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MADRAS

IN

1938

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PREFATORY NOTE.

The Presidency Administration Report used to contain two parts. Part I was a general summary of the salient features of the previous calendar year while Part II contained detailed information on the work of the various departments in the official year which last preceded the compilation of the Report. The Report has now been split up into two separate publications. This book which corresponds to the old Part I describes in outline the administration during 1938. The former Part II is now published under the title "Madras Administration 1937-38" and summarises the Administration Reports of the various departments.

MADRAS IN 1938.

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL.

THE EXECUTIVE.

His Excellency the Lord Erskine, G.C.I.E., continued to hold office as Governor of the Presidency of Fort St. George throughout the year.

There was no change in the Congress ministry under the Premiership of the Hon'ble Sri C. Rajagopalachariar.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Linlithgow visited Madras from January 10th to January 17th, 1938.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislative Assembly sat on 39 days and the Legislative Council on 19 days.

Twenty Government measures were passed. The Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938, is intended to help indebted agriculturists by the scaling down of debts. Dues to the Government and local bodies, to co-operative societies and to certain joint stock banks have been excluded from its scope. This Act also provides for the relief of tenants from the burden of old arrears of rent. The Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1938, repeals the provision for minimum salaries to certain officials of the Corporation and permits the Corporation to fix the salaries subject to Government sanction. The Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1938, adopts the relevant portions of electoral rolls prepared for the Legislative Assembly as the electoral rolls for the Corporation of Madras and district

municipalities and local boards in the mufassal. The Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1938, provides that sums payable to local bodies under section 10 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, shall be expenditure charged on the revenues of the Province. The Madras Traffic Control Act, 1938, is designed to unify the control of motor traffic in the Province by the constitution of a transport authority for each district and of a central transport authority for the Province. The Madras Tolls and Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1938, gives power to the Government to levy tolls where a bridge is constructed or repaired at the expense exclusively of a local body or bodies or partly of local body or bodies and partly of the Provincial Government to recoup the expenditure actually incurred together with interest. The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic (Amendment) Act, 1938, makes it an offence to live on the earnings of prostitution and shifts the burden of proof on to the accused if he is shown to be living with, or habitually in the company of a person living in prostitution, or directing her movements. This Act also makes offences under the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930, cognizable by police officers of and above the rank of Inspector. The Indian Lunacy (Madras Amendment) Act, 1938, enables the Superintendent of an asylum to discharge a lunatic temporarily when discharge is required in the interests of his health and makes it incumbent on the Court to make due allowance for the needs of a lunatic's family when ordering the recovery of the cost of his maintenance from his estate. The Madras Medical Registration (Amendment) Act, 1938, makes the Madras Medical Council a predominantly elective body, throws open the presidentship of the Council to election after a period of four years, abolishes distinctions between the different classes of registered practitioners and provides for a

common register for all practitioners. The Madras Estates Land (Amendment) Act, 1938, provides for the extension by one year of the period allowed to landholders to establish their kudivaram rights in inam villages. The Prisons and Indian Lunacy (Madras Amendment) Act, 1938, provides for a prisoner being sent to a hospital or asylum for treatment without the necessity of Government's having to pass special orders in each case under section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. The Madras Famine Relief Fund (Amendment) Act, 1938, enables the amounts to the credit of the fund not immediately required for expenditure on the relief of famine to be invested not only in the securities of the Government of India but also in those of the Government of Madras and charges on the revenues of the Province the payments to be made to the Famine Relief Fund under section 7 of the Madras Famine Relief Fund Act, 1936. The Madras Repealing and Amending Act, 1938, repeals the enactments appearing in the Madras Code, which were concerned merely with the making of textual alterations in previously existing Acts. The Madras Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1938, extends the prohibition of advertisements of liquor to the advertising of medicated wines and the like except in medical journals or in notices and literature circulated exclusively to members of the medical profession. The Madras Borstal Schools (Amendment) Act, 1938, empowers Honorary Presidency Magistrates sitting singly to pass sentences under the Madras Borstal Schools Act, 1925, and enables a Presidency Magistrate not empowered to pass a sentence under the Act, to submit the proceedings in any case if need be, to the Chief Presidency Magistrate or to some other salaried Presidency Magistrate designated by him with a view to the passing by the latter of a sentence under the Act. The Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1938, enables

Government to curtail the term of office of the existing members and make the term of the newly elected members commence as soon as possible after their election. The Madras Prohibition (Second Amendment) Act, 1938, substitutes the system of permits by a system of authorities to persons and institutions for the possession and use of liquor for bona fide religious purposes. The Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1938, empowers the Government to make rules to secure the ultimate control over electrical undertakings managed by municipal councils and local boards, to appoint Municipal Electrical Engineers and Local Board Electrical Engineers and to appoint, if necessary, more than one District Board Engineer or more than one District Panchayat Officer for a district board. The Madras Minor Ports Fund Act, 1938, provides that the balance standing on the 31st March 1939 to the credit of the Minor Ports Fund in excess of twenty lakhs of rupees shall be credited to the revenues of the Province and it also makes provision for crediting to the Provincial revenues such portion of the balance standing to the credit of the fund in subsequent years as the Government with the approval of the Legislative Assembly may determine. The Malabar Temple Entry Bill, 1938, authorizes the throwing open of any temple to Hindus of classes hitherto excluded if there is a majority in favour of allowing such entry among the Hindu voters other than those belonging to excluded classes on the electoral roll of the Madras Legislative Assembly for the general constituency of the revenue taluk (including municipal areas) in which the temple is situated.

The only non-official measure passed was the Removal of Civil Disabilities Bill, of Sri Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, which provides that the civil disabilities imposed by social custom and usage on certain classes of Hindus known as

Harijans, untouchables, etc., should no longer be recognized by law or otherwise enforced.

The Reports of the Select Committee on the Madras Public Health Bill and the Madras Estates Land Act Committee were presented during the year.

The two chief Government resolutions passed protested against the Federation scheme envisaged by the Government of India Act, 1935, and recommended legislation by the Central Legislature for the regulation of certain matters in respect of drugs and medicines enumerated in the Provincial Legislative List.

The two chief non-official resolutions passed recommended the constitution of linguistic Provinces and the appointment of a committee to enquire into the disturbances in Burma.

THE SERVICES.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

The Commission conducted a competitive examination for recruitment to the Madras Ministerial Service in October 1938; there were 2,514 qualified candidates as against 2,287 last year; the number of vacancies was 678. The Commission also conducted a competitive examination for recruitment to the Madras Secretariat Service (lower division clerks); the number of qualified applicants was 70; the number of vacancies was 20. The rules for the Madras Judicial Subordinate Service were issued in May 1938 and the first examination for the recruitment of the clerical establishment in this service was held in October 1938 along with the competitive examination for recruitment to the Madras Ministerial Service; there were 327 qualified applicants for 100 vacancies. Direct recruitment was made to 32 classes of posts. The Commission advised the Government on 52 cases of transfer from

the Subordinate to the Provincial Services, 19 proposals for disciplinary action, 20 appeals against orders of punishment, 29 memorials, 2 references regarding the reimbursement of the cost of defence incurred by public servants, 2 cases of pension, 1 proposal for termination of probation, and 54 references regarding services rules.

COST OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

There is a considerable amount of misunderstanding in regard to the relative expenditure on the various categories of the public service in the Province. The figures from the accounts of the financial year 1935-36 have been analyzed and the following table has been compiled to make the position clear:—

Salaries and Pensions.

Particulars of services.	Salaries.		Pensions cost (1935-36).
	Total number of posts (1935-36).	Cost (1935-36).	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
		RS. LAKHS.	RS. LAKHS.
Indian Civil Service	162	28.69	7.45
All India Services, excluding the Indian Civil Service.	261	38.68	13.27
Miscellaneous charges connected with pensions for all All-India Services.	..	..	78
Provincial Services	1,414	1,01.74	73.10
Subordinate, Ministerial and Inferior Services excluding Village Establishments.	92,533	4,31.97	
Village Establishments	111,629	1,18.85	..
Total	..	7,19.93	94.60
Total, Salaries and Pensions for 1935-36.	..	8,14.53	

CHAPTER II.—FINANCE.

THE BUDGET.

The Budget for 1938-39 estimated revenue at Rs. 1,598.21 lakhs and expenditure at Rs. 1,598.09 lakhs; no fresh taxation was introduced; various economy measures were expected to result in a saving of Rs. 20 lakhs; Rs. 50 lakhs was provided for loans to agriculturists to enable them to take advantage of the Agriculturists Relief Act; grazing fees in reserved forests were reduced by 50 per cent; and prohibition was extended to the districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah. The reduction of grazing fees and the extension of prohibition involve a loss of about Rs. 11 lakhs in 1938-39 and Rs. 19 lakhs in subsequent years. Allowance was made for land revenue concessions amounting to Rs. 73 lakhs. Various measures of retrenchment result in a saving this year of about Rs. 5 lakhs. An additional expenditure of Rs. 16½ lakhs was included for welfare and development services such as the teaching of Hindustani in secondary schools, the development of hand-spinning and khadi manufacture, urban and rural water-supply and drainage schemes, anti-malarial measures, measures for the control and eradication of plague, the improvement and extension of rural dispensaries, the introduction of cancer treatment in several hospitals, ameliorative measures for the scheduled classes, experiments on fruit culture and nurseries, and the expansion of the Veterinary department. There are considerable increases over the previous year in Education by Rs. 5½ lakhs, in Medical Relief by Rs. 5 lakhs, in Public Health by Rs. 20 lakhs, in measures for the uplift of Scheduled Classes by Rs. 2½ lakhs, and in Agriculture, Veterinary and Co-operative Credit by Rs. 4 lakhs. These increases have been

made in spite of the additional sacrifice of Rs. 55 lakhs, consisting of Rs. 34 lakhs excise revenue, Rs. 18 lakhs land revenue and Rs. 3 lakhs forest revenue. The year would have still ended with a good surplus but for the almost complete failure of the north-east monsoon over the greater part of the Province and heavy cyclone damage in the northern districts and consequent heavy land revenue remissions.

RETRENCHMENT.

In order to adjust the cost of administration to the taxable capacity of the people, rigorous economy is being practised in every department. Numerous proposals of retrenchment are being examined and wherever possible put into force. The chief measures of retrenchment include the introduction of revised scales of pay for Government servants estimated to yield ultimately a saving of Rs. 16 lakhs per year, the gradual replacement of salaried medical officers by honorary medical officers in Government institutions resulting in an ultimate saving of Rs. 10 lakhs, the abolition of the annual move to Ootacamund resulting in a saving of nearly Rs. 50,000, and the conditional release of prisoners resulting in a saving of Rs. 50,000. These measures account for a saving of about Rs. 1½ lakhs in 1938-39. The abolition of resettlement results in a saving of about Rs. 3½ lakhs. There have also been considerable reductions in superior staff in the Agricultural and Forest departments.

Among measures adopted to increase the revenue of the Province may be mentioned the levy of fees for the transfer of ownership or possession in respect of motor vehicles, the enhancement of conductors' licence and badge fees, the raising of the rate of fees in Arts colleges, the increased cultivation of commercial crops in the Agricultural Research Station, the establishment of fruit nurseries, and the recovery from co-operative societies of increased

liquidation charges. Under the Minor Ports Fund Act the balance in the fund in excess of Rs. 20 lakhs is to be transferred to the revenues of the Province. The balance available is estimated at Rs. 42.55 lakhs.

LONG-TERM LOANS.

In September 1938 the Government raised an open-market loan of Rs. 151.29 lakhs of which Rs. 40 lakhs was subscribed by the Government from funds under their control and the remainder was allotted on subscriptions by the public. The proceeds are to be used, in accordance with the established policy of the Government, only for financing remunerative capital expenditure and loans to local bodies, agriculturists, etc. The loan was issued on the same terms as those of the 3 per cent loan, 1952, raised in the previous year; it bears interest at 3 per cent per annum on the face value, was issued at an issue price of Rs. 99 per cent and is repayable at par fifteen years after the date of issue. This was the second occasion on which the Madras Government raised a loan (other than a floating loan) in the open market, and the floatation was again very successful. Against Rs. 110 lakhs offered for public subscription the total amount subscribed was Rs. 181.41 lakhs, which on account of the critical international situation in Europe and the consequent disturbance in the money markets on September 14th, 1938, the day on which the loan was issued, is considered to be very satisfactory and proof of the credit the Province commands in the money market. The capital liabilities of the Province amount to Rs. 19½ crores. Against this the Province has capital investments amounting to Rs. 32½ crores the bulk of which are in remunerative irrigation and electrical works.

FLOATING DEBT.

From April 1st, 1938, the Madras Government assumed complete responsibility for watching their cash position.

As a consequence they had to borrow funds temporarily in the short-term bill market during the non-kist season to cover the temporary gap between receipts and outgoings. They issued six months' treasury bills in August 1938 and three months' bills in October, November and December 1938. The total amount of Madras Government treasury bills issued during the year was Rs. 190 lakhs (face value). The average rate of discount on each issue varied from Re. 1-3-11 per cent per annum to Rs. 1-12-0 per cent per annum and these rates compare favourably with those obtained by certain other Provincial Governments on similar short-term borrowings during the year. The average rate of discount on all the treasury bills issued by the Madras Government during 1938 was Rs. 1-8-7 per cent per annum. The bills will be repaid on maturity before the 31st March 1939.

CHAPTER III.—THE SEASON.

RAINFALL AND CROPS.

The south-west monsoon was on the whole satisfactory and the total extent cultivated up to September was generally above the average. The north-east monsoon, however, was almost a complete failure in most districts and in consequence the crops largely withered. The cyclone in the month of November also caused considerable damage to standing crops in the districts of Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari.

There was no appreciable improvement in the economic condition of the ryots in general. There was a general tendency for prices of all grains to rise on account of the failure of the north-east monsoon and the losses of crops caused by the cyclone.

CYCLONE AND FLOODS.

The heavy rains during the last two days of July and the third week of August flooded some of the low lying parts of the Salem district and also caused damage to irrigation works and roads. The loss of private property was not great.

The Circars suffered from the effects of cyclones and floods more than once during the year. Early in September, the Kollair Lake rose unusually high and flooded the low lying villages bordering it. Though there was no loss of human life or of cattle, many houses were destroyed and considerable extents of standing crops affected. Again, during the first week of October the Yerracalva and the Yanamadurru drain in the West Godavari district

rose in floods and submerged several acres of paddy in the Tadepalligudem and the Bhimavaram taluks.

The Vizagapatam district suffered from a cyclone of considerable intensity in October. The cyclone was followed by rains and the Vamsadhara river rose in floods. This caused severe damage to property in the Chicacole division of the district and nine human lives were lost. This was followed by another cyclone of severe intensity on the 25th of November. Strong winds were followed by a heavy downpour of rain. East Godavari, West Godavari and Kistna districts suffered most, while Vizagapatam and Guntur escaped with slight damage. Eighty-two lives were lost, over forty-seven thousand cattle perished either by exposure or by being crushed under fallen houses and trees and over twenty-eight thousand houses were damaged. Communications were interrupted to some extent by breaches and wind-fallen trees. The damage caused to standing crops and crops harvested and stacked in fields was considerable. Relief measures were promptly undertaken. The Government sanctioned Rs. 23,000 to afford relief to the distressed. His Excellency the Governor issued an appeal for funds for relief purposes and contributions received up to the middle of January 1939 amounted to Rs. 34,000. District and Taluk Relief Committees were also formed.

FAMINE.

Owing to adverse seasonal conditions in 1937 there was lack of employment for the labouring classes in Bellary and Anantapur districts.

Five test works were opened in Bellary district under the orders of the Government and were continued till the end of 1937. These works attracted a large number of workers and thus proved the existence of sufficient distress to warrant the starting of relief works. The test works

were therefore converted into relief works in 1938. The distress began to spread throughout the eastern part of the district and more works were opened when they became necessary. In August 1938, there were 16 relief works and 2 test works functioning in the district. The maximum average daily attendance on these works was 50,391 in the middle of August. Over 20,000 persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief.

In Anantapur, employment had been provided by opening road and tank works and the district board also started road works with the help of special grants sanctioned by the Government for the purpose. Test works were opened in Gooty and Tadpatri taluks and were subsequently converted into relief works. Three test works were opened in Hindupur and Penukonda taluks but were soon closed as the tests showed that famine works were not necessary. There were in all 6 relief works and 3 test works functioning in the district including those opened in Hindupur and Penukonda taluks. The maximum average daily attendance on these works was 22,360 in the latter half of July. Over 18,000 persons were in receipt of gratuitous relief.

The situation in parts of Kurnool district was also unsatisfactory. Parts of Kurnool and Pattikonda taluks were affected. As in Bellary, the mungari crops yielded a poor outturn and the hingari crops failed completely. Distress was keenest among the labouring classes who entirely depend upon agricultural operations. District board road works were first put into execution with the help of grants obtained from the Government. As these works were found inadequate, test works had to be opened and were subsequently converted into relief works. There were in all four relief works and one test work functioning in the district in July 1938. The daily average attendance on these works was 12,294 at the beginning of July. The average number gratuitously relieved was 3,047.

Owing to the prevalence of famine conditions the position of the weavers in and around Uravakonda in Anantapur and Yemmiganur and Nagaldinne in Bellary, became very difficult and centres for affording relief to them at their own craft were opened in these places in July in Anantapur district and in September in Bellary district. The maximum number relieved at these centres was 819 in Anantapur and 14,806 in Bellary in the latter half of October.

Special measures were taken to collect and sell hill grass to combat the scarcity of fodder. A District Forest Officer with the necessary staff was appointed solely for the purpose and the staff continued to function until the end of August. Hill grass was sold to the ryots at concessional prices. In all 669·75 tons of hill grass were sold to the ryots in Bellary, 770·65 tons in Anantapur and 273·1 tons in Kurnool. A sum of over Rs. 38,000 was spent on the fodder operations.

With the advent of the early rains in July, the conditions in the three districts began to improve. As employment on agricultural operations became available the relief works were closed one after another. By the middle of October all the road works in the three districts were completely closed. All the three weavers' relief centres were closed at the end of December.

Land revenue remissions ranging from 37½ to 100 per cent were granted in 418 villages in the taluks of Adoni, Alur, Bellary, Siruguppa, Hospet, Rayadrug, Hadagalli and Kudligi in Bellary district, 441 villages in the taluks of Gooty, Tadpatri, Penukonda, Hindupur, Kalyandrug, Dharmavaram and Madakasira of the Anantapur district and 87 villages in the taluks of Koilkuntla, Pattikonda, Dhone and Kurnool of the Kurnool district. The grant of remission of the dry assessment was also extended to the lands protected by wells in these districts. The total loss of land revenue on account of these remissions was

Rs. 7·36 lakhs in the Bellary district, Rs. 3·96 lakhs in the Anantapur district and Rs. 2·13 lakhs in the Kurnool district. The collection of the uncollected balance in all the villages in which remissions were granted was postponed to the current fasli.

PRICE FLUCTUATIONS.

The main functions of the statistical section of the Industries department are the compilation of the statistics of rainfall and of agricultural statistics, including the preparation of crop forecasts, the annual season and crop report and the annual statistics of area, yield, etc., relating to coffee, tea and rubber, the compilation of the wholesale and retail prices of commodities and the computation of indices of prices and cost of living. The Government approved proposals for the construction of indices of industrial production, the computation of a wholesale price index for Madras City and index numbers of import and export prices, the computation of a cost of living index for Madras City and the compilation of a statistical abstract for the Province.

LAND REVENUE CONCESSIONS.

In addition to remissions granted in view of adverse seasonal conditions, land revenue concessions in the following forms were granted during the year :—

(1) The cancellation of the percentage enhancements imposed at resettlements on dry, wet and garden lands in certain tracts resettled in recent years.

(2) The grant of a remission of 2 annas in the rupee of the wet assessment in the remaining areas in the Presidency.

(3) A temporary reduction of water-cess from Rs. 6-4-0 to Rs. 5-12-0 an acre for a first crop with corresponding reductions for other crops, in the East and West Godavari and Kistná districts and in the deltaic tracts of the Guntur district.

These concessions reduced the land revenue by Rs. 71.4 lakhs.

CHAPTER IV.—LAW AND ORDER.

POLICE.

There were 29 serious riots as compared with 15 in the previous year. On three occasions the Police had to open fire on rioters before order could be restored. A comparatively minor incident at Ambur on the last night of Mohurram resulted in serious Hindu-Muslim rioting and a considerable amount of property was burnt or destroyed by hooligans on both sides. Fortunately only one death occurred. Hindu-Muslim feelings in the Vyasarpadi area of Madras City, though not quite so acute as in the previous year, necessitated continuous watchfulness and the exercise of a firm control over the known or suspected rowdy element to maintain tranquillity. Organized agitation amongst peasants, especially in Malabar, gave cause for anxiety. A labour dispute in the tobacco factory at Chirala in the Guntur district resulted in a riot in the course of which the Police had to open fire. Three men were killed. Labour strikes took place at several other places but, although the resources of the Police were strained, the public peace was generally maintained.

The Prohibition Scheme which was firmly established in the Salem district and worked by the district Police, was extended to the Chittoor and Cuddapah districts on 1st October 1938. There has been a considerable fall in theft and cattle theft in the Salem district since the introduction of prohibition.

The additional police force which was quartered at Beeralli in the Bellary district in 1937 was retained but it was possible to disband the forces which were located at Nandavaram in the same district and at Konakondla and Poliki in the Anantapur district.

The training curriculum for probationary Sub-Inspectors in the Police Training School, Vellore, was completely recast in an attempt to produce a more efficient and up to date investigating officer. Arrangements were made to send one head constable from each District Intelligence Bureau for specialist training in finger prints, foot prints and photography. To provide healthy diversion in rural areas, organized games were arranged experimentally in each district by selected Station House Officers. The practice of granting money rewards to Police Officers for especially good work was abolished except in regard to head constables and constables.

Under the Madras Traffic Control Act, 1938, a Road Traffic Board was set up in each district as the transport, registering and licensing authority for the district, to decide applications for bus and lorry permits, and regulate the use of these vehicles. The Central Road Traffic Board for the Presidency was constituted as the sole transport authority for through traffic along trunk roads, and to exercise control over the District Road Traffic Boards.

PRISONS.

A number of reforms in the Prison administration have been started or continued during the year. The Government have continued the policy of conditional premature release of selected prisoners. Under the scheme 1,118 casual and 364 habitual convicts were released. Four casuals and five habituals were recommitted to jails for breaches of the conditions of their release. Prisoners were formerly able to obtain remission in lieu of the gratuity earned by them calculated at the rate of four annas a day. The rate has been altered to two annas a day. The remission system, which was formerly applicable only to prisoners sentenced to six months or more, has been extended to prisoners sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three months or more.

Buttermilk and increased quantities of salt have been issued to prisoners since August 1937. An investigation was made of the effects of the supply of buttermilk on the health of prisoners with reference to the statistics from 1st July 1936 to 30th June 1937 (the period during which buttermilk was not issued to prisoners) and from 1st July 1937 to 1st July 1938 (the period during which buttermilk was issued to prisoners) and shows a fall in the percentage of prisoners who lost weight from 10.5 to 5.2 and a rise in the percentage of prisoners who gained weight from 52.0 to 57.0. There was also a decrease in specific and chronic deficiency diseases. To avoid the loss of vitamins in rice, hand pounding has been tried as an experiment in Trichinopoly Central Jail. It is proposed to extend it to further jails.

Oil pressing by human labour as a prison task has been stopped. Hand-spinning and hand-weaving has been introduced as the main industry for prisoners in the Presidency Jail for Women in Vellore. The Jail Manual has been amended to provide facilities for Muslim prisoners to say their prayers individually four times a day. The Government have ordered that prisoners should be supplied with jute mats instead of coir or aloe mats which are uncomfortable and that prisoners in sub-jails should be supplied with drinking water in closed mud pots. Provision has also been made to supply combs and soaps to the inmates of Borstal Schools and fuller's earth to prisoners for washing their clothes.

Radio sets have been installed in eight jails, two Borstal and two Certified Schools. A and B class prisoners who are not literate in English are being supplied with certain daily newspapers in Indian languages at their own cost.

There has been a slight decrease in the strength of Borstal Schools and a definite increase in that of Certified Schools. Special grade petty officers with Secondary

School-Leaving Certificate qualifications have been newly appointed. It is hoped that the appointment of these educated men, who are in actual touch with the pupils, will do much to aid in reforming them.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

During the year there was an increase in the volume of crimes, including grave crimes, in all the districts except North Arcot, Chingleput, West Godavari and Malabar. The increase is attributed to the failure of monsoon, the activities of criminal tribes, strikes among the labourers working in the Mills in Coimbatore, Madura and Tinnevely districts, the existence of criminal gangs in Madura and Tinnevely and communal ill-feeling which was responsible for a number of serious riots in the Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely districts. The Village Vigilance Committees co-operated with the Police in detecting crimes. The Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act was worked satisfactorily. A Juvenile Court was constituted for the Coimbatore district. In the city of Madras, the "Animal Court", the "Juvenile Court" and the "Railway Court" continued to function. The post of the Fourth Presidency Magistrate was temporarily revived in August but two Special Magistrates who had been sitting in his place continued to sit each for three days in the week.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

As a measure of economy four Subordinate Judges' Courts and two District Munsifs' Courts have been abolished and the abolition of three more Subordinate Judges' Courts has been ordered. The abolition of a number of other courts is under consideration.

In Mufassal Civil Courts there was a further fall in the institution of original suits. The fall was greatest in the North and South Malabar districts and is attributed to the tenants having taken advantage of the Agriculturists'

Relief Act. There was an appreciable rise in Civil Appeals mainly from orders passed on petitions filed under the Agriculturists' Relief Act. Miscellaneous work considerably increased on account of the large number of petitions filed under the Act which were often keenly contested. There was, however, a marked fall in the institution of execution and insolvency petitions which may be ascribed partly to the general economic depression and partly to the amendment of the Civil Procedure Code relating to the arrest of judgment-debtors and to the operation of the Agriculturists' Relief Act. In Madras City there was a substantial increase in Original Suits in the City Civil Court, and a marked fall in the suits filed in the Court of Small Causes. The number of civil suits filed on the Original Side of the High Court showed a slight increase while the number of Insolvency Petitions decreased considerably. On the Appellate Side of the High Court, there was a slight rise in the institutions of First and Second Appeals.

REGISTRATION.

The number of documents registered fell from 1,349,012 to 1,217,805 or by 9.7 per cent. The income, however, rose from Rs. 32.64 lakhs to Rs. 32.68 lakhs in consequence of the enhancement of the scale of registration fees. The two experimental systems of photo-copying of documents (Cine-film and Photo-stat) were continued. The scale of fees for the inspection and grant of copies of documents and maps was enhanced. The full exemption from payment of fees for the registration of documents or for obtaining encumbrance certificates previously allowed to certain Primary Land Mortgage Banks was withdrawn and all Land Mortgage Banks were required to pay half the usual registration fee except for encumbrance certificates in respect of applications for loans not exceeding Rs. 2,000 which are granted free of charge.

CHAPTER V.—LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

MUNICIPALITIES.

In the City of Madras, the Corporation maintained 136 elementary schools in 1937-38 and gave education to nearly 22,000 boys and over 15,000 girls. The council spent over Rs. 9 lakhs on elementary education. To safeguard the health of the people the Corporation spent Rs. 2.74 lakhs on medical relief, and its medical institutions treated over 25 lakhs of out-patients. In addition Rs. 14.83 lakhs was spent on preventive medicine and Rs. 11.6 lakhs on sanitation. The expenditure on water works amounted to Rs. 5.41 lakhs for maintenance and Rs. 1.43 lakhs for new works. Nearly 34 gallons of water per head per day were pumped into the city. Rupees 3 lakhs was spent on new drainage works. The Corporation maintains 366 miles of metalled roads and about 190 miles are tarred. The expenditure on communications in 1937-1938 was Rs. 10.51 lakhs. The scheme of flush-out latrines in private houses was further extended.

Twenty-seven of the district municipalities enforced compulsory elementary education. The councils maintained in all 898 boys' schools and 377 girls' schools giving elementary education to over 96,000 boys and 63,000 girls. The total cost to the councils was over Rs. 21 lakhs. The councils also maintained a second grade college and 53 high schools. Their expenditure on public health amounted in 1937-38 to over Rs. 60 lakhs on revenue account.

They maintained 6 hospitals, 59 dispensaries of western medicine and 55 dispensaries of Indian medicine and treated over 32 lakhs of out-patients. They also maintained 251 qualified midwives who in conjunction with 365 other qualified midwives in private practice or in Government service gave skilled attention to over 43 per cent of the births in municipalities. Municipal water-supply schemes form an important part of their capital investments and 42 municipalities have protected water-supply schemes. Three towns also have drainage schemes working and six more under execution. In 1937-38 the councils spent over Rs. 8 lakhs on water-supply and Rs. 3 lakhs on drainage. The remunerative enterprises conducted by district municipalities include 255 markets, 252 cart-stands, 140 slaughter-houses, 73 bus stands, tree planting and land development, town-planning schemes and electric lighting schemes. The total net revenue realized by these enterprises was over Rs. 19 lakhs. The municipalities maintained 2,601 miles of roads and spent Rs. 31 lakhs on communication in 1937-38. The incidence of taxation comes on an average to Rs. 2-14-2 per head of the total population of over 30 lakhs.

Six municipal councils which had been superseded in the previous years were all re-constituted during the year 1938, before the expiry of their terms of supersession. One municipal council continued under supersession. General elections were held to all municipalities except two during the year and were characterised by two important changes which also affect the district boards and panchayat boards. The franchise of local boards and municipalities was widely extended by adopting the relevant portion of the electoral rolls of the Madras Legislative Assembly for election to local bodies. The coloured box system was introduced which not only secured complete secrecy of ballot but also facilitated the free exercise of the suffrage by illiterate voters.

DISTRICT BOARDS AND PANCHAYATS.

District boards and panchayats are concerned with the bulk of the population of the Presidency, 44 out of 47 millions. In 1937-38 they maintained over 16,000 elementary schools including over 2,500 girls' schools, and gave elementary education to over 10½ lakhs of pupils. They also maintained 200 secondary schools with over 39 thousand pupils. Panchayats maintained over 1,300 elementary schools. The total expenditure on education was over Rs. 143 lakhs of which local boards contributed Rs. 32.88 lakhs. They maintained 66 hospitals and over 1,000 dispensaries which gave relief to 128 lakhs of patients at a total cost of Rs. 19 lakhs. They also spent Rs. 13 lakhs on preventive medicine, water-supply and sanitation. District boards maintained over 35 thousand miles of roads of which over three thousand miles were trunk roads and the total amount spent on these communications from funds of the local boards and Provincial grants was Rs. 138 lakhs. Three district boards own railways and one district board operates a bus service.

All the bifurcated district boards have been re-amalgamated. Elections were held to the district boards and panchayat boards in sixteen districts during the year. Measures were taken to ensure better accounting in panchayat boards.

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

Besides the improvement of rural water-supply which is being carried out from the Government of India grant, a comprehensive scheme of protected water-supply for rural areas in all parts of the Presidency has been introduced. The scheme is financed entirely from Provincial funds and is to be spread over a period of ten years. In order that the scheme may not be held up for want of funds the Government have constituted a fund with an initial contribution of Rs. 15 lakhs for the development of rural water-supply. Besides eradicating cholera and other water-borne diseases in rural areas this scheme will free the villager of his anxiety about his elementary need of clean drinking water.

The cholera epidemic of the previous year continued in a severe form in seven districts during the first quarter of the year. The district of Kurnool and the Northern Circars were also affected during the second quarter. With the onset of the South-West Monsoon the epidemic in the districts of Nellore, Kurnool, Cuddapah and the Northern Circars became very severe. The disease was prevalent in a sporadic form during the last quarter. The west coast districts were practically free of it.

As usual, plague prevailed in certain districts bordering Mysore and in Madura district. Inoculation, evacuation and rat destruction chiefly by cyanogas fumigation formed the main preventive measures. In order to facilitate the quick despatch of plague vaccine, arrangements were made to keep a stock of 20,000 doses of Haffkine's anti-plague vaccine at the King Institute, Guindy. Researches on the

epidemiology and prevention of plague were continued in the Cumbum Valley. Attempts were made to evolve a design for a poor man's hut to eliminate rat harbourages.

As usual, sanitary arrangements during fairs and festivals were made by the local bodies concerned under the supervision of the health staff. The Mahodayam festival was celebrated in January 1938. Elaborate arrangements were made for the safety and convenience of the people who attended the festival at the important centres of Point Calimere in Tanjore district, Dhanushkodi and Rameswaram in Ramnad district and Mahabalipuram in Chingleput district. As the ordinary provisions of law were considered inadequate for the effective prevention and control of cholera at this festival temporary regulations were issued under the Epidemic Diseases Act. All the festivals passed off without any serious outbreak of cholera except the Sri Rama Navami festival at Bhadrachalam in East Godavari district which was responsible for a severe epidemic in the neighbouring districts. Necessary precautionary measures were adopted and the epidemic was brought under control.

Anti-malarial operations in Vizagapatam Agency, Hospet Municipality, Rameswaram and in the districts of Chingleput and Nellore were continued with satisfactory results. The scheme of free distribution of quinine was extended to certain villages in Nellore and Kodur taluks. The scheme of investigation and control of Malaria was started in Pattukkottai, Wynad and Ennore areas. A Malaria survey in Yercaud, Salem district, was also carried out and a scheme of Malaria control measures for Uttangarai was prepared.

The Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act was further extended to seven municipalities and four panchayats bringing the total number of local bodies working the Act to 93 including Madras City. About, 8,000 samples were analysed during the year, the most commonly sampled

articles being ghee, milk, butter and gingelly oil. The percentage of adulteration was perceptibly less than in previous years. Rules for the prevention of adulteration of coffee were issued.

Progress in Maternity and Child Welfare work during the year was steady and satisfactory. There are 165 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the Province exclusive of Madras City and the special staff engaged on this work consists of 32 Women Medical Officers, 17 Health Visitors and 351 Midwives.

The Rural Sanitation Units in Tinnevely and Ramnad districts were transferred to Malabar and Guntur districts respectively. As usual, health propaganda on the dangers of soil pollution with the help of cinema films, magic lantern slides and charts was carried on. Mass treatment for hookworm was given by the Rural Sanitation Health Officers as well as by the Medical staff in hospitals and dispensaries.

During the year the Government took over the management of the Training School for Health Visitors which was formerly being managed by the Indian Red Cross Society. The number of candidates to be trained in the school will not exceed ten in any year, and a stipend of Rs. 20 per mensem is granted to eight candidates.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

To extend maternity relief to the rural female population, sanction was accorded for the appointment of midwives to most of the rural dispensaries. In the years 1937 and 1938 the Government have sanctioned the payment of subsidies for 42 new rural dispensaries and for the employment of midwives in 190 existing rural dispensaries. The power of appointment and control of midwives in rural dispensaries of western as well as of Indian medicine subsidized by the Government which was

vested in the Presidents of District Boards has been transferred to the District Medical Officers and the Principal, Indian Medical School, respectively. Further, the concession regarding grant of leave to the rural medical practitioners, midwives and compounders attached to these rural dispensaries has been extended. The rural medical relief scheme is reported to have been generally successful. The revised scheme of training of compounders has been given effect to this year and the standard of educational qualification required for admission to the training fixed as a pass in the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination. The training extends over a period of one year as against 9 months under the old scheme and the knowledge imparted to the compounders trained under the revised scheme, is far superior to that under the old scheme.

The Government have sanctioned a scheme for the re-organization of the nursing service in Government Hospitals in this Presidency which provides for the employment of male nurses to attend on adult male patients while women nurses attend on women patients and children. The minimum educational qualification for the admission of women pupil-nurses for the training is a pass in the III Form and for male pupils a completed S.S.L.C. In the selection of women candidates preference will be given to candidates whose family circumstances render it easy for them to devote their entire attention to the work of nursing and indicate a likelihood of their remaining in the nursing service without leaving it after some time to seek other and more lucrative employment. It has been laid down that as far as possible instruction to nurse-pupils should be in the languages of the Province. The stipends granted to nurse-pupils have been fixed at Rs. 10 a month for the first year of the training and Rs. 15 a month for the remaining period of two and a half years training with a ration

allowance of Rs. 20 a month in all cases. Reduced rates of pay and ration allowances have been introduced for ward sisters and staff nurses.

The re-organization scheme of the Medical Services sanctioned in December 1937 was put into operation during the year by throwing open two paid posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons to Honorary Assistant Medical Officers. The Government have also decided to throw open further paid posts to Honorary Medical Officers in accordance with the re-organization scheme. The Government General Hospital, Madras, was re-organized, the number of medical and surgical units was raised from three to six and the additional units were placed in charge of Honorary Medical Officers. A set of instructions for the working of the Honorary scheme was issued. Arrangements are being made wherever possible to replace Honorary Medical Officers who have completed five years service and appoint fresh medical practitioners as honoraries to enable them to get proper training in various branches of medicine.

Treatment facilities were afforded to leprosy patients in 454 leprosy clinics and 12 leper Asylums and Settlements. The total attendance at these clinics for the first nine months of 1938 was 623,047 and the total number of new cases treated was 25,933. Up to date the number of leprosy cases registered at these clinics is 210,612. The 12 leper in-patient institutions treated 4,248 patients among whom 337 patients were discharged 'disease arrested'. The total accommodation in these institutions is 2,700. The Government have ordered that capitation grants to these institutions should be paid according to the number of treatable cases accommodated and not for the 'burnt out' cases, thus converting these asylums into hospitals. In the leprosy units where intensive work is being done, leprosy officers are carrying out an extensive survey of the villages. The units are in Narasannapeta, Cocanada, Vellore, Cuddalore and Madura.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated birth-rate based on the figures for the first ten months of 1938 was 37·4 per thousand as against the actual birth-rate of 38·72 per thousand in 1937. The estimated death-rate of 22·30 per thousand based on the figures for the first ten months compares favourably with the actual death-rate of 23·99 per thousand in 1937. A comparison of the mortality from the principal diseases during the first ten months of 1938 and 1937 showed a fall of more than 50 per cent in deaths from cholera and an increase of about 20 per cent in the mortality from plague. The estimated infantile mortality rate was 164·41 per thousand live-births during 1938 as against the actual rate of 169·75 in 1937. There was a slight increase in the maternal mortality rate from 8·46 in 1937 to the estimated rate of 9·05 per thousand births in 1938.

CHAPTER VII.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

Three officers of the Education Department were deputed to undergo a course of training in the Vidya Mandir Training School, Wardha. The question of opening a Government Training School on the Wardha model is under the active consideration of the Government. It is also likely that a private Training School, also on Wardha lines, may be started in the Province.

Compulsory elementary education, both for boys and girls, was introduced in the Cocanada Municipality, and was extended to more wards in the Madura Municipality. As a result of the policy pursued by the Department in regard to the development of incomplete elementary schools, higher standards were opened in a very large number of schools.

The rules under the Madras Elementary Education Act were amended to safeguard the interest of teachers and to give them greater security of tenure. The important changes made are that not less than 85 per cent of the teaching grant paid to a school or of the scale grant must be paid to the teachers employed in it by way of salary; that no deductions can be made from the pay of teachers except by way of deductions in respect of Provident Fund and fines imposed for disciplinary purposes; that every teacher employed in an aided elementary school must have a service register which will set forth, among other things, the terms of his appointment and the reasons for terminating his service; and that no grant can be paid to a school which does not pay its staff regularly and in accordance with the terms of the Teachers' Service Registers.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Instructions were issued by the Government that all high schools in uni-lingual areas should begin the use of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction in the IV Form in the school year 1938-39 and continue to use it in successive years in Forms V and VI. In respect of schools located in bi-lingual and multi-lingual areas and in regard to certain classes of girls' schools it was decided that some time might be given to overcome difficulties and to enable the schools to make arrangements ultimately for the use of the mother tongue as the medium of instruction. Hindustani was introduced as a subject of study in Forms I to III in 125 high schools.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The rules of the Grant-in-aid Code were amended so as to make it obligatory for the managements of Aided Institutions to have their accounts scrutinized by a recognized Auditor and to obtain the previous sanction of the Director either to open a new educational institution or to introduce a new course of study in an existing institution. For reasons of efficiency the Malabar district was again bifurcated into two educational charges. New revised scales of pay for the gazetted and non-gazetted services were introduced. As lower elementary grade training has been completely abolished in Government Training Schools for Masters (except that at Malappuram) the temporary Higher Elementary Training Classes opened in lieu of them have been made permanent.

CHAPTER VIII.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

FORESTS.

The efforts to utilise the natural resources of forests and to secure the maximum revenue from them without damaging the forests have been continued under the Forest Utilization Officer specially deputed for the purpose. Minor forest produce is wherever possible being collected departmentally in order to secure increased revenue. Lac cultivation has been continued in Madura and Salem North. Sealing wax, shellac and lac varnish were prepared and experiments in the manufacture of various other lac products have been continued. Production has reached a commercial stage though still on a small scale. Wooden poles have been supplied to the Electricity Department for use after treatment with ascu. Efforts have been made to increase the production of cheap fruits like tamarind, jambu or neradi and wood apples, to extend the planting of myrabolams, and to lease out or plant departmentally suitable areas for the cultivation of areca-nut and cardamoms. Experimental plantations on the Nilgiris and the Palnis were being opened to extend the cultivation of green wattle for tanning bark. Investigations are being conducted into the possibility of utilising charcoal in the form of charcoal gas to replace petrol in motor vehicles, and of producing camphor, three ply-wood, three ply-boxes, picture frames, wooden reapers and plugs. As local avaram is being fast replaced by imported wattle and avaram imported from other parts of India, instructions have been issued to start plantations of avaram in suitable areas in reserved forests for supply to tanners. The possibility of further expansion of cinnamon cultivation in the forests is being examined and an officer has

been deputed to Ceylon to study the production of cinnamon and its preparation for the market. Under contracts entered into with the South Indian Railway large quantities of sleepers valued at Rs. 4 lakhs have been supplied. The sale of sandalwood has expanded to 1,248 tons and a revenue of Rs. 7.64 lakhs has been realised.

Grazing fees in reserved forests were reduced by 50 per cent from the 1st April 1938. This concession means a loss of about Rs. 3 lakhs a year to the Provincial revenues. The concession has also been extended to certain panchayat forests and its extension to others is being considered. This may ultimately mean a reduction of over Rs. 1.25 lakhs a year in the amount of rent paid by forest panchayats. This reduction in grazing rates is likely to attract a larger number of cattle to share the limited amount of pasture available and this circumstance has brought into prominence the desirability of a general pasture survey. In accordance with the recommendation of the preliminary Committee of Forest Officers which the Government of India appointed in 1936, a Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee has been appointed to investigate the reclassification of waste land outside the Government forests, to select areas fit for production of fodder or management as grazing grounds and to advise the Government on the best agency for the management of such lands and to indicate lines of improvement. In addition, a special Grazing Officer has been appointed to advise on all matters connected with grazing in reserved forests. The rotational system of grazing has been introduced to facilitate the growth of better and more grass.

Considerable areas of land have been disreserved for assignment to Scheduled Classes and other landless people. The areas include 639 acres of the Dalli forest in the Coimbatore district, 119 acres of the Thaiyur Panchayat forests, 232 acres in the Kattur Panchayat forests and 108 acres in Kattu Gudalur forests in the Chingleput district.

a small area in the Wenlock Downs in the Nilgiri district and 341 acres, in Nandibanda reserved forests in the Salem and North Arcot districts. The last area is intended for assignment to toddy tappers who lost their means of livelihood as a result of the introduction of Prohibition. Nearly 300 acres of panchayat forests near Avadi are also being disreserved for assignment in order to establish a colony on the lines of the Dayalbagh colony in Agra. This process of disreservation cannot, of course, go on indefinitely without causing serious denudation of forests to the detriment of the larger interests of the people. To guard against this danger various measures are being adopted. The Kondavidu Panchayat forest has been restored to the Forest Department for more efficient conservation and control. A Tree Planting Day has been instituted in all districts to encourage the people to plant trees which may ultimately serve their agricultural and domestic needs and to that extent relieve the pressure on reserved forests. Some villages near Kotagiri have started village fuel forests.

The total area of reserved forests, including 3,272 square miles of ryots forests under the control of the Revenue Department is 18,396 square miles. Some 12,830 square miles are covered by working plans and the preparation of plans for 2,374 square miles is in progress. Natural regeneration in fuel coupes and in gaps in evergreen forests has been on the whole satisfactory. Artificial regeneration has been conducted successfully on the usual lines. The regeneration of deciduous and evergreen forests by the "gap" method has been largely abandoned, more suitable methods having been discovered. The "Kumri" method of growing field crops and forest trees together has been utilised in regeneration, to the advantage both of the department and of the cultivators. The natural regeneration of sandalwood has been generally good. There has been flowering of both species of bamboos.

An area of 50 acres in the Nellore district has been afforested with casuarina and in Tinnevely afforestation with palmyra, to fix the sand dunes, has been continued. Cashewnut has been planted in several suitable localities in Mangalore North. Proposals for the formation of a "Wild Life Sanctuary" in the Mudumalai forests of the Nilgiris division have been approved by the Government.

As it has been decided to close down the Madras Forest College from July 1939, no admissions have been made during the year. Candidates for the Rangers' cadre will henceforward be trained at Dehra Dun. A school for the more intensive training of foresters and guards who are already in service, has been started in Nilambur. As a measure of retrenchment the Government have ordered the abolition of the Waltair and Working Plans Circles. The two forest divisions of North and South Mangalore have been amalgamated into the South Kanara Division. The Government have also decided to abolish six posts in the Madras Forest Service.

FISHERIES.

The fishing season on the East and West Coasts was poor early in the year but improved on the East Coast and in the northern section of the West Coast. On the West Coast oil-sardine appeared only in small quantities, but there were better catches of other shoaling fish such as goggler, sole, mackerel and cat-fish. In the Northern Circars, sharks, cat-fish and jew fish were caught throughout the year, and sardine and ribbon fish were abundant from December to March and June to September. In the south the seer, pomfret and *Lactarius* fisheries of the Carnatic Coast, the cat-fish, shark and ray fisheries of Palk Bay and the ribbon fish fishery of Cape Comorin were the most successful. Pearl oyster spat-falls were discovered in shallow waters north and south of the Krusadai Pearl

Farm in places where oysters have never been known to occur before. As the beds were unsuitable for the growth of oysters, over 72,000 oysters from them were collected and transported to the Krusadai pearl farm. This large addition will enable the Krusadai Station to undertake pearl farming. The spawning season and breeding grounds of the valuable food fish *Lactarius* were discovered close to Pamban. Conclusive evidence of *Catla* breeding in the Cauvery river was obtained. The possibility of cheaply and quickly transporting catla fry for stocking from the Godavari river by motor lorries was experimentally proved. The vitamin survey of Madras fish oils led to the discovery of four more Indian fish with 3 to 19 times the vitamin A potency of cod liver oil. A sample of oil extracted from liver of the common hammer-head shark was found to contain nearly three-fourths as much Vitamin A as Halibut liver oil. Sufficient knowledge having been gained of the vitamin A contents of several common South Indian fish, a scheme has been formulated to popularise the manufacture of medicinal fish oil in fishing villages as a cottage industry. The presence of vitamin A in appreciable amounts in the Malabar sardine suspected in 1933 was confirmed. Sardine oil is the commonest and cheapest fish-oil produced in Madras and the presence now definitely proved of vitamin A in the oil is of great commercial importance as the oil can be utilised for food and medicinal purposes. Fumigation with carbon-bi-sulphide proved the most effective method for storing salted and sun-dried fish. Fish treated with this reagent for a full year were found to contain much less sulphur than the quota permissible under the British Pharmacopea. Experiments in pilchardising fish for long storage were continued with three more fish of economic importance, oil sardine, "Adavu" and large cat-fish. Excepting oil sardine and cat fish improperly salted, the other fish were well preserved. The deep water tank fishing experiments with Ennore nets and drift

nets with varying meshes have been continued in the Mopad reservoir.

The Government sanctioned the reopening of four fish curing yards on the West Coast which were closed in 1931 as a measure of retrenchment. In order to effect further economy in expenditure on fish curing yards it is proposed to manufacture salt on the West Coast instead of buying salt at Tuticorin and transporting it to the Malabar coast. The total quantity of fresh fish brought for curing into fish curing yards in the Presidency amounted to 1,177,234 maunds, salt issued to 194,105 maunds and fish cured and removed from the yards to 749,667 maunds during the calendar year.

The economic condition of the fishermen continued to be unsatisfactory as the ruling prices in the market were low. There has been a steady improvement in the standard of education imparted to fisher children in fishery elementary schools. Six new schools have been opened, 32 new teachers sanctioned and the number of children attending schools has increased from 4,162 to 5,723.

CHAPTER IX.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The value of the private trade of the Province declined by Rs. 1,226·19 lakhs as compared with the first eleven months of 1937. Foreign imports decreased by Rs. 57·04 lakhs chiefly owing to smaller receipts of grain, pulse and flour, artificial silk, cotton twist and yarn, vehicles, dyeing and tanning substances, silk, rubber, cotton piece-goods and metals and ores. There were, however, increases in machinery and millwork, manures and tobacco. Foreign exports fell by Rs. 335·35 lakhs owing chiefly to decreased shipments of raw cotton, tanned cow hides, tanned skins, handkerchiefs, shawls and castor seeds. Increases were, however, registered in the shipments of raw tobacco, tea, fruits and vegetables and rice. The import trade with the British Empire advanced by Rs. 36·09 lakhs and export trade by Rs. 24·48 lakhs. The import trade with Burma amounted to Rs. 869·05 lakhs and export trade to Rs. 230·25 lakhs. Coasting trade fell by Rs. 833·79 lakhs of which imports accounted for Rs. 712·74 lakhs and exports Rs. 121·05 lakhs. The total value of paddy and rice imported into the Province in 1938 is estimated at Rs. 460·6 lakhs, of which rice accounted for Rs. 427·1 lakhs.

The total import revenue collected during the calendar year amounted to Rs. 602·78 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 22·75 lakhs attributable chiefly to smaller arrivals of artificial silk yarn, raw silk, motor cars, iron or steel and pneumatic rubber tyres and tubes. The revenue from motor spirit and kerosene oil imported from Burma, however, recorded an increase. These revenues go to the Central Government.

The year opened with 1,564 companies ; 220 companies were registered and 107 companies were wound up or became defunct. The new companies included 100 trading and manufacturing, 44 hotels, theatres and entertainments and 35 transit and transport concerns. The authorized share capital of companies registered during the year was Rs. 3.58 crores. The total authorized share capital of all the companies functioning at the end of 1938 amounted to Rs. 60.68 crores, their subscribed capital to Rs. 24.22 crores and their paid-up capital to Rs. 18.46 crores.

PORTS.

In the Port of Madras owing to the introduction by the Board of its own lighterage service from 1st October 1937 the Landing Charges Fund was closed during the year and the balance of Rs. 2.16 lakhs at the credit of the Fund, was transferred to the Revenue Account. The total tonnage of goods handled in the port increased. Exports advanced by about 6 per cent, the chief commodity being groundnuts. At the close of the year there were heavy imports of rice from Burma. Owing to the riots in Burma, a large number of refugees arrived by the weekly Rangoon steamers from about the middle of August 1938. They were accommodated in one of the transit sheds and were fed and sent to their destinations at the expense of the Government. A new warehouse was constructed on the South Sand Accretion at a cost of approximately Rs. 2 lakhs. A new five-ton electric crane was erected.

There was no appreciable variation in the tonnage of vessels entering the minor ports except at Masulipatam, Cocanada, and Cuddalore where there was an increase due to the increase in trade and the calling of more foreign vessels, at Calingapatam where there was a decrease due to calling of fewer foreign steamers for groundnut kernels owing to the diversion of traffic to Vizagapatam and at Calicut and its sub-ports, where there was a decrease due to general

trade depression. At Negapatam the passenger traffic to the Straits Settlements was considerably less than that of the previous year on account of trade depression and the stopping of emigration. There was an appreciable increase in the landing of passengers from Burma owing to the outbreak of riots in Burma. There was a considerable reduction in the passenger traffic at Calicut, Tellicherry and Cannanore during the year owing to the discontinuance of the weekly passenger service maintained by the Bombay Steam Navigation Company.

The Port of Tuticorin continued to rank first amongst the Minor Ports in sea-borne trade. The Government ordered that the Vice-Chairman be elected instead of nominated. The port dues were reduced from 1st October.

Measures taken to check the pilferage of cargo between ship and shore at Cocanada, Cuddalore, Negapatam, Calicut and Mangalore were satisfactory and continued to produce the desired effect. The reduced rates of shipping fees on groundnuts, castor seeds and oil cakes at Cocanada were continued. At Masulipatam the rates of Landing and Shipping Fees were revised, a Marine Police Force was sanctioned to check the pilferage of cargo between ship and shore, and an estimate of Rs. 30,000 for the construction of a wharf wall of 1,000 feet in length was sanctioned. The limits of the Port of Calicut were altered and a revised estimate amounting to Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned for extending and flooring the stacking platform at the south pier. The proposal to extend the system of Morse signalling up to midnight and from 4 a.m. to sunrise was approved. Cocanada experienced a severe cyclone on the 24th and 25th November 1938. The beacon on the Godavari point was washed away and slight damage was caused to the top of the south groyne. Masulipatam port experienced severe cyclonic weather from 23rd to 25th November.

There was considerable damage to private property and stacks of groundnuts in the godowns and outside. At Ponnani a sum of Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned for the extension of a wharf wall and the reclamation of an additional area for wharves. The construction of a dry dock at Mangalore started in 1936 was progressing and is expected to be completed early in 1939.

INDUSTRIES.

The Government continued the special assistance to the hand spinning and Khadi weaving industry of the Province and sanctioned a grant and subsidy of about Rs. 1.90 lakhs. A portion of the amount is ear-marked for the supply of improved appliances to the spinners and for the employment of trained workers as instructors in the villages for improving the efficiency of the spinners and the implements used by them. The subsidy is to be up to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh on the actual increase of production of Khadi during the year calculated at the rate of one anna per square yard of increase. The amount includes provision for the development of the industries in Moplah Nad. To help the development of the hand spinning industry in certain areas affected by famine such as the Adoni taluk of the Bellary district and the Kurnool taluk of the Kurnool district the Government have sanctioned a special grant of about Rs. 9,000.

The Sericultural section prepared and distributed over 37 lakhs of disease-free layings. The Peripatetic rearing party tested 29 lakhs of layings. Since the starting of the Kollegal Silk Filatures, Ltd., the cocoon producers have been finding a ready cash market for their cocoons but the price of raw silk has fallen considerably. The cottage reeling machine was improved by introducing suitable accessories to the existing country charkas. With the ultimate idea of replacing the pure Mysore variety with cross breed seeds, as suggested by the Sericultural Tariff

Board, over 3 lakhs of cross breed layings were distributed. The maximum outturn of seed cocoons for every 100 layings of cross breeds was $81\frac{1}{4}$ lb. as against 52 lb. for every 100 layings of the pure Mysore variety.

The ten candidates who were deputed for six months' training at Wardha in the manufacture of hand-made paper have now returned and ten candidates are being sent for training in oil pressing and milling. The Government have sanctioned the opening of two training centres in the manufacture of hand-made paper at Kodambakkam and Kosigi in Adoni taluk.

Fifty-six applications for aid under the State Aid to Industries Act were received and dealt with during the year. The Board of Industries met twice during the year and disposed of forty-one applications. Seven loans aggregating Rs. 17,100 and subscription of shares to the value of Rs. 20,000 in a ceramic concern were sanctioned. The Government have appointed a committee to study the material already collected and make definite recommendations regarding the possibilities of producing industrial alcohol from molasses and report on the best method of the manufacture and preparation of petrol-alcohol mixture. The report of the committee is expected shortly.

The Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Information continued to provide general and technical information on industrial and commercial matters, and to answer inquiries relating to commerce, trade and industries, and economic questions generally received from the Public and from Government departments. A monthly review of trade conditions in the Madras Province was published. As it has been the recognized function of the Director of Industries and Commerce for sometime past to collect and present commercial and statistical information in regard to prices and the trade of the Province, the Government directed that the designation of the Director of Industries be changed to "Director of Industries and Commerce."

The Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, besides manufacturing the usual varieties of soaps, introduced some new soaps. The supply of country soap (chunam soap) to some of the hospitals was continued during the year. In place of the old laundry flakes required by hospitals which were said to contain some dirt and extraneous matter, a cold process soap of good quality was supplied. The supply of Deepa Brand Soap had temporarily to be stopped owing to the difficulty of getting a satisfactory abrasive powder. A medicinal toilet soap similar to "Simpson's Iodine Soap" was made. A new shed was under construction to carry on the manufacture of cosmetic articles on a semi-commercial scale. The refining of coconut oil and groundnut oil was continued. The preparation of insecticides with indigenous herbs and imported chemicals was continued and two products have become popular, one to prevent leech bite and the other, lime sulphur for spraying on vegetables and plants against the attack of ants, woolly aphis and similar pests. A small portable plant for distilling essential oils on a cottage scale was made on the model of those used in Chatrapur for distilling flowers of the screw pine.

Facilities have been provided at the School of Arts and Crafts for a ceramic course extending over a period of three years for imparting instruction in the manufacture of articles such as jars and domestic pottery including glazed and porcelain wares. With a view to standardising industrial education in this Province, a Technological Diploma Examination Board has been constituted for awarding diplomas to students in Government and private technical institutions affiliated to the Board.

CHAPTER X.—RURAL RECONSTRUCTION.

CO-OPERATION.

The passing of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938, gave a new impetus to the Co-operative movement. Six hundred and six societies were registered during the year as against 309 in the previous year. The transactions of the societies also increased. The loan transactions of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank with Central Banks increased considerably during the year mainly owing to the encouragement of produce loans through sale societies. The bank reduced its lending rate to Central Banks on ordinary loans from 4 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and amended its bye-laws to provide for the election of individual representatives to the Board of Management by the full General body instead of by the individual shareholders. It also relaxed the restriction that both the President and the Vice-President should be residents of the city and this has indirectly enabled the Central Banks to elect one of their representatives as the Vice-President at the elections held towards the close of the year. The working of the Central Banks continued to be generally satisfactory. The Central Land Mortgage Bank, Ltd., Madras, continued to make satisfactory progress. The paid-up share capital rose from Rs. 6.23 lakhs to Rs. 7.46 lakhs. The Government enhanced the guarantee of the debentures of the bank to Rs. 200 lakhs. The total debentures in circulation at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 152.69 lakhs as against Rs. 126.91 lakhs at the beginning of the year. The debentures continued to be popular. The Government have been giving temporary accommodation to the bank under certain conditions.

The Bank issued loans to primary land mortgage banks to the extent of Rs. 46.67 lakhs. The number of Land Mortgage Banks increased from 94 to 106 and there is now no district which is not served by Land Mortgage Banks.

The transactions of loan and sale societies developed considerably during the year. The Government continued to help the sale societies with loans and free grants for the construction of godowns, and extended this concession to village credit societies which proposed to construct godowns *cum* village halls. The system of controlled credit which was worked in five districts only in the previous year was extended to sixteen districts during the year. Appreciable results were achieved in the districts of Salem and Coimbatore. The Madras Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society continued to be assisted by Government with staff and subsidy. Besides dealing in household commodities and fruits it issued weekly bulletins of wholesale prices of the chief agricultural commodities of the Madras Market and also attended to trade enquiries from societies and individuals.

Thirty-four new Weavers' Societies were registered during the year and there were 118 societies affiliated to the Provincial society at the end of the year. The system of supply of yarn to societies by the mills on the guarantee of the Provincial society was continued throughout the year and the total guarantee amounted to Rs. 46,665. The Provincial society also granted cash credit loans to societies to the extent of Rs. 40,307, besides subsidies amounting to Rs. 24,145 to meet establishment and other charges. It opened two more sales depots—one at Rajahmundry and another at Triplicane.

Milk Supply Unions on the model of the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union were started at Nellore, Coimbatore and Madura and the two latter made a good beginning. Societies for the consolidation of holdings of members have been started in six districts and of these

two societies in the North Arcot district have done some work. The Government appointed an Honorary Organiser for consolidation of holding societies in the North Arcot and Chingleput districts.

RURAL AMENITIES.

After the abolition of the District Economic Councils in November 1937, Collectors have been convening periodical conferences of important gazetted officers of the districts, Presidents of district boards and all elected members of the Provincial Legislature belonging to the district at intervals of not more than three months, for the consideration of all matters of general importance affecting the welfare and administration of the district. Divisional Committees have also been formed in some districts.

Rural improvement works proceeded on the usual lines. The Government of India grant sanctioned for this purpose was utilized for improvement of rural water-supply, improvement of rural sanitation, improvement of village communications, encouragement and development of loan and sale co-operative societies by making free grants towards part of the cost of godowns, and consolidation of holdings. The works included 1,293 well and water-supply works completed and 795 in progress, 355 latrine works completed and 175 in progress, and 311 village communication works completed and 225 works in progress. Subsidies to the extent of Rs. 67,481 were sanctioned for the construction of 41 godowns at a total cost of Rs. 2,75,623 in fifteen districts. A beginning was made in the consolidation of holdings in the North Arcot and Salem districts. The Government of India grant was made available for this object only towards the end of August 1938. It is hoped that full advantage will be taken of the grant to push through schemes for consolidation of holdings in all the districts.

In pursuance of the policy of the Government to install radio receiving sets in rural areas, sets were installed in the Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah, North Arcot, Tanjore, South Arcot, and Nellore districts. Further installations in the Guntur and Kistna districts will be completed by the middle of February 1939, making a total of 45 sets, including one set in the Chingleput district. A Radio Engineer has been appointed with the necessary assistants to look after the installation and maintenance of sets. Orders have been placed for 20 Municipal receiving sets and 10 more sets are shortly to be ordered. Laboratory and workshop facilities at a cost of about Rs. 25,000 have been sanctioned and will shortly be provided.

In April the Government sanctioned a scheme for the organization of village sports in three selected villages in each district. The object of the scheme is to stimulate interest in all indigenous games which require no apparatus and in European games such as "Rounders" "Three deep", physical drill, Army games and athletics. The scheme has been worked in the Salem district by the Special Development Officer with the help of the Police and in other districts by the Police Sub-Inspectors. The experiment promises to be successful and has aroused much interest not only in the villages selected but also in the adjacent villages. In the Salem district arrangements were made to train police officers as Physical Training Instructors and it is hoped to extend this scheme with the co-operation of the Y.M.C.A. to other districts.

Two deep boreholes were put down for the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Perundurai, Coimbatore, and yielded a supply of 60 gallons per minute. Another deep bore was put down at the Imperial Sugarcane Station, Coimbatore, and was tested to yield a supply of 75 gallons per minute. Besides these, about a dozen artesian springs were also tapped in the course of the year with yields varying from 5 to 200 gallons per minute. The Government sanctioned

the manufacture of 15 hand boring sets under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme for sinking borewells in villages.

The special accelerated three years' programme of improvements to minor irrigation works designed to improve the economic equipment of the country and to provide work for the rural population, launched in April 1935 under a Special Public Works Department Staff, was wound up at the end of March 1938 and the works that were left incomplete were taken up for execution during the rest of the year by the ordinary staff. The chief improvements consisted in the deepening of the beds of tanks and the strengthening of bunds. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 2.57 lakhs as against Rs. 12.95 lakhs in the previous year. The scheme was much appreciated by the ryots and labouring classes.

ALLEVIATION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

The Madras Agriculturists Relief Act which was brought into force in March provides for the scaling down of agriculturists' debts and the cancellation under certain conditions of arrears of rent due by tenants for fasli 1345 and earlier faslis. During the period of six months ending with August 1938 debts amounting to Rs. 76.10 lakhs were scaled down by courts to Rs. 40.45 lakhs or by 47 per cent. These figures are exclusive of scaling down effected by agreements between debtors and creditors out of court.

The scheme for the grant by Special Loans Officers of loans for the relief of indebtedness of agriculturists introduced in 1935-36 was kept in abeyance early in the year pending the passing of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act. The essential feature of the former scheme was the scaling down of the debts of agriculturists by persuading creditors to accept amounts appreciably less than the amounts legally due to them, and, in no case,

more than the principal borrowed together with $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent (5 per cent till February 1937) or twice the principal whichever was less. The Act, however, compulsorily reduced outstanding debts. Rules for the grant of loans to agriculturists to discharge their debts as reduced under the Act were published. A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has been earmarked for the grant of loans to agriculturists for the purpose in 1938-39. To enable debtors to have their debts scaled down under the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, it was decided to set up Debt Conciliation Boards for each revenue division under the Debt Conciliation Act of 1936.

Ninety-two such boards have been constituted throughout the Presidency.

AGRICULTURE.

The main items of work are the distribution of improved strains of seed and implements, the granting of Takkavi loans, the proper preservation of cattle manure, the composting of rubbish and the running of demonstration and trial plots. Exhibitions have been held on important festive occasions and lectures delivered. Advice has been given and demonstrations conducted on the control of pests and diseases. Special attention has been paid to the demonstration of the usefulness of putting up field bunds in Bellary and Anantapur districts. The growing of fodder crops, the keeping of poultry, apiculture, and horticulture continue to receive attention. A new orientation has been given to propaganda and demonstration activities in the II Circle by the formation of Agricultural Advisory Committees in the centres of work with the help of agriculturists who volunteered their co-operation. Help has been rendered to a scheme of colonization of unemployed graduates started by the Annamalai University. Two graduates have started work and brought twenty acres under cultivation.

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Three new strains of paddy sufficiently tested for higher yields both in the research stations and in the tracts for which they are intended, have been distributed for general cultivation, Co. 12 from Coimbatore station yielding 17.1 per cent increase over the local seed for the Tinnevely tract and Mtu. 12 and 13 giving 12 per cent increases from Maruteru station for the Kistna and Guntur tracts. Studies on the quality of rice have shown that a certain amount of polishing is essential for good cooking in shelled rice and experiments with an improved polisher have shown that polishing for two to four minutes gives the desired cooking result with the least loss of the bran layer.

Studies on the protein requirements for muscular work in bullocks have been continued and it has been observed that the amount of work done and protein required are capable of being connected by a formula. The fact that protein requirement is a function of the work done has thus been established. Further studies in making clean jaggery from palm juices showed that a cream coloured product free from the characteristic flavour can be made with the aid of active carbon by a simple process. White sugar has been made from palm juice with success. Work on malting cereals is in progress and paddy has been found to malt very satisfactorily and give a product low in fat and with a good aroma. Experiments have been made in blending this with cholam malt for infant and invalid foods and it is found possible to produce a food with a lower fat content which can be expected to last longer.

The experiments on the reclamation of alkaline lands at Mettumarudur in Kulitalai taluk of Trichinopoly district have been continued. Alkaline plots were treated with sulphur and gypsum some time prior to the planting of paddy. There was a marked improvement in the soil of the treated plots, both as seen by chemical analysis and also by the actual growth of the paddy crop which was

planted towards the end of October. In the month of November, the seedlings in the treated plot were thriving while those in the control plots had died out. The area had previously supported no vegetation.

A special scheme for bee-keeping was inaugurated in the Chittoor district with a demonstration central apiary and 26 live colonies were distributed to the ryots.

A simple green manure trampler for wet land cultivation has been designed. A small sized four-tynd drill working on the brush cut off and rotating seed disc principle was put under test and its performance was satisfactory while its price is just half that of the old machine. An expanding cultivator with five types and adjustable links for variation of width made of spring steel has passed the experimental stage. A double mould board plough has been designed with adjustable wings to meet requirements of a general nature.

Marketing surveys of twenty-two commodities have so far been completed. The final reports on coconuts, sheep and goats, and mangoes are being compiled. The marketing surveys on maize, Bengal gram, mustard, cashewnuts, sugar, lac, fish and prawns and jute are in progress. The surveys conducted so far, have indicated some possible lines of improvements in marketing, which are of a general nature, such as the co-operative organization of producers, the grading and standardization of produce, improvements in the method of packing and storage, a better credit system for producers, the standardization of weights and measures and the timely dissemination of commodity prices and other market intelligence to the producers. Producers' Associations have been formed for marketing oranges, grapes, mangoes and eggs. Virginian tobacco in Guntur district has been graded and produce worth about a lakh of rupees exported. Graded eggs worth about Rs. 1,000 have also been marketed. The possibilities of

grading rice are under investigation in Shiyali, Kuttalam and Bezwada. Tentative grade specifications for White and Red Sirumani rices have been drawn up. Investigations have been carried out for grading Sathgudi oranges and a trial grading machine has been designed.

VETERINARY.

The Livestock Section of the Madras Agricultural Department together with its staff was placed under the Veterinary Department with effect from 1st April 1938. The policy followed by the Agricultural Department for the improvement of breeding of livestock and poultry and the granting of premia to local bodies and private individuals for the maintenance of approved stud bulls were continued. Financial aid was also given to District Boards in the shape of lump sum grants. The main work of the improvement of cattle is confined to the Livestock Research Station at Hosur where herds of cross-bred, Scindhi, Kangayam and Hallikar cattle, buffaloes and Bellary sheep are kept as well as six breeds of poultry. To facilitate the breeding of superior strains the Department carried out 83,202 castrations for ryots in 1937-38.

The staff of the Veterinary Department as usual attended many cattle fairs. In many of the fairs the provisions of the Madras Cattle Disease Act, 1866, were enforced to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among cattle.

The Serum Institute at Madras continued to manufacture Anti-Rinderpest Serum, Anti-Haemorrhagic Septicaemia Serum, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia Vaccine, Rinderpest Bull Virus, Rinderpest Goat Virus, and Rinderpest Goat Spleen Tissue Vaccine. The average mortality per outbreak from Rinderpest, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Blackquarter, Anthrax and Foot and Mouth disease showed a slight fall. Rinderpest was reported in all the Circles

with the exception of Trichinopoly. The incidence was more or less uniform throughout the year. Prompt action was taken to check its spread and the policy of protecting animals in anticipation of outbreaks is believed to have helped considerably towards suppressing the disease in centres where the infection was newly encountered. Goat Virus in the place of Bull Virus has newly been introduced in the Serum Simultaneous method of protection against Rinderpest during the year. Trials were continued to find out the minimum dose of serum required for protection in this method, for different classes of animals. Experiments with glycerinised Spleen Tissue Vaccination in outbreaks in clean areas were also continued. Trials with Spleen Tissue Vaccines which are finally prepared in the field with saline solution from material supplied by the Serum Institute, were commenced in order to study the comparative immunity between this and other prophylactics. The method of protection by Vaccine alone in actual outbreaks of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia and Blackquarter was adopted as it had given satisfactory results.

CHAPTER XI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

IRRIGATION.

Further progress was made with the negotiations for the Tungabhadra Project. A conference of the representatives of the Madras and Hyderabad Governments was held at Madras on the 6th and 7th November 1938. At this conference an agreement was reached regarding the feasibility of a partial utilization of the Tungabhadra waters without going into the larger question of the rights of the Governments concerned in the river which would involve almost interminable disputes.

The Lower Bhavani Project is designed to irrigate an extent of 207,000 acres in the Coimbatore district. The Government have since accepted the latest modified scheme drawn up by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and recommended by the Board of Revenue and Irrigation Development Board and ordered its detailed investigation. This modified scheme is designed to irrigate the entire project area in the second-crop season (October to February) thus allowing the ryots to grow a commercial crop like cotton throughout if they wish and enabling them to pay the prescribed water-rate without difficulty. The division of the ayacut into zones and the attempt to supply water during the first-crop season are to be abandoned with the result that the ryots will be at liberty to grow a green manure crop, for which no charge will be made, during the south-west monsoon period when the project channels will be closed. At the same time, in view of the representations received, the Government have directed that the Upper Bhavani Project which was abandoned in 1928, should also be re-examined side by side with the Lower

Project, with reference to their respective cost and the benefits derivable from them.

In the Godavari Delta System the year began with good supplies for second-crop but from March onwards there was scarcity and turns had to be arranged. The first-crop season began well with very early freshes and the season was good with every promise of a bumper harvest, until a cyclone occurred on 25th November which badly affected the standing crops. The special staff investigating and fixing standards for all important drains in the Godavari delta commenced work. The Anumunilanka Reservoir project and a pumping scheme to irrigate high lands at the head of the Godavari Western Delta were under investigation.

A cyclone occurred on 10th October near Gopalpur and though the rainfall was not very heavy, the Vamsadara, Bahuda and Nagavalli rivers were in heavy floods and some of the irrigation works were damaged.

In the Kistna Delta System owing to heavy rains there were floods in the Budameru in August and in the region of the Collair and the Uppateru in September. The drains emptying into the Collair lake were held up by the rising lake and large areas were under submersion till about the middle of October. The cyclone in November seriously damaged a large area of standing crops and also the flood banks of the East Bank Canal near the sea. The curtain wall in front of the head sluice, Kistna Eastern Delta, was completed. Improvements to the Bezwada undersluices were in progress.

Water was supplied from the Mettur reservoir of the Cauvery Delta System from the 9th of June. The date was advanced by three days to enable rivers and tanks to fill before opening the sluices for irrigation. The irrigation season began well with an early monsoon and there were floods for two days in August. The north-east monsoon was almost a complete failure and rainfall much below the

average. This necessitated heavy and continuous supplies from the reservoir. But for the reservoir, cultivation would have been delayed in June and the crops would have failed almost completely.

In the Periyar System, the south-west monsoon was weak and the north-east monsoon was almost a complete failure. The lake was very low. Many tanks in the Periyar delta and the Cumbum valley in the Madura district dried up and added considerably to the difficulty in the distribution of water.

Owing to abnormally heavy rains in July and August in Salem district, almost all the tanks filled and a few tanks were also badly damaged. Repair works were in progress.

In accordance with the rules for the regulation of the Krishnarajasagara reservoir in Mysore cross sections of the rivers at the three standard stations were taken during June and October and gaugings were done jointly at Chunchinkatta on the Cauvery. In connection with the proposals of the Mysore Government for a reservoir on the Hemavathi near Gorur, joint gaugings of the river at Gorur and at Sriramdevar Dam were continued during the year.

ELECTRICITY.

In the Pykara Electricity System the normal rate of expansion of power supply was maintained. The output of the generating station was about 82 million units and the peak load on the system continued at 17,000 KW. The revenue was approximately Rs. 29.6 lakhs. The station has been working at its full capacity and increase in demand necessitated the transfer of Tiruppur load and of the 22 KV load of Coimbatore to Mettur during the year to afford relief to Pykara. During the break-down of the Mettur plant in April 1938, Pykara supplied the entire load of the two systems supplemented by the auxiliary Glen Morgan Plant during peak load hours. The

Mukurti Dam was completed during the year. A number of important extensions was completed during the year and supply given including continuous and full supply to Madura. The Virudunagar and Dindigul oil engine plants were closed down and the distributions connected to Pykara. The sole remaining oil engine station in this area, namely, Theni, will also be closed down during the early part of 1939 and power supplied from Pykara. A number of extensions of rural distribution lines for agricultural and other purposes were carried out. The connected load of the system increased by 50 per cent. Load surveys in connection with the extension of Pykara Power to the West Coast were made. The work in connection with the erection of the third Penstock line and the additional generating sets is almost completed and it is expected that one of the two new units will be in commission in June 1939.

The third generating unit in the Mettur Power House was tested and put into service at the beginning of the year. The total output of the Power Station was over 39 million units and the peak load was 6,300 KW. In April 1938, there was an accident in the Power House when a drain valve burst and all the plant in the Power House was submerged. Immediate arrangements were made to supply Pykara Power to the whole of this system till the machines were put in working condition again. In March, the Government sanctioned a scheme for the extension of supply of electric power to Pakala, Tirupati and Chandragiri from Chittoor. In order to meet the demand for electric supply in rural areas, distribution schemes in the Salem, North Arcot, Chingleput, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts costing about Rs. 15 lakhs were sanctioned.

The sanction of the Government for the Papanasam Hydro-Thermal Scheme was received at the end of March 1938. Tenders were awarded for the temporary buildings

and road work and contracts were also settled for permanent staff quarters. The work is in progress.

The steam plant of the Vizagapatam Thermal Scheme which was under construction at the close of the previous year was completed and put in service on 26th March from which date Government supply was given to the Vizagapatam licensee and to the Vizagapatam Harbour. The erection of the third boiler in the Power House was completed in November. The supply was extended during the year to Anakapalle Electric Supply Corporation, Garbham Mines, Kodur Mines and Bobbili. The Bimlipatam and Vizianagram distribution works were under erection.

There was some delay in the delivery of steel work for the Power House of the Bezwada Thermal Scheme owing to the pre-occupation of overseas firms with rearmament programmes. All necessary materials have, however, been received now and the contractors expect to complete the work about February 1939. Until then the surplus power available at the Municipal Power House is being taken over by the Government and supplied to Gudivada and Ellore.

A scheme to take over and extend the Cocanada Municipal Generating Station was sanctioned by the Government in March 1938; specifications have been issued for the electrical gear and the necessary lines have been surveyed and aligned. The work will be completed in 1939.

There were 35 electricity undertakings worked by local authorities. The Virudunagar, Dindigul and Pollachi undertakings which were managed by Government and had reached the profit-earning stage, were handed over to the respective municipal councils on 1st April 1938.

BUILDINGS.

A number of important building works included in the budget for 1938-39 were continued or started during the year. As the building of a new Parliament House has been given up the Government approved of the extension of the Secretariat buildings and improvement to the Council chamber in Fort St. George at a cost of approximately Rs. 2 lakhs to provide for the accommodation of the Madras Legislative Assembly and the staff of the Secretariat of the Legislature. This sum is much less than the expenditure proposed for a new Parliament House. The work is in progress. Other items in the budget include the construction of the Headquarters Hospital at Cocanada at a cost of Rs. 2.56 lakhs, the remodelling of the General Hospital, Madras, at a cost of Rs. 2.29 lakhs, the construction of the Headquarters Hospital at Madura at a cost of Rs. 4.10 lakhs, the building of an out-patient block in Vizagapatam at a cost of Rs. 1.5 lakhs, the construction of a septic ward in the Government Rayapuram Hospital at a cost of Rs. 0.90 lakh, extensions to the Mental Hospital, Madras, at a cost of Rs. 0.80 lakh, an additional building for the Lady Willingdon Training College at a cost of Rs. 0.60 lakh and the remodelling of the Government Press at a cost of Rs. 1.15 lakhs.

ROADS.

In 1936-37 there were 41,886 miles of road maintained by the Government and local bodies. Most of the roads are maintained by district boards and municipalities with the aid of Government grants. The Public Works Department directly maintains only certain important roads. The budget of 1938-39 provides grants of Rs. 19.80 lakhs for trunk roads, Rs. 14.40 lakhs for important marketing roads and Rs. 5.25 lakhs for roads and bridges.

One-fifth of the tax of 10 annas a gallon on petrol is credited to the Road Development Fund and 85 per cent of this is distributed to the Provinces and Indian States for the construction of new roads and bridges and improvements to existing ones. On 1st April 1938 the Madras Government held a balance of Rs. 31.85 lakhs received from the fund, and was entitled in addition to Rs. 20.79 lakhs held by the Government of India for the period up to 30th September 1937. The estimated share of the Madras Government for the period from 30th September 1937 to 31st March 1939 is approximately Rs. 30 lakhs, making a total in all of Rs. 82.64 lakhs. The sum is being spent in accordance with a seven-year plan of road development approved by the Provincial Board of Communications at a meeting held in March 1937 and since approved by the Government of India. The budget for 1938-39 provides for grants from the fund totalling Rs. 14.77 lakhs to local bodies for works in progress or new works.

The chief works to be executed wholly or partially from these grants include the construction of a bridge across the Gowtami-Godavari at Alamur in the East Godavari district costing approximately Rs. 24 lakhs, a girder bridge over the Ponnai on the Madras-Bombay Trunk Road costing Rs. 7.31 lakhs, a bridge across the Bharatapuzha River on the Tirur-Ponnani road costing Rs. 7.77 lakhs, a bridge over the Korapuzha river costing Rs. 3.65 lakhs, a bridge over the Murat River costing Rs. 2.82 lakhs, a bridge across the Cauvery River at Pugalur on the Salem-Dindigul road costing Rs. 8 lakhs, and the reconstruction of the bridge over the Sarada on the Great Northern Trunk Road costing Rs. 2.14 lakhs. In addition a provision of Rs. 3.23 lakhs was made from the fund for works to be executed by the Public Works Department. Of these the chief item is the laying of ten miles of cement concrete road along the Great Western Trunk Road at a cost of Rs. 5.89 lakhs.

As an experiment several types of road surfaces have been laid between miles 4 and 12 of the Northern Trunk Road at a cost of Rs. 3.27 lakhs so as to find out which type gives the most satisfactory surface consistent with economy in initial cost and maintenance. The Government of India sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1.5 lakhs from their reserve and the balance amount has been met from the Government's share of the Road Development Fund. The work was completed in April last and the results are being watched.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The control of the Sanitary Engineering Department was retransferred to the Public Works Department, as also was the execution of major water-supply and drainage schemes. Owing to the outbreak of famine in the Ceded districts a special famine division was formed at Bellary in January and closed in December.

CHAPTER XII.—EXCISE.

EXCISE.

The system of partial prohibition in the Nilgiris was continued and appears to have been successful. It consists in prohibiting the sale of liquor to any member of the hill tribes except on a medical certificate. To check evasion of this restriction by means of purchases through others, the permissible limit of private possession was reduced from four to two drams.

It is the policy of the department to make the rates of duty and tree tax low enough to discourage illicit practices, but not so low as to encourage drinking or sacrifice revenue unnecessarily. In accordance with this policy the rates remained generally unchanged. The enhanced issue price of opium and the new licence fees for distilleries, arrack warehouses and depots, however, remained in force.

The total excise revenue during the first nine months of the year was Rs. 293 lakhs as against Rs. 307 lakhs in the corresponding period of 1937.

PROHIBITION.

The Prohibition Act continued to be in force in Salem district and was extended on 1st October 1938 to Cuddapah and Chittoor districts. The enforcement of the Act in all these districts is entrusted to the Police Department.

In Salem, Prohibition has been successfully enforced since 1st October 1937. The number of people from Salem crossing the border to drink in Coimbatore district, however, seems to be on the increase. The liquor shops in the belt areas are working under restrictions. The supply of

arrack to the shops and the number of trees permitted to be tapped are limited to the average of the previous five years and the possession of toddy or arrack outside licensed premises is an offence. These restrictions have been effective. At a certain stage the consumption of denatured spirits in Salem showed an increase but that has now been effectively checked. Smuggling of ganja still continues but only in small quantities. It is difficult to stamp out this form of crime which must have been prevalent, in a measure, even in pre-Prohibition days. In Chittoor and Cuddapah, the Collectors' reports on the first two months working of Prohibition show that it has been enthusiastically adopted by the people. Very few cases of illicit distillation have been detected in Cuddapah, a district which was formerly notorious for illicit distillation.

In Salem district where the effects have been observed by many competent men the Act has proved of great benefit to the agriculturists and labouring classes by raising their standard of living and reducing their indebtedness. Ameliorative measures have also been adopted under the guidance of a Special Development Officer and include the promotion of thrift societies, the fostering of co-operative enterprises, the organization of games and other diversions as counter-attractions to drink, and the provision of alternative modes of employment for men who previously lived exclusively on tapping and who were thrown out of work by the enforcement of Prohibition.

CHAPTER XIII.—SCHEDULED CLASSES.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

Two important measures for the amelioration of the Scheduled Classes were passed during the year. The Removal of Civil Disabilities Bill, of Sri Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah provides that no Harijan shall be prevented merely by reason of his caste from enjoying any social or public amenity to which other classes of Hindus have access or which is maintained for the use of the public or out of State or Local funds and that no court of law shall recognise any such disability.

The Malabar Temple Entry Bill provides for the throwing open of major temples to excluded classes if it is favoured by the majority opinion among the non-excluded castes who are voters for the general constituency of the Madras Legislative Assembly in the revenue taluk in which the temple is situated.

EDUCATIONAL CONCESSIONS.

The policy of the Government has been to endeavour as far as possible to get Scheduled Class pupils admitted into ordinary schools, and to open special schools only where this is impossible or where there are no ordinary schools. To enforce this policy, the Government have refused recognition and aid and grants to schools which decline to admit Scheduled Class pupils, and have laid upon schools which contain no such pupils the burden of proving that they have not refused admission to them. The Government were also running 1,190 special labour schools on 31st March 1938. Scholarships are granted to Scheduled Class pupils for elementary, secondary, collegiate, special, commercial, professional and industrial education. Scheduled Class

pupils pay no fees in public elementary schools and can obtain half-fee concessions in secondary schools and colleges and full-fee remissions in Arts Colleges on the production of poverty certificates. Still further concessions are granted by some local bodies including total fee exemption and the supply of books and slates free of cost. Scheduled Class pupils pay no fees for the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination. The Government make boarding grants, run five hostels to give free board and lodging to Scheduled Class students and subsidise twenty-eight hostels run by private bodies for this purpose.

REPRESENTATION IN THE SERVICES.

Members of the Scheduled Classes are given concessions in employment in Government service by the reservation of approximately one in every twelve appointments, the raising of the age limit to 27 and the lowering of the general educational standard in their cases.

AMENITIES.

The Government assist the Scheduled Classes to acquire house sites by bearing half the cost subject to certain limits and by collecting the balance in easy instalments. Considerable extents of land, both in ordinary and in newly disafforested areas have been reserved for and assigned to the Scheduled Classes in addition to the unreserved areas for which they can apply. They are also given concessions by being allowed to pay land value for wet land at a price fixed by the Collector and in instalments.

Co-operative societies have been specially organized for the benefit of the Scheduled Classes to enable them to obtain loans for the acquisition of house sites, agriculture and general purposes and to secure leases of Government lands.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

The work for the amelioration of the Scheduled Classes is under the direct control of the District Collectors subject to the general supervision of the Commissioner of Labour. To increase the range and effectiveness of the work done for the Scheduled Classes the Government have constituted a Provincial Advisory Board consisting of five members with the Labour Commissioner as its President, and for each district, a District Advisory Committee consisting of three members with the Collector of the district as its President. The function of the Provincial Advisory Board is to co-ordinate the work of the District Committees and to help the Commissioner of Labour in all matters concerning the amelioration of the conditions of the Scheduled Classes. The District Committees are to be in touch with the officers entrusted with the work of the amelioration of the conditions of the Scheduled Classes in the district and they are to advise the Collector on all matters relating to their welfare.

In addition to the sums spent on the general welfare of the community in which the Scheduled Classes also share, a sum of Rs. 11.29 lakhs has been included in the budget for 1938-39 for activities conducted specially for their benefit.

CHAPTER XIV.—LABOUR.

INDUSTRIAL LABOUR.

There was a phenomenal increase in the number of labour unions registered under the Act as many as 41 unions having been registered. The registration of four unions was cancelled during the year. The total number of unions registered since the inception of the Act is 118, of which 85 unions were functioning at the close of the year.

The labour policy of the Government concerning strikes and lock outs was first enunciated in clear terms in their Press Communique of the 22nd October 1937. The immediate cause for the announcement of the policy was the growing concern and anxiety of the Government at the epidemic of strikes that followed in the wake of their assumption of office on the 14th July 1937. There were instances of labour going on strike without prior representations and negotiations and without giving the employer adequate time for the consideration of alleged grievances. The Government therefore made it quite clear that they strongly disapproved of strikes when all other available methods of representation had not been exhausted and that their policy was that "internal settlement" was preferable to "external settlement" of trade disputes. In cases, however, where an internal settlement was found not possible, intervention was considered justifiable both in the interest of the community at large and of the industry in particular.

There was a large number of labour disputes culminating in strikes or lock-outs. As many as 54 strikes were reported of which 16 occurred in Textile Mills. Fourteen of these strikes were successful, fourteen were partially

successful and the rest were unsuccessful. The strikes were generally peaceful.

The Government intervened and took action to end the disputes in several cases. The Government appointed a Judge of the High Court as arbitrator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Madras Electric Tramways and Supply Corporation, Ltd., Madras. The Labour Commissioner was the arbitrator in the Madura Mills dispute. In both these cases the award was in favour of the workers and was accepted by the Management. Under the Indian Trade Disputes Act, the Government constituted a Board of Conciliation in respect of the Choolai Mills Labour dispute and Courts of Enquiry in respect of the disputes in the Textile Mills in Coimbatore, the Diocesan Press at Madras, the Western India Match Factory at Tiruvottiyur, and the Chittivalsa Jute Mill Company at Vizagapatam. The decision was in favour of the workers in the Diocesan Press and against the workers in the Choolai Mills disputes while it was partly in their favour and partly against them in the other two cases. The Government made their recommendations, based on investigation by the Labour Commissioner, on the minimum standard wages to be paid to the workers in the spinning and weaving sections in the Textile Mills in Coimbatore.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

A new section was added to the Indian Emigration Act during the year empowering the Government of India to prohibit by a notification all persons or any specified class of persons from departing by sea out of British India to any specified country beyond the limits of India for the purpose of unskilled work, unless possessed of a prescribed permit or otherwise exempted by general or special order of the Government of India from the provision of the notification. The condition of the rubber and tin industries in

Malaya continued to be depressed. The flow of unassisted labourers tended to swell the labour force in Malaya over the requirements. The Government of India felt that the continuance of assisted emigration was undesirable and prohibited it from June 15th, 1938. After that date only those who were joining their relations were permitted to proceed. Over 2,500 persons were assisted to go to Malaya and over 19,000 unassisted deck passengers embarked up to the end of November 1938. In addition 800 skilled workers were registered as emigrants. Over 27,000 assisted repatriates returned from Malaya. There was a slight decrease in the number of labourers despatched to Ceylon. Only non-recruited or voluntary emigrants were allowed to go through the Ports. There was no recruitment by licensed kanganies. There were complaints that a large number of persons left for Ceylon as voluntary emigrants while, in fact, they were advised or induced to do so by unlicensed kanganies. As a check against this, directions were issued that the Village Headman should certify as not so induced, only those who produced before him communications from relatives or friends in Ceylon belonging to the same village or from their previous employers.

APPENDIX.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, 1938.

GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Lord Erskine, G.C.I.E.

CABINET.

The Honourable Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, Prime Minister.

The Honourable Mr. T. Prakasam, Minister in charge of the Revenue Department.

The Honourable Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur, Minister in charge of the Public Works Department.

The Honourable Dr. P. Subbarayan, Minister in charge of Education and Legal Departments.

The Honourable Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister in charge of Public Health Department.

The Honourable Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai, Minister in charge of Agriculture and Rural Development Department.

The Honourable Mr. V. V. Giri, Minister in charge of Industries and Labour Department.

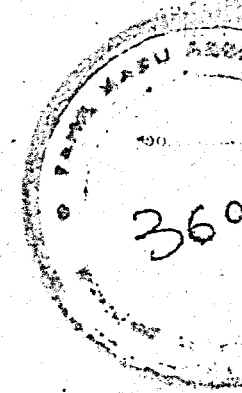
The Honourable Mr. S. Ramanathan, Minister in charge of Administration Reports and Public Information Department.

The Honourable Mr. K. Raman Menon, Minister in charge of Courts and Prisons Department.

The Honourable Mr. B. Gopala Reddi, Minister in charge of Local Administration Department.

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The Madras Tolls and Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1938	2
The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic (Amendment) Act, 1938	2
The Indian Lunacy (Madras Amendment) Act, 1938	2
The Madras Medical Registration (Amendment) Act, 1938	2
The Madras Estates Land (Amendment) Act, 1938	2
The Prisons and Indian Lunacy (Madras Amendment) Act, 1938	3
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