, education and recreation. Meanwhile as life is stable and family incomes have gradually risen, children are getting better care than ever before.

The number of medical establishments and personnel in the country as a whole is constantly on the increase. Speaking of maternity and child health centres alone, there are now 4,523 as against the nine that existed before liberation. This figure does not include the 41 health centres specially for children, a type of service unheard of in preliberation days. Besides providing simple medical services, these health centres spread elementary knowledge about child care and general health among the housewives, and give free vaccination and inoculations. In the vast countryside where medical facilities were once practically nonexistent there are now over two thousand county clinics and hospitals and more than fifty thousand clinics in the townships. In addition, there are ten thousand health centres run by the agricultural co-operatives. A rural network of medical establishments is beginning to take shape. A nation-wide sanitation campaign has been under way over the past few years. Wide spread health publicity has done a lot to help people from sanitary habits. As a result of better public health and medical facilities, the incidence of infectious diseases dangerous to children has dropped steeply, and smallpox has been practically wiped out.

The man is a skilled or semi-skilled worker and quite probably moved to the New Town because his factory moved there.

He is probably paying twice as much rent but he now has his own semi-detached or terrace house with a garden, and can walk or cycle to work instead of enduring a long, crowded train journey.

Some young citizens of the New Towns have declared that life there is dull. Inevitably, in a programme that gives ruthless priority to essentials, cinemas and social club have lagged well behind.

But the very lack of ready-made entertainment has led to such remarkable figures as 200 voluntary organisations set up in one town alone while in another voluntary action has produced two swimming pools at local schools.

The first 10 years have seen much done: the next 10 should witness the full flowering of Britain's New Towns.



In the field of education, there are close on 530,000 primary schools in the whole country, that is 240,000 more than the highest pre-liberation figure of 1946. The total number of primary school students is 63,460,009, an increase of 163 per cent over 1946, the peak year before liberation. In 1957, state allotted 117,000,000 yuan for building new primary and secondary schools and enlarging some existing ones, providing enough space in all to take another 3,020,000 students.

In spite of all that has been done it is still difficult to accommodate all the children who want to go to school. So in many cities a two-shift system has recently been introduced in primary and junior secondary schools as a way of meeting this increasing demand for education. The children go to school for half of the day, some in the morning the others in the afternoon. In their free time, they are helped by their teachers and parents to form study groups for their homework, sports and various hobbies. Some of the parents volunteer to be their counsellors.

Since liberation, over three hundred centres have come into being catering for children's after-school activities. These children's palaces, workshops, libraries, spare-time schools for athletics and so on have filled a real need in consolidating and increasing the knowledge that the children learn at school, widening their horizon, and developing their interests and talents in various fields. Writers and artists are also

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devoting their talents to provide the children with more books, magazines, films, plays, puppet shows, shadow plays, radio programmes, poetry, songs, toys and so on. Besides being good entertainment, these serve to enrich the children's knowledge and cultivate a sense of what is right or wrong, what is good or bad.

Furthermore, the nation-wide wu Hao Campaign among the housewives has helped a great many mothers to realize the significance of their role in building socialism. The campaign calls upon the housewives to run the household efficiently and economically, to be helpful to the neighbours, to pay attention to cleanliness, both in the house and in the street, to study well and to bring up the children properly.

Naturally all this makes for a happier home life and a better environment for the youngsters. As children are looked upon as citizens of the socialist future, their upbringing is an important matter of public concern.

Thus the government, society and the home are making every effort to provide the necessary conditions to educate the youngsters on the principles of good citizenship, namely: to love their country, their people, science and work and to care for public property. Our children are brought up to be honest, courageous, friendly and co-operative. They are encouraged to study hard, to build a strong body and to develop a fine zest for life so that they will be good citizens for our future national construction.

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Nine Rules

Nine rules for a long life have been drawn up by doctors from seven nations who attended a "Longevity Congress" sometime ago at Vittel in France. Here they are --

1 — Everyone reaching the age of 50, even if they feel well should have their hearts examined by a specialist.

2 — Everyone should be examined by a doctor six months after recovering from any serious illness, even if they feel perfectly well make sure the illness, has not left them with possible concealed ill-effects, such as cancer.

3 — Have a good family doctor and have entire confidence in him, particularly if he has known you since your birth. His word should be accepted first and the "influence of state medicine should merely be a complement to the family doctor."

4 — Mental happiness is one of the biggest factors in longevity. It has been found that generously inclined people live longer than other persons and that people with children and grand-children who are always trying to help their descendants tend to live longer than other persons.

5 — If you have been used to working hard all your life up to the age of 50, try to continue to work in your later years. But make sure before hand that your occupation is suited to your capacity.

6 — Don't rely on last-minute efforts to prolong your life. It is necessary to build the foundations of longevity when you are young.

7 — Don't attach importance to stories claiming that you can live longer than other people if you have a "change of air."

8 — Don't believe the old saying that because many members of your family have lived to a great age you also are certain to live to a great age.

9 — It is worth while to pay attention to the way of living and thinking of certain Oriental peoples. The oriental ideas of seeking and longevity and happiness by contemplating of nature in solitude and by achieving serenity of outlook warrant close investigation by Western peoples.

FOR A LONG LIFE