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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. In conformity with the change made last year, the Report is now split up into two separate publications. This book which corresponds to the old Part I describes in outline the administration during 1939. The former Part II is now published under the title "Madras Administration Report, 1938-39."

Book 450

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MADRAS IN 1939.

(OUTLINE OF THE ADMINISTRATION.)

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.

The Congress ministry under the Premiership of the Hon'ble Sri C. Rajagopalachariar resigned on 30th October 1939. As a situation had arisen in which the Government of the Province could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, His Excellency the Governor in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 93 of the Act, by a Proclamation dated the 30th October 1939 declared that all his functions under the Act would be exercised by him in his discretion.

The following gentlemen were appointed by him as his Advisers :—

Mr. G. T. Boag, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

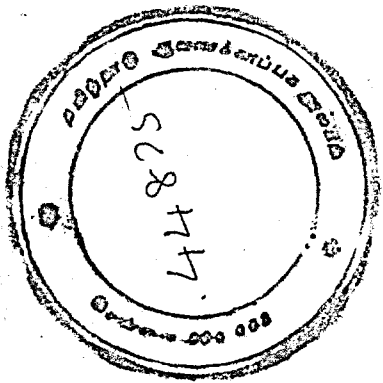
Mr. H. M. Hood, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Mr. T. G. Rutherford, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.

They continued to hold office as Advisers during the rest of the year.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislative Assembly sat on 45 days of which 44 were allotted for official business and one for non-official business. The Legislative Council sat on 24 days to conduct official business. Non-official business was allowed on 2 of these days.



Twenty-two Government Bills and one non-official Bill were passed into law during the year.

The following were the Government Bills that were passed into law. The Madras Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 1939, amends section 19 (1) of the principal Act so as to vest the power to order prosecutions in respect of offences punishable under that Act, in Deputy Tahsildars also. The Madras Elementary Education (Amendment) Act, 1939, abolishes the District Educational Councils brought into existence by the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, and vests the powers hitherto exercised by them in departmental officers. The Madras Public Health Act, 1939, contains provisions for the advancement of public health in the Province. The Madras Prevention of Adulteration (Amendment) Act, 1939, extends the time within which a person who wilfully gives a false warranty in respect of any food sold may be prosecuted, to three months from the date on which proceedings against a vendor of the food are finally disposed of. The Madras Electricity Duty Act, 1939, provides for the levy of a duty on sales of electrical energy effected by licensees at a price of more than 2 annas per unit. Small licensees whose sales do not exceed 16,666 units a month or are less than 200,000 units in a year are exempt from payment of the duty. The Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1939, provides for the levy of a tax on retail sales of motor spirit in the Province of Madras. The Canals and Public Ferries (Amendment) Act, 1939, vests the power of levying tolls in the local body itself and provides for the administration of the proceeds by it. The Madras Tobacco (Taxation of Sales and Licensing) Act, 1939, provides for the levy of a tax on the sale of tobacco and the licensing of trade therein. The Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, provides for the levy of a general tax on the sale of goods in the Province. The provisions of the Act do not apply to the sale of

electrical energy, motor spirit, manufactured tobacco and certain other goods. The sale of bullion and specie, cotton, cotton yarn and cloth woven on hand-loom and sold by persons dealing exclusively in such cloth is exempt from taxation. The tax is levied only on dealers whose estimated turnover is not less than Rs. 10,000 per annum. The Madras Entertainments Tax Act, 1939, repeals the Madras Local Authorities Entertainments Tax Act, 1926, and provides for the levy by the Provincial Government of a tax on amusements and other entertainments. Provision is however made for payment every year to local bodies which were in receipt of an income from the tax levied under the Act repealed, of a sum equivalent to the average net annual income derived by them from the tax during the three years preceding 1st April 1939. The Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1939, provides that a person removed by Government from the office of chairman or vice-chairman of a municipal council shall not be eligible for election to either of the said offices until the date on which the notice of the next ordinary elections to the municipal council is published or until the expiry of six months whichever is earlier. Similar provision has also been made in the case of presidents and vice-presidents of local boards removed from office by Government. The Act also provides for exemption from property tax of irrigation works vesting in the Crown, including water courses and buildings and lands adjacent and appertaining to such works, Crown lands set apart free for recreation purposes and all other Crown property from which no income is derived, as may be notified by the Provincial Government. The Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams (Amendment) Act, 1939, enables the Government by notification to apply with such modifications and restrictions as may be considered necessary the provisions relating to public health, contained in the Madras Local Boards Act and other enactments to the Tirumalai Hills

area and to authorize the Commissioner of the Devasthanams to perform the duties and exercise the powers assigned to a panchayat and its president or any other authority under the provisions so applied. The Act also permits the utilization of the funds of the Devasthanams for the establishment and maintenance of a veterinary hospital for the animals belonging to the Devasthanams, a hospital for the benefit of Hindus generally and an asylum for Hindu lepers and for the construction and maintenance of a poor home for destitute and physically disabled Hindus. The Madras Borstal Schools (Amendment) Act, 1939, empowers Government to transfer to Borstal schools in suitable cases, offenders who have been sentenced to transportation and those who have been sentenced to transportation in the first instance but whose sentence has subsequently been commuted into a sentence of imprisonment. The Madras Children (Amendment) Act, 1939, gives power to the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools in urgent cases to order the release of youthful offenders or children on licence. It also provides for the transfer of youthful offenders, young persons or children from certified schools in this Province to such schools or similar institutions in other Provinces and *vice versa*. The Madras Revenue Recovery (Amendment) Act, 1939, provides for the recovery of all sums due to the Provincial Government, including compensation for any loss or damage sustained by them in consequence of a breach of contract, as arrears of land revenue under the Madras Revenue Recovery Act, 1864. The Madras Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1939, provides that no notice of dismissal given without sufficient cause to a woman worker within a period of five months before her confinement can deprive her of the maternity benefit to which she would otherwise have been entitled. It also makes a woman worker eligible for maternity benefit if she has been employed in one or more factories of the same

employer for not less than 240 days within a period of one year immediately preceding the date on which she gives notice of her intention to claim maternity benefit. The Madras Restoration of Village Officers (Validation) Act, 1939, validates all orders which have been or may be passed by the Government or on their direction restoring to office of village officers who lost their offices by reason of their association with political movements. The Madras Commercial Crops Markets (Amendment) Act, 1939, provides that the four members of the committee hitherto elected by licensees under section 4 shall be elected instead from among themselves by the licensees and registered buyers, sellers and buyers and sellers. The Act also provides for the levy of a subscription from persons for whose use information regarding crop statistics and marketing is collected, and for the utilization of the funds of the market committee on schemes for the extension or cultural improvement of commercial crops or on the grant, with the approval of Government, of financial aid to similar schemes undertaken by other bodies or individuals. The Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1939, introduces a system of general triennial elections to the Corporation of Madras. The Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1939, (i) deletes the exemption granted to certain classes of persons from the payment of deposits when standing as candidates for election and enables Government to make provision in the election rules, requiring such deposits as may be considered appropriate to their case; (ii) provides for the allocation of more than one non-reserved seat to any ward or circle which does not have a reserved seat; (iii) authorizes a person appointed by the prescribed authority to conduct presidential elections to panchayats; and (iv) restricts exemption from the payment of property tax on buildings and lands used for charitable purposes to owners who give their

buildings rent-free to charitable institutions. The Madras Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act, 1939, provides that if in the opinion of the trustee or other authority in charge of any Hindu temple in the Province the worshippers in such temple are generally not opposed to the entry into or offer of worship in such temple by excluded classes, such trustee or other authority may with the approval of Government throw open the temple to such classes.

The Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks (Amendment) Act, 1939, empowers the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and officers of his department authorized by him in writing and such officials engaged in the relief of rural indebtedness and such officers of co-operative banks, as are authorized by the Provincial Government in this behalf, to compel creditors to give evidence and produce all documents in their possession or power.

The non-official Bill passed into law is the Mappilla Marumakkattayam Act. The Act applies to that section of the Mappillas who follow the Marumakkattayam Law in the matter of inheritance. It defines the powers of the Karnavan of a tarwad and makes an individual or tavazhi partition of a tarwad possible, if it is not registered as impartible. It also makes provision for registration of a tarwad as impartible and for the cancellation of such registration.

Another non-official Bill, the Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Bill, was pending at the end of the year.

Two important Government resolutions were passed; one recommended that the report of the Madras Estates Land Act Enquiry Committee be taken into consideration, and the other protested against the action of the British Government in making India a participant in the war between Great Britain and Germany without the consent of the people of India.

The chief non-official resolution passed in the Assembly protested against the reservation of certain specified posts in the Provinces for members of the Indian Medical Service. A non-official resolution in the Council urged the necessity for a trade agreement with Burma in consultation with the Legislature of this Province.

MALABAR TENANCY COMMITTEE.

In October 1938 the Government gave notice of a bill to amend the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, in certain details. Owing to the persistent demand for a more thorough revision of the Act, this bill was not introduced. Instead, the Government in July 1939 appointed a Committee consisting of 19 non-officials with Sri K. Kuttikrishna Menon, B.A., B.L., as Chairman to study the nature and effects of the land tenures prevailing in the Malabar district and in adjacent areas and to suggest legislative measures for the regulation of tenancy matters in those areas. The Committee held its first meeting in August 1939 and issued a questionnaire to the public. Over 450 replies were received to the questionnaire from all the interests concerned. During the months of October, November and December 1939, the Committee toured in the Malabar district, the Gudalur taluk of the Nilgiri district and the Kasaragod taluk of the South Kanara district and examined 88 witnesses representing all the interests involved. After the examination of a few witnesses in Madras, the Committee is expected to submit a report by the end of February 1940.

THE SERVICES.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

The Commission conducted a competitive examination for recruitment to the Madras Ministerial Service in October 1939; there were 3,149 qualified candidates as

against 2,514 last year; the number of vacancies was 747. The competitive examination for the Madras Judicial Subordinate Service was held along with the Madras Ministerial Service examination; there were 182 qualified candidates as against 327 last year; the number of vacancies was 83. The Commission also conducted a competitive examination for recruitment to the Madras Secretariat Service (Typists) in December 1939; there were 24 qualified candidates for 12 vacancies. Direct recruitment was made to 22 classes of posts. The Commission advised the Government on 41 cases of transfer from the Subordinate to the Provincial Services, 16 proposals for disciplinary action, 21 appeals against orders of punishment, 28 memorials, 2 cases for the reimbursement of the cost of defence incurred by public servants, 1 case for the grant of pension and 1 for the grant of compassionate gratuity and 66 references regarding Services Rules.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE SERVICE OF GOVERNMENT.

The number of Government servants from each community employed in the service of Government on the 1st April 1939 is shown in the table below:—

Community.	Gazetted officers in permanent appointments.	Non-Gazetted officers in permanent appointments on a pay of		
		Rs. 100 and over.	Rs. 35 and upwards, but below Rs. 100.	Less than Rs. 35.
Brahmans	597	3,583	8,864	1,441
Non-Brahman Hindus ..	400	2,545	8,216	33,635
Scheduled Classes ..	9	29	139	1,930
Muhammadans	102	468	1,590	10,082
Non-Asiatics and Anglo-Indians.	319	468	58	44
Indian Christians	155	754	1,537	2,814
Others.. ..	9	5	22	82

COST OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

The following statement gives particulars of the cost and strength of the services and the pensionary liability of the Government in 1938-39:—

Salaries and Pensions.

Particulars of services.	Salaries.		Pensions.	
	Total number of posts (1938-39).	Cost (1938-39).	Number of Pensioners (1938-39).	Cost (1938-39).
(1)	(2)	(3) RS. LAKHS.	(4)	(5) RS. LAKHS.
Indian Civil Service	140	30.16	85	8.57
All-India Services, excluding the Indian Civil Service.	238	35.24	162	13.68
Miscellaneous charges connected with pensions of all All-India Services.	..	..	..	0.94
Contribution payable under the Government of India Act, 1935, towards pensions of Military officers in Civil employment.	..	..	66	2.25
Provincial Services	1,419	98.39	685	84.32
Subordinate, Ministerial and Inferior Services excluding Village Establishments.	92,108	422.55	20,847	
Village Establishments ..	108,237	115.33	..	..
Total	202,142	701.67	21,845	109.76
Total, Salaries and Pensions for 1938-39.	..	..	811.43	

CHAPTER II.—FINANCE.

Revenue in the year 1937-38 exceeded expenditure by Rs. 17·66 lakhs, due mainly to the assignment by the Central Government of Rs. 18·75 lakhs out of the proceeds of income-tax. The closing balance at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 136·87 lakhs, including earmarked balances but excluding investments during the year from the Provincial surplus cash balances and from the Famine Relief Fund. In the Budget estimates for 1938-39 a small surplus of Rs. 0·12 lakh was anticipated, but the actual transactions of that year resulted in a surplus of Rs. 3·73 lakhs.

The year 1938-39 opened with a balance of Rs. 279·68 lakhs (cash Rs. 136·87 lakhs; investments Rs. 142·81 lakhs) and closed with a balance of Rs. 213·91 lakhs, of which Rs. 76·61 lakhs were in cash and Rs. 137·30 lakhs in securities of the Central Government including treasury bills, and securities of the Madras Government. Those balances included certain amounts at credit of accounts intended to be spent for specific purposes. Excluding these, the Government's unearmarked balance at the beginning of 1938-39 was Rs. 136·96 lakhs, of which Rs. 57·25 lakhs were in cash, and at the close of the year Rs. 80·25 lakhs, of which Rs. 6·15 lakhs were in cash. There was thus a fall of Rs. 56·71 lakhs which was arrived at as shown below :—

	LAKHS. RS.
(1) Additions to the balance—	
Revenue surplus	3·73
Loan raised in the open market	151·29
Increase of State Provident Fund balances.	12·24
	167·26

	LAKHS. RS.
(2) Drawal on the balance—	
Capital expenditure outside the revenue account	138·76
Excess of disbursements over receipts under debt, deposit and remittance heads —	
(i) Loans and advances by the Provincial Government	53·53
(ii) Other debt, deposit and remittance heads	31·68
	223·97
Net drawal on the opening (2)—(1) ..	56·71

According to the budget, the year 1939-40 was expected to close with a deficit of Rs. 17·27 lakhs. The latest information available, however, indicates that, on account of the levy of new taxes, the deficit anticipated in the Revenue account for the year will be wiped out.

CHAPTER III.—THE SEASON.

RAINFALL.

On the whole, the south-west monsoon was deficient in all the districts except Bellary and the Nilgiris where the rainfall was slightly more than usual. The area sown was above the average except in the Circars and the Carnatic. The rainfall from the north-east monsoon in October was generally above the normal except in the Anantapur and Chingleput districts, and there were floods in parts of the West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur districts. Especially heavy rains were experienced in November, particularly in the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly.

FLOODS.

The heavy rains during the last week of October flooded many villages in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur, and considerable damage was caused to standing crops and harvested grain stacked in the fields; a few cattle perished and communications were interrupted by breaches. East Godavari district also was affected, though in a smaller measure. The Government sanctioned Rs. 1,000 out of the Cyclone Relief Fund to each of the Collectors of Guntur, Kistna and West Godavari for expenditure on immediate relief measures including the provision of food and building materials to people rendered homeless, and further sums of Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 500 for general flood relief in Guntur and West Godavari respectively. Special remissions were also granted for crops destroyed by the floods.

Continuous rains in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts in the second week of November followed by an exceptionally heavy downpour caused serious floods, particularly in Tanjore and roads, railway lines and the banks of channels and tanks breached in several places,

but the damage to standing crops was comparatively small as they were under water only for two or three days. In Tanjore eight human lives were lost and 65 cattle perished while in Trichinopoly three persons lost their lives and 297 cattle and sheep died. Relief measures were promptly undertaken with the aid of a grant of Rs. 3,000 from Government funds and private charity.

FAMINE.

The north-east monsoon of 1938 was a partial failure, particularly in the districts of Cuddapah, Nellore, Chittoor, Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Salem and Coimbatore; Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely were also affected later. Although there were no large tracts in any districts where total failure of crops had been experienced by the end of December 1938, there was a considerable lack of employment in the Kalahasti taluk of the Chittoor district and the Dharapuram taluk of the Coimbatore district. In order to provide work for agricultural labourers the district boards concerned embarked upon a programme of road building with the aid of part grants totalling Rs. 20,112 from the Government. Conditions deteriorated in the districts of Cuddapah and Chingleput also and the Government helped the district boards of these two districts to start road works with part grant amounting to Rs. 94,185. The district boards of Nellore, Madura and Ramnad were allowed to draw upon their accumulated resources in the Railway Cess Fund for the purpose of providing employment in their areas. Special allotments amounting to Rs. 54,460 were also sanctioned for repairing minor irrigation works in the areas adversely affected in the South Arcot district. The situation elsewhere was not such as to warrant the need for any grants.

Distress in the Coimbatore district became acute and four test works were started in February 1939, in the

taluks of Dharapuram, Palladam and Udamalpet. The number of persons resorting to these works rapidly increased, proving the existence of sufficient distress to justify their conversion into relief works by the end of the month. As the distress spread, additional relief works had to be opened and by the beginning of October eleven relief works and three village works were functioning. The maximum average daily attendance on these works was 80,651. There were also 20,821 persons in receipt of cash doles and 4,659 were relieved at kitchens. The total estimated expenditure on famine works, gratuitous relief and fodder concessions up to the end of November was approximately Rs. 18 lakhs. Loans were freely given under the Agriculturists' Loans and Land Improvement Loans Acts and the amount distributed in the Coimbatore district up to the end of November was Rs. 7.16 lakhs.

To meet the scarcity of fodder in the affected taluks of the Coimbatore district concessional rates of railway freight were sanctioned for the transport of fodder from the Tanjore district and up till the end of September 1939, 2,601 broad and metre gauge wagons of fodder were imported into the district. Similar concessions in railway freight were sanctioned to combat the scarcity of fodder in the Srivilliputtur taluk of the Ramnad district.

Later in the year, adverse seasonal conditions in the Chingleput district led to the starting of five test works in the taluks of Chingleput, Madurantakam, Sriperumbudur, Tiruvallur and Ponneri, but the response in the first three taluks was poor, indicating that famine works were not necessary; they were closed shortly afterwards. The test work in Ponneri was continued until the first week of November and that in Tiruvallur until the end of the month. At Tiruvallur the maximum daily average number of persons relieved was 858.

A good south-west monsoon broke the long spell of drought and with the commencement of agricultural operations conditions in all districts rapidly regained normal, enabling all famine works to be closed by the end of November.

PRICES.

On the outbreak of war, the retail prices of almost all commodities whether locally produced or imported, rose sharply. The Government at once issued a communiqué stating that there was no justification for this rapid rise in view of the fact that there were ample supplies and no prospect of shortage and warning traders that profiteering would not be allowed. This, and a further communiqué pointing out that authority had been obtained from the Central Government to fix the maximum prices of essential commodities under the Defence of India Rules, 1939, had the desired effect and prices dropped to a figure not far above that prevailing on the 1st September. Reports received from district Collectors, however, revealed a great variation from district to district in the prices charged by retailers for essential commodities and a tendency for some unscrupulous persons to take advantage of the general uncertainty to charge different prices to different customers. With the object of countering such tendencies the Government set up taluk advisory committees in the districts of Anantapur, Nellore, South Arcot, Madura and Tinnevely with Revenue Divisional Officers as chairmen and the chairmen of municipal councils and representatives of wholesalers and retailers as members, and entrusted to them the duty of determining fair prices for essential commodities as a guide for merchants and the public. The Collectors of all districts were subsequently empowered to form taluk advisory committees whenever they considered it desirable to do so. The object is to bring the force of

public opinion into play and check any tendency to profiteer without, however, interfering with the normal working of economic factors in the price of commodities. The only commodity of which there was a serious shortage is dyestuffs and the handloom weaving industry was badly hit owing to the scarcity and to the high prices charged for the supplies available. The Government in consultation with the Government of India, were taking steps to obtain a fair share of the stocks available and for their distribution to the handloom weavers at a reasonable price.

LAND REVENUE CONCESSIONS.

In addition to ordinary seasonal remissions of assessment on wet lands and special remissions of dry assessment granted on account of adverse seasonal conditions in the districts of Anantapur, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Tinnevely, East Godavari and South Kanara, the following land revenue concessions were granted on account of the prevailing low prices of agricultural produce:—

- (1) the cancellation of the percentage enhancements imposed at resettlement on dry, wet and garden lands in certain tracts resettled in recent years;
- (2) the reduction of the wet assessment by 2 annas in the rupee in the remaining areas in the Province; and
- (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 Kistna districts and in the deltaic tracts of the Guntur district.

These concessions involved a loss of revenue of Rs. 67·07 lakhs.

CHAPTER IV.—LAW AND ORDER.

POLICE.

All classes of crime increased during the year, the total increase as compared with 1938 being about 10 per cent. The number of cases of dacoity rose by 63 per cent, of cattle theft by 36 per cent, of robbery by 20 per cent, of house-breaking by 17 per cent, of theft by 10 per cent and of murder by 1·9 per cent. The districts of Trichinopoly, North Arcot, South Arcot, Kistna, Chingleput, Malabar, North Madura, Nellore, Ramnad, East Godavari, Guntur and Tinnevely showed the greatest increases while only Anantapur and Bellary recorded appreciable decreases. There was a decrease of 2 per cent in detection.

There were 33 riots during the year of which the most serious were the communal riots at Vellore and Nellore caused by Hindu festival processions passing in front of mosques. On five occasions the police had to open fire on rioters before order could be restored. In the Vyasarpadi area of Madras City there was a clash between Hindus and Muslims on the last day of Muharram. This was followed by a number of assaults by Hindus on lonely Muslims in the streets and on the beach. Effective action by the Police led to the break up of the organization responsible. Labour disputes at Chittivalsa, Cocanada, Madura and Tiruvottiyur caused considerable anxiety but there were no untoward events except at Chittivalsa where firearms had to be used. One person was killed and four injured.

The additional police force at Beeralli in Bellary district was disbanded during the year. An additional police force was stationed at Vowalthotti in Tinnevely district to control the faction prevailing in that area.

Prohibition was introduced in North Arcot district from the 1st October 1939 and as in the districts of Salem,

Chittoor and Cuddapah where the Act was already in force the police were entrusted with its enforcement.

The first batch of probationary sub-inspectors trained under the revised curriculum at the Police Training School, Vellore, started work in the districts. The Central Recruits School at Vizianagram was re-opened during the year and the maximum number of recruits in each of the recruits' schools was raised temporarily from 275 to 375 to impart training to the men enlisted to take the place of those deputed for Prohibition work in North Arcot and of others entrusted with the enforcement of the Defence of India Rules promulgated on the outbreak of War.

The scheme under which games were conducted in three selected rural centres by non-official committees under the guidance of the police was extended to three more centres in each district. A scheme to replace the departmental prosecuting staff by Assistant Public Prosecutors recruited from the Bar and working under the control of District Magistrates was introduced as an experiment in five districts. The Government approved a proposal for the police to instruct elementary and secondary school teachers on 'safety first' measures.

PRISONS.

There was an increase in the daily average number of convicts and undertrial prisoners and a decline in the number of civil prisoners. The number of prison offences increased from 864 to 1,090. During the year 283 convicts were released on the recommendation of the Standing Advisory Board, 9 on medical grounds and 1 under a scheme of premature release. The Central Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society and the district committees continued to do good work in aiding released convicts.

There was a slight decrease in the strength of Borstal Schools and an increase in that of Certified Schools.

Improved scales of diet were introduced in the schools on the recommendation of the Director of the Nutrition Research Institute, Coonoor.

Several changes were made in prison administration during the year. Superintendents of jails have been instructed to assist prisoners in the preparation and submission of petitions for the revision of sentences. All "C" class prisoners are now provided with soapnut for bathing and soda for washing clothes, and they are allowed to have interviews with friends and relatives and to write and receive letters once in two months instead of once in three months as previously. The number of jail holidays (apart from Sundays) was increased from 5 to 10. The remission rules were amended to enable prisoners sentenced on or before the 15th of a month and those released after the 16th of a month to be granted half the full remission for the month in which they are admitted to jail or released. The Government ordered that conveyances should be provided for women prisoners, both convicted and under trial, when they are taken from courts to jails or *vice versa*, or from one jail to another and also for women prisoners who are released from jails and sub-jails, when the distance to be traversed exceeds one mile.

A radio set was installed in the Central Jail, Salem. The hand pounding of rice, which had been sanctioned as a permanent measure in the Central Jail, Trichinopoly, was extended to the Presidency Jail for Women, Vellore, and the Central Jail at Vellore.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

During the year there was an increase in the volume of crime which was probably due to the failure of the monsoon and the prevalence of famine conditions in some districts, strikes among the labourers in the Mills in the Coimbatore, East Godavari, Madura and Vizagapatam

districts and communal ill-feeling in the Madura and Ramnad districts. There was a slight decrease in grave crimes in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool and Nellore attributed to timely rains and favourable seasonal conditions. Some of the dangerous criminal gangs in the Madura and Tinnevely districts who were responsible for a series of burglaries and robberies were successfully broken up. Bench Courts and Panchayat Courts gave appreciable relief to Stipendiary Magistrates. The Village Vigilance Committees continued to render help in the detection of crime.

A special first-class Magistrate and an additional Sessions Judge were appointed temporarily in Guntur in connection with the enquiry and trial of the Sri Maruthi Mutual Benefit Policy Company fraud case. In the City of Madras the post of the Fourth Presidency Magistrate was abolished at the end of January 1939. A Special Presidency Magistrate was appointed at the beginning of the year to enquire into two sensational cases.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

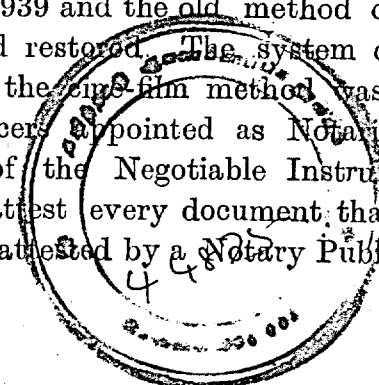
In the mufassal Civil Courts there was a slight rise in the institution of original and small cause suits and civil appeals, and a marked rise in the institution of execution petitions. The increase in the institution of original suits was greatest in the districts of North and South Malabar and was attributed mainly to the filing of suits by landlords against tenants as soon as the Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act had worked itself out in respect of rent on 30th September 1939. The decline in the institution of insolvency petitions noticed since the amendment to the Code of Civil Procedure relating to the arrest of judgment debtors continued and was accentuated by the constitution of Debt Conciliation Boards throughout the Presidency. In the City Civil Court, Madras, there was an increase in all kinds of work, the increase in suits being

unprecedented. This is attributed to the filing by the Corporation of Madras of a large number of suits to recover arrears of taxes. On the Original Side of the High Court there was no material variation in the number of civil suits filed, but the institution of insolvency petitions showed a further decline. On the Appellate Side of the High Court there was a general fall in the institution of first and second appeals while there was a substantial increase in the number of civil revision petitions.

The Courts of one additional Sessions Judge, two additional Subordinate Judges and six additional District Munsifs, were sanctioned during the year. The Court of Small Causes, Trichinopoly, and the Courts of three Subordinate Judges, one additional Subordinate Judge and one additional District Munsif, were abolished.

REGISTRATION.

The number of documents registered increased from 1,217,805 to 1,252,302 or by 2·8 per cent and the income rose from Rs. 32·68 lakhs to Rs. 32·77 lakhs; expenditure fell from Rs. 29·04 lakhs to Rs. 28·82 lakhs. The Joint Sub-Registrar of a Registrar's Office and, where there is more than one such Sub-Registrar, the seniormost of them, has been empowered to authenticate powers of attorney executed by a principal residing within any part of the district. For the registration of a will or an authority to adopt, presented open, extra copying fees were ordered to be levied. The system of copying documents by the photostat in South Malabar district was abolished from the 1st April 1939 and the old method of copying documents by hand restored. The system of photo-copying documents by the cine-film method was continued. All registering officers appointed as Notaries Public under section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act were authorized to attest every document that is required by any law to be attested by a Notary Public.



CHAPTER V.—LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

MUNICIPALITIES.

The Madras Corporation maintained 137 elementary schools in 1938-39 and gave instruction to 24,000 boys and nearly 17,000 girls. The expenditure on elementary education was about Rs. 11 lakhs. The Council spent Rs. 3.22 lakhs on medical relief, Rs. 15.63 lakhs on preventive medicine and Rs. 4.54 lakhs on its hospitals, dispensaries and child-welfare centres at which nearly 29 lakhs of patients received treatment. The amount spent on new water works was Rs. 1.19 lakhs and on maintenance Rs. 4.91 lakhs. There was an acute scarcity of water in the city owing to the almost complete failure of the north-east monsoon in 1938 and several measures had to be devised to economise water including the restriction of supply to certain hours in the day, the prohibition of the use of water for gardens and roads and other non-essential purposes and the sinking of 240 tube-wells. The Council also agreed to bear the cost of investigating a scheme to augment the supply by constructing a dam across the Kortalar river at Pundi and forming a reservoir. The total length of metalled roads maintained by the Corporation exceeded 367 miles of which 253 miles were tarred. Special attention was devoted to the formation of pavements and more than Rs. 50,000 were spent on this purpose and on kerbstones. Besides Rs. 3.50 lakhs spent on maintenance, Rs. 5.21 lakhs were expended on new drainage works and Rs. 11.04 lakhs on sanitation and conservancy. The incidence of taxation per head of the population was Rs. 8-6-9.

There were 82 district municipalities in the Presidency of which 27 enforced compulsory education. The councils

maintained 892 elementary schools for boys and 382 for girls and imparted instruction to over 99,000 boys and 68,000 girls at a total cost of Rs. 22.51 lakhs. There were also a second-grade college maintained by the Salem Council and 53 secondary schools run by other municipalities at a cost of over Rs. 11 lakhs. The councils managed 129 medical institutions including 6 hospitals, 58 dispensaries of western medicine and 65 of Indian medicine which provided relief to nearly 37 lakhs of out-patients. They also maintained 4 maternity homes, 4 hospitals exclusively for the treatment of infectious diseases and 13 medical institutions solely for the treatment of women and children. Their expenditure on ordinary account on public health amounted to nearly Rs. 64 lakhs. There were 43 municipal councils with protected water-supply schemes while 6 more were under execution. Three towns have scientific drainage systems and schemes for 15 other municipalities were in various stages of preparation or execution. The amount spent on water-supply was Rs. 8.72 lakhs and on drainage Rs. 3.58 lakhs. The councils spent altogether Rs. 29 lakhs on communications of which Rs. 15 lakhs were spent on the maintenance of a total length of 2,768 miles of roads and Rs. 10 lakhs on lighting. The running of remunerative enterprises formed an important part of the councils' activities. Their total net revenue was about Rs. 18 lakhs from the management of 266 markets, 275 cart-stands, 77 bus-stands and 145 slaughter-houses, besides tree-planting and land-development, electric-lighting and town-planning schemes. The incidence of taxation for all municipalities was on an average Rs. 3-0-2 per head.

During the year 1938-39 general elections were held in all municipalities except Chirala where the council was under supersession and Palacole where elections had been held in 1936.

DISTRICT BOARDS AND PANCHAYATS.

Consequent upon the amalgamation of all the bifurcated local fund districts so as to correspond to revenue districts, the number of district boards decreased from 35 to 24. In 1938-39 the boards maintained nearly 16,000 elementary schools including 2,590 for girls, at which education was given to nearly 11 lakhs of children. In addition, they ran 202 secondary schools with a total strength of over 46,000 pupils. Their expenditure on education was Rs. 149 lakhs, to which the Government contributed Rs. 80·34 lakhs. Medical relief was afforded to 145 lakhs of out-patients at 62 hospitals and over 1,000 dispensaries (including nearly 300 institutions of Indian medicine) at a total cost of Rs. 21 lakhs. They also spent Rs. 12 lakhs on preventive medicine including water-supply and sanitation. District boards maintained over 34,000 miles of roads of which 3,000 miles were trunk roads and the total amount spent on communications was approximately Rs. 124 lakhs including Provincial grants amounting to about Rs. 47 lakhs.

The service of Assistant Engineers under district boards was constituted into a Local Fund Service for the province as a whole and rules were framed governing the conditions of their service.

During the year 195 panchayat boards were constituted and 32 abolished leaving a total of 6,614 of which 7 were dissolved and reconstituted and 37 were under supersession. Seventeen Presidents of panchayat boards were removed from office for abusing the powers vested in them. These panchayats maintained nearly 1,500 schools and the amount of teaching grants available for distribution to them in 1939-40 was over Rs. 3 lakhs. No special

grants were made for roads and water-supply, but several such works were executed in panchayat areas with the aid of sums from the Government of India grant for rural reconstruction, the necessary one-third contribution being collected from the villagers or from the panchayat boards concerned.

CHAPTER VI.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Madras Public Health Act, which is the first measure of its kind in India, came into force in March 1939. Besides making many important changes in administrative matters, among which are the constitution of a public health board, the assignment of specific functions to the Director of Public Health and the securing of due control over the public health establishments of local authorities, the Act makes provision for water-supply, drainage and sanitation, the abatement and prevention of nuisances, the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, maternity and child-welfare measures, mosquito control, sanitary arrangements at fairs and festivals and other matters.

The cholera epidemic of the previous year continued in a severe form in the South Arcot and Tanjore districts during the first quarter of the year. The disease was mild in the Trichinopoly and Kistna districts during the first and the third quarters respectively; elsewhere only sporadic cases were reported while the districts of Salem, Anantapur and the Nilgiris were completely free. The usual preventive measures were adopted and the total number of inoculations performed during the first three quarters of the year was about 146,800.

Plague was prevalent in a mild form in certain districts: Salem, Madura and Coimbatore suffered most. Preventive measures were taken, such as the evacuation of infected areas, inoculation and rat and flea destruction by cyanogas fumigation. Researches on the epidemiology and prevention of plague were continued in the Cumbum Valley. The decided effect of intensive and continuous cyanogas fumigation on the control of plague was amply demonstrated in this highly endemic centre where plague infection

was unusually mild, particularly during the latter half of the year. A model type of rat-proof dwelling for rural areas was recommended for use in other areas by the Plague Advisory Committee of the Indian Research Fund Association.

During the year a scheme for the biological control of guinea-worm was sanctioned. The formation of nurseries for known species of cyclopocidal fish was in progress and general control operations are expected to be started in the near future.

Maternity and child-welfare work progressed steadily. The strength of the staff under local bodies exclusive of Madras City, engaged upon this work was 46 women medical officers, 20 health visitors, and 364 midwives. The total number of child-welfare centres under local bodies exclusive of Madras City was 188.

The rural sanitation unit in Tanjore district was transferred to Trichinopoly district. As usual health propaganda on the dangers of soil pollution was done with the aid of cinema films, magic lantern slides and charts. Mass treatment for hookworm was given by the Rural Sanitation Health Officers and the medical staff in hospitals and dispensaries. The Health Unit at Poonamalle continued to do useful and intensive public health work which was widely appreciated by the people. The health staff gave a large number of lectures, lantern lectures and cinema shows in addition to talks over the radio.

Sanitary arrangements during fairs and festivals were made by the local bodies concerned under the supervision of the district health staff. All the festivals in the Province passed off without any serious outbreak of cholera.

The mortality from smallpox was approximately 2,550 or about 250 more than in the previous year. The incidence was high in Madras City and the neighbouring districts of Chingleput and North Arcot which together accounted for 45 per cent of the total mortality. The

Medical College, in Anatomy, Physiology, Bio-chemistry and Organic Chemistry.

As there is now an ample supply of qualified private practitioners the Government have ordered that the privilege of private practice allowed to whole-time officers of the Madras Medical Service and the Madras Medical Subordinate Service should be withdrawn from the 1st January 1940. They will, however, be allowed to continue practice as consultants. This restriction on private practice will not apply to women medical officers.

No recruitment was made to the paid posts of civil assistant surgeons and sub-assistant surgeons as the policy of replacing salaried medical officers by honorary medical officers enunciated by the Government in 1938 was being gradually carried out. Altogether 16 posts of civil assistant surgeons in 9 districts and 2 posts of women sub-assistant surgeons were thrown open to honorary medical officers. The Government also decided to throw open a large number of other paid posts to honorary medical officers which will be filled as vacancies occur in the cadre of Government medical officers. Rules were issued regulating the appointment of honorary medical officers to local fund and municipal medical institutions and a few appointments were made by some local bodies during the year.

The Government accepted the general principle that routine leprosy work is the proper function of the medical administration of the Presidency and that specialized investigation should be under the control of the Provincial branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. In pursuance of this plan the control over certain specialized clinics was handed over to the Association. An investigation into the development of leprosy among children was being conducted at a clinic at Saidapet. Evidence was obtained indicating that the most likely period of child infection is between the ages of 5 and 13

and that the greatest factor in maintaining the disease is contact with an open case during childhood. A rural investigation unit was opened in the early part of the year and carried on active work in a selected group of villages and an urban investigation unit was being organized. The work done at the Lady Willingdon Leper Settlement included clinical investigation, a study of the influence of diet on the course of development of leprosy and experiments with new remedies for the treatment of the disease. Three training classes for medical health officers and two for medical practitioners were conducted at the settlement.

The venereal department of the General Hospital, Madras, continued to attract a large number of patients and 9,054 new cases were examined. The lady social worker, who was appointed to help the woman medical officer in the reception of women patients and to establish contact with defaulters, visited in their houses 585 patients, most of whom were defaulters, and of these 143 attended the clinic for treatment.

Hand-pounded rice, which was tried as an experiment in six headquarters hospitals in 1938 was found to be definitely more nutritious than milled rice and it was ordered to be used in all Government hospitals during the year under review.

The total number of rural dispensaries that worked during the year was 418 subsidized and 88 non-subsidized. The new scheme of training rural medical practitioners in public health work was progressing satisfactorily and four batches of rural practitioners were trained. The scheme was extended to include medical practitioners in charge of rural dispensaries of Indian medicine. Private medical practitioners qualified in western medicine and rural medical practitioners in charge of dispensaries maintained entirely by district boards are also admitted to the course on payment of a fee of Rs. 10. To avoid overlapping of

medical relief the Government ordered the stoppage of contributions by local bodies to private practitioners who have settled within a radius of 5 miles of a rural dispensary.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated birth and death rates based on the figures for the first ten months of 1939 were 37.26 and 23.23 per thousand respectively as against the actual birth and death rates of 38.87 and 23.46 per thousand respectively in 1938. A comparison of the mortality from the principal diseases during the first ten months of 1938 and 1939 showed a considerable fall of 80 per cent in the number of deaths from cholera, a large decrease of 73 per cent in the mortality from plague and small increase under fevers, dysentery and diarrhoea, respiratory diseases and smallpox. The infantile mortality rate was 166.22 per 1,000 live-births during 1939 as against 164.41 in 1938. The maternal mortality rate increased slightly from 9.05 in 1938 to 9.57 per 1,000 births (live and still) in 1939.

PASTEUR INSTITUTE.

The Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, conducts research work in rabies and supplies anti-rabic vaccine for the treatment of persons in the Presidency and in the Indian States of South India. In addition, it makes a large number of laboratory examinations relating to the diagnosis and treatment of disease, most of which are done free of charge thereby extending to indigent patients the benefit of medical aid which would otherwise be beyond their means. A revised system of anti-rabic treatment was introduced, depending upon the degree of risk to which the patient has been exposed. A substantial reduction was made in the sale price of anti-rabic vaccine from the 1st October.

KING INSTITUTE, GUINDY.

The King Institute, Guindy, issued 3,363,855 doses of vaccine lymph of which 1,091,789 were for primary vaccinations and 1,887,661 for re-vaccinations. The Institute also prepared and distributed large quantities of therapeutic, cholera and T.A.B. vaccines. The practice of stocking plague vaccine obtained from the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, was continued and 66,526 doses were issued to district and municipal health officers and to Government hospitals. Numerous samples of water were analysed for municipalities, jails, railway authorities and others, including a large number taken from wells constructed under the Government's scheme of protected rural water-supply.

CHAPTER VII.—EDUCATION.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

The Government issued orders prohibiting teachers and other employees in aided educational institutions from participating in election campaigns and from standing as candidates for election to a legislative body constituted under the Government of India Act or to a local authority. They were, however, permitted to exercise their right to vote. The age of retirement of teachers in all schools was fixed at 55. In the case of teachers in aided schools, the Director has been empowered to grant exemption up to the age of 60 for sufficient reasons. A training school was started at Coimbatore to train teachers in the Wardha scheme of education. The question of the departmental preparation and publication of text-books for the lower classes of elementary schools was investigated by a committee and its report was under consideration by the Director of Public Instruction.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

An amendment was issued to the Madras Educational Rules revising the standard rates of fees in colleges. The Government Muhammadan College, Madras, was affiliated in Group VIII (Islamic History and Culture) of the B.A. degree course. Provision was made for the teaching of Tamil under Part II of the B.A. degree course. The Government Victoria College, Palghat, was affiliated to the Madras University in the B.Sc. course with Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, as main and subsidiary subjects and Zoology and Electrical Engineering as subsidiary subjects.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The Government extended the compulsory teaching of Hindustani in Forms I to III to 100 more secondary schools. The teaching of non-language subjects through the medium of the mother tongue was continued during the year, exemption being granted in the case of schools in multi-lingual areas and in other cases of difficulty. The number of high schools that adopted the languages of the Presidency as the medium of instruction increased from 194 in 1938 to 212 in 1939. The Government authorised the Director to permit deserving pupils below 13 years of age to appear for the S.S.L.C. examination. The grant of full fee concession to poor girls in classes up to the III Form was restricted to pupils belonging to the Muslim and other backward communities.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

Certain municipalities were permitted to open Adult Education Centres with a view to spreading literacy among the illiterate working classes. Taluk Advisory Committees were constituted in each district, except Madras, to make recommendations regarding the opening of new schools and additional classes, the grant of recognition to schools, the allotment of grants and the general advancement of education. New rules relating to recognition and aid to elementary schools were issued. Rules were framed for the improvement of the conditions of service of teachers in elementary schools under private management and also to regulate the working of teachers' associations and teachers' unions. Higher rates of grants to trained and untrained graduate-teachers were prescribed with a view to attracting better qualified teachers for elementary schools. The revised syllabus for elementary schools was finally approved by the Government and introduced in all schools during the year. The Government appointed a special officer to prepare a Handbook of Elementary Education.

CHAPTER VIII.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

FORESTS.

Selected minor forest products such as honey and wax and myrabolams were collected departmentally, instead of through contractors, in order to secure increased revenue. A lorry driven by charcoal gas was built for the department by Messrs. Simpson and Company and was being used in the transport of sandalwood and other forest produce. A big market for charcoal will be opened up if the use of such gas in the propulsion of motor vehicles becomes common. Experimental plantations of wattle and avaram (tangedu) were started for increasing the supply of tanning bark and a scheme to plant 20,000 acres of wattle in the Palnis and the Nilgiris was submitted to Government for approval. Considerable attention was paid to the question of supplying wooden poles for electric transmission lines and about 800 poles were delivered to the Electricity Department. A scheme for the departmental treatment of poles by the open tank creosoting process was sanctioned and arrangements were being made to install the plant. The cultivation of lac was extended and the manufacture of lac products such as sealing wax, polish and varnish was continued on a larger scale. An amount of Rs. 3.90 lakhs was realized by the sale of sleepers to the South Indian Railway. Sales of sandalwood totalled 1,204 tons worth Rs. 6.86 lakhs.

The reduction in grazing fees by 50 per cent resulted in a decrease of revenue by about 37 per cent and an increase in the number of cattle grazed by about 24 per cent. In several divisions new areas were opened to deferred and rotational grazing under which the number of cattle admitted and the period of grazing are regulated according to local conditions.

The total area of reserved forests, including 3,371 square miles of ryots' forests, was 18,497 square miles. Very satisfactory progress was made in the preparation of working plans, the area covered by plans increasing from 12,834 square miles to 13,689 square miles. An area of 9,400 square miles was regenerated by planting and sowing with timber and fuel species, bamboos, and trees and shrubs that yield minor forests produce of industrial and commercial value such as cashewnut, tamarind, gallnut, avaram and wattle. Among timber trees, teak was the most extensively regenerated, an area of 1,332 acres of natural forest being converted to plantations of this species. In addition, rosewood, mahogany, ainee and other timber plantations were formed. A scheme for the formation of plantations of softwoods suitable for the manufacture of matches and plywood was approved. Casuarina was planted over an area of 72 acres of waste land in the Nellore and Lower Godavari divisions. Sanction was accorded for the plantation of 1,000 acres of waste land in South Kanara with cashewnut.

Much important work was done in the field of silvicultural research. The experiments in improved methods of forming teak plantations with stumps, the regeneration of dry fuel forests, the eradication of the spike disease of sandal and the destruction of lantana by spraying and poisoning with chemicals are of special importance.

Members of hill tribes and the poorer ryots of the plains were provided to an increasing extent with land in reserved forests for cultivation by the kumri method of growing crops and forest trees together. The concession of removing deadwood on payment of six pies per head load was extended to several new centres. An extent of 216 acres in the Woddapathi reserve in Dharmapuri taluk, Salem district, was disreserved for assignment to toddy tappers who were thrown out of employment on account of the introduction of Prohibition. Other areas disreserved for

assignment to landless people and other classes include 58 acres in the Pakkamalai forest in Gingee taluk, South Arcot district, 5 acres in Alwarmalai forest in Kallakurchi taluk, South Arcot district and 211 acres in Vaniar forest, Salem district.

In pursuance of the Government's policy of economy, the South Kurnool and Central Salem divisions were abolished. The Madras Forest College was closed down on the 1st of July 1939. Foresters and forest guards continued to be trained in the province. Six posts in the Madras Forest Service were abolished in the course of the year. Consequent on the amalgamation and re-grouping of the range charges in certain divisions and ranges, 8 posts of rangers were abolished and 6 were held in abeyance; the abolition of 13 posts of foresters, 30 of forest guards and 33 of reserve watchers was decided upon as a further measure of retrenchment.

FISHERIES.

The fishing season on the East and West Coasts was poor in the first-half of the year but improved during the latter part. Oil sardine appeared on the Malabar coast and there were also good catches of other shoaling fish such as mackerel, chaman, thalayan and mullan. In the Northern Circars, ribbon fish were caught throughout the year while sardines were abundant from October to June and white bait from September to May. In the south there were heavy catches of horse mackerel, shark, skate, *Lactarius*, ribbon fish and seer.

The vitamin survey of South Indian fish liver oils was continued and led to the discovery of a common fish which yields an oil with more than 35 times the Vitamin A potency of commercial Cod liver oil and nearly three-fourths as much as the best Halibut liver oil on the market. The Government sanctioned a scheme for the manufacture of medicinal fish-oil on a commercial scale for a period of

one year. Large quantities of prawns were stored in carbondioxide which was proved to be the most effective method for the prolonged storage of cured prawns. A series of experiments proved that fumigation with half an ounce of carbonbisulphide per pound of fish every four months or 1/8 oz. every month is the minimum treatment required to keep salted and sun-dried fish in good condition for long periods. Experiments in the use of Maleic acid for the long storage of edible oils were commenced. In view of the numerous enquiries regarding the use of dry ice for the refrigeration of fresh fish, some experiments in this line were planned during the year.

Evidence was obtained for the first time of the breeding of gourami in the experimental pond at Ippur, and an important step taken towards the development of Hill waters was the introduction of "Mirror Carp" on the Nilgiris. The ultimate aim of the department is to stock the Ootacamund lake and other lakes with this valuable food fish. In order to prevent the ruthless destruction of fish and fry which was noticed in that stretch of the Cauvery river from the foot of the Mettur dam to its confluence with the Ellis surplus channel all fishing in this area was prohibited. Fishing was, however, allowed under a system of licences in the Mettur Reservoir which is now fairly well stocked.

The rules requiring deposits and bonds from fishermen for opening new fish-curing yards or reopening old ones were relaxed. The Government of India have agreed to the department's proposal to experiment with the manufacture of white salt on the West Coast to avoid the heavy transport charges now paid for salt from Tuticorin. The total quantity of fresh fish brought for curing to the fish-curing yards in the Presidency amounted to 1,219,345 maunds, salt issued to 194,490 maunds and fish-cured and removed from the yards to 789,469 maunds during the calendar year.

CHAPTER IX.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The aggregate value of the private trade of the Province of Madras both foreign and coasting, increased by Rs. 620·04 lakhs as compared with the first eleven months of 1938. Foreign imports rose by Rs. 316·14 lakhs chiefly owing to larger arrivals of grain, pulse and flour, sugar, cotton twist and yarn, dyeing and tanning substances, soap, manures, artificial silk and chemicals. There were decreases in oils, machinery and mill-work, metals and ores, spices, instruments, apparatus and appliances, vehicles, hardware, and rubber—raw and manufactured. Foreign exports including re-exports advanced by Rs. 122·41 lakhs mainly on account of increased shipments of raw cotton, tanned cow hides, tea—black, coffee, coloured cotton piece-goods, coir—manufactured, and fruits and vegetables. There was a steep fall in the exports of groundnut seeds by Rs. 293·82 lakhs. The import and export trade with the British Empire improved by Rs. 73·38 lakhs and Rs. 195·98 lakhs respectively. The trade with Burma as in the past two years is included in the foreign trade. The import trade with Burma increased by Rs. 111·69 lakhs and the export trade by Rs. 15·03 lakhs.

The total import revenue during the calendar year rose by Rs. 65·77 lakhs to Rs. 668·55 lakhs, motor spirit, tobacco, artificial silk yarn and raw silk mainly accounting for the increase. The revenue from machinery, spirits and liquors, motor-cars, metals, other than iron or steel and kerosene oil, recorded a decrease. Export revenue was not materially affected.

PORTS.

The total tonnage of goods handled in the port of Madras during the year rose from 1,102,812 tons to 1,378,553 tons. Imports increased by about 33·9 per cent, the chief commodity being food grains. The net profit for the year amounted to about Rs. 9·89 lakhs. The work of enlarging the Petrol Berth to allow greater freedom of movement to tankers was in progress and two additional mooring berths were laid owing to the increased use of moorings since the outbreak of war. A new deep sea tug was put into commission in February. The Port Trust took over the administration of the Madras Lighthouse from the Superintendent of Lighthouses, Madras in March. A free medical service for the entire staff of the Board was commenced from the 1st of August.

There was no appreciable change in the tonnage of vessels that entered the minor ports but towards the end of the year trade at certain ports was adversely affected owing to the war. Passenger traffic from Negapatam to the Straits Settlements was considerably less than in the previous year, on account of the general trade depression and restrictions on emigration. At Dhanushkodi also there was a decrease in the passenger traffic owing to the ban on the emigration of Indian labour to Ceylon. There was an increase in the number of passengers to Rangoon owing to the restoration of normal conditions in Burma, while fewer passengers passed through Calicut, Tellicherry and Cannanore after the outbreak of war, when traffic was diverted along other routes. The weather on the West-coast was on the whole fair except in June and July when a few steamers in the roads at Calicut and Tellicherry were unable to communicate with the shore. At Mangalore shipping operations were interrupted by bad weather in May and resumed early in September.

The Port of Tuticorin is the foremost among the minor ports in sea-borne trade. During the year 451 steamers of

1,255,803 tons and 625 sailing vessels of 39,913 tons called at the Port. The measures taken to check the pilferage of cargo between ship and shore at Cocanada, Cuddalore, Negapatam, Calicut and Mangalore continued to produce the desired effect. An estimate amounting to Rs. 1,80,000 was sanctioned for constructing a new dry dock at Cocanada. A sliding scale of port dues at Cocanada was introduced as an experimental measure for a period of one year and the landing fees on sulphate of ammonia and soda ash were reduced by 50 per cent. At Masulipatam an estimate of Rs. 4,400 was sanctioned for the purchase of a motor launch for the use of the Marine Police and the proposal to instal an "Aga" light at a cost of Rs. 6,000 was approved. Enhanced rates of landing and shipping fees at the port were introduced in September. The work of constructing a wharf wall was commenced. At Calicut a scheme of improvements to the South Pier including protective works to prevent erosion was approved. The proposal to levy landing and shipping fees on passengers disembarking at and embarking from the port of Mangalore and to entrust the collection of the fees to the individual steamer agents concerned was approved. An estimate amounting to Rs. 62,050 was sanctioned for the reconstruction and re-alignment of the north wharf wall, the reclamation of land for wharves and for improvements to the head of the pier, including the formation of a jetty. A dry dock for the use of port craft was completed. The work on the construction of groynes at Negapatam and the extension of the North and South groynes at Cocanada was progressing.

In pursuance of section 4 of the Madras Minor Ports Fund Act, 1938 (Madras Act XIX of 1938) a sum of Rs. 44,23,190 was transferred from the balances of the Madras Minor Ports Fund to the general revenues of the Province.

INDUSTRIES.

The Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Information continued to provide general and technical information on industrial and commercial matters, and to answer enquiries 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. A working class cost of living index number for Madras City was started and published every month. Forty-three reports in all were issued in the course of the year, forecasting the area and yield of various crops.

There were 50 applications for aid under the Madras State Aid to Industries Act received and dealt with during the year. The Board of Industries constituted under the Act met four times and disposed of 70 applications. Loans totalling Rs. 35,800 and subscription of shares to the value of Rs. 7,500 in a company for the manufacture of surgical cotton were sanctioned. An overdraft of Rs. 25,000 with the Imperial Bank of India for a period of one year was guaranteed to the Madras Chemical Industry. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 500 and a recurring grant of Rs. 10 per mensem for a year were also sanctioned to an artisan co-operative society.

The Kerala Soap Institute continued to manufacture the usual varieties of soaps. A new shed for conducting the experiments in cosmetics was constructed and the necessary apparatus fitted up. A small consignment of bottles and collapsible tubes for filling with hair oils, brilliantines and dental cream was obtained from Europe and samples of these articles were distributed to test market reactions.

The refining of coconut oil and groundnut oil and the preparation of insecticides including Leechex and lime sulphur was continued. Investigations were made into the oil content of Pali seeds and the percentage of yield

on crushing. A few new products such as calcium sulpho arsenate, nicotine extracts, nicotine sulphate and pyrethrum extracts were made and tested. The industrial possibilities of floral waters and essential oils distilled from rosemary and mugwort, basil leaves, kasturi manjal, tubers and rose and kewda flowers were being studied.

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. 2 lakhs to the Provincial branches of the All India Spinners Association. Two training courses in the manufacture of hand made paper were started in the Harijan Industrial School, Kodambakkam and the Bharadwaj Ashram, Peddakadubur, which are paid special grants-in-aid to meet the cost of maintaining the classes. Deserving students who are admitted for training are paid stipends of Rs. 6 each per mensem, the number of stipendiary students being limited to eight at a time.

The Government of India scheme for the production and distribution of disease-free "Cellular" seed to the silk worm rearers of the Province continued and nearly 2 million moths were tested by the staff for the benefit of the village rearers and over half-a-million disease-free layings were prepared and distributed. The department is now testing almost all the seed requirements of the Province. A scheme for the production and supply of disease free cross-breed seeds which aims at meeting the entire seed requirements of the Kollegal taluk within a period of five years was sanctioned by the Government of India. The total distribution of cross-breed seeds amounted to 825,818 layings in 1939 as against 318,700 layings in the previous year. Since the production of white cocoons is very necessary for the preparation of good quality cross-breed seeds, the four Government Silk Farms at Hosur, Palmaner, Thadaguni and Coonoor paid increased attention to the rearing of white races and together they

produced 3,825 lb. of white cocoons in addition to 1,070 lb. of cross-breed cocoons. The major portion of the white cocoons was used for cross-breed purposes. Improved types of reeling machines were demonstrated with a view to improving the cottage reeling industry. The production of silk-worm ligature guts as an industry was being established and 91,385 guts were supplied to the medical stores department.

The Industrial Engineering Workshops were engaged upon the manufacture of machinery for making malt from cholam, the manufacture of improved apparatus for husking paddy and for making sandpaper by hand as a cottage industry. Efforts were made to evolve a fool-proof village pump suitable for installation on bore-wells and draw wells and a new type designed during the year was being tested under actual working conditions. A Committee was constituted to examine the question of rural water-supply in all its aspects with special reference to the provision of bore-wells and to draw up a scheme for the consideration of Government.

In the School of Arts and Crafts the period of study was reduced from five to four years in the wood-work and engraving departments and from five to three years in the metal work, goldsmiths work and design departments. The Superintendent of the Crafts Section of the School of Arts and Crafts was deputed to Japan to study the organization, technique and economics of small scale and cottage industries.

COMPANIES.

The year opened with 1,677 companies; 176 companies were registered and 145 companies were either wound up or became defunct, leaving 1,708 companies working at the end of the year.

The new companies registered in the year included 83 trading and manufacturing companies, 30 transit and

transport concerns and 29 hotels, theatres and entertainments. Their authorised share capital was Rs. 2.26 crores. The authorised share capital of all the companies working at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 52.58 crores, their subscribed capital to Rs. 20.94 crores and their paid up share capital to Rs. 17.33 crores.

There has been a steady rise in the registration of "Transit and Transport" and "Cinema" companies.

INDUSTRIAL LABOUR.

There were 31 strikes during the year of which 11 occurred in textile mills and 6 in printing presses. Of these strikes, 14 were successful, 5 were partially successful, 10 were unsuccessful and 2 were in progress at the end of the year. The strikes were for the most part peaceful but in a few cases, obstructive picketing was resorted to by strikers and intervention by the Police was necessary.

The machinery of the Trade Disputes Act was not used during the year for the settlement of any labour disputes. The Government, however, appointed officials as arbitrators by mutual agreement between the parties to settle the dispute between the fibre workers and their employers in Cocanada, the dispute between the Salt Factory workers and the management in Cocanada and the dispute between the workers and the management of the Sree Minakshi Mills, Madura.

Thirty-one labour unions were registered during the year and the registration of three unions was cancelled. The total number of unions registered since the inception of the Act is 149, of which 113 unions were functioning at the end of the year.

The year began with 1,900 factories on the register; 105 factories were added and 92 were removed during the year leaving 1,913 factories on the register. The number of inspections of registered factories made by inspectors was 2,687 and of unregistered factories 168.

The process of bleaching and dyeing in textile factories and weight-lifting by woman workers in any factory were declared to be hazardous occupations and special regulations were made to ensure the health of the workers employed in such occupations. The rule relating to washing facilities for workers engaged on processes involving contact with injurious and obnoxious substances was amplified, making it obligatory on the part of the factory managements to provide soap, nail-brushes and such other articles of toilet as might be specified by the Inspector.

The provisions of the Payment of Wages Act and the Madras Maternity Benefit Act were complied with fairly well. The Commissioner of Labour and Factory Inspectors watched the working of the Acts and issued instructions to the employers wherever necessary. There were 18 prosecutions under the Payment of Wages Act and 10 under the Madras Maternity Benefit Act.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

The ban on the emigration of unskilled labour to Malaya continued throughout the year and all possible measures were taken to prevent illicit emigration of such labour. There were 782 persons registered as skilled workers up to the end of November 1939 at Negapatam and 2,730 at Madras, most of whom proceeded to Malaya. An Ordinance passed by the Ceylon Government denied to Indian labour on estates the right of franchise to Local Committees. There was also a proposal to tighten up the procedure in the regulations governing the Indian franchise to the Ceylon State Council, and Indian daily paid workers serving in the departments of the Ceylon Government were discharged to make room for Sinhalese workers. As a consequence of this action the Government of India issued a notification under section 30 (a) of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, prohibiting the departure of all persons

by sea out of British India to Ceylon for the purpose of unskilled work. The Labour Commissioner was authorized to grant exemptions to individual persons. Such exemption is normally granted to the wives, minor children and non-working parents of male workers in Ceylon. The number of assisted emigrants who returned from South Africa was 42.

CHAPTER X.—RURAL RECONSTRUCTION.

RURAL AMENITIES.

After the abolition of the District Economic Councils in 1937, Collectors have been convening periodical conferences of gazetted officers, 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.

Rural improvement works proceeded on the usual lines. The Government of India grant sanctioned for this purpose is being utilized for the improvement of rural water-supply and sanitation, the improvement of village communications, the encouragement and development of co-operative loan and sale societies and co-operative societies for the consolidation of holdings. There were 2,005 rural water-supply works completed and 1,289 in progress on which about six lakhs of rupees had been spent up till the end of September. There were also 329 sanitation works completed and 164 in progress and 449 village communication works completed and 349 in progress. Subsidies amounting to Rs. 5,900 were sanctioned to loan and sale societies for the construction of three godowns at a total cost of Rs. 24,485 in three districts. The number of societies that were formed for the consolidation of holdings was 17. Some of them made fair progress, but it was found that difficulties in effecting the speedy transfer of registry of members' holdings in revenue records stood in the way of their achieving better results. The Government earmarked a sum of Rs. 50,000 from the Government of India grant to meet the cost of staff for

supervising these societies. Special staff is employed in selected districts.

The Government have been encouraging the establishment of commercial museums in the districts financed from private subscriptions and donations from local bodies. The objects of these institutions are to display finished products and works of art manufactured in the districts and thereby help to find a proper market for them and promote existing and new industries. Up till the end of the year museums had been started in the districts of East Godavari, Guntur, Cuddapah, Malabar, South Kanara, Salem, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Vizagapatam and Anantapur. A central commercial museum, to which district museums will be affiliated was opened at Madras in the Government Branch Press building at Mount Road.

The scheme of organizing village sports with the assistance of the Police in selected rural areas throughout the Presidency was adopted by the villagers and it was extended to three more centres in each district. Competitions were organized. In the districts where Prohibition was in force special rural uplift schools were conducted to train village guides in rural uplift work and the organization of games as a counter attraction to drink.

Other rural amenities included the installation of 87 out of the 102 radio sets which the Government have undertaken to provide in selected centres in each district for the benefit of the rural population. In installing these sets preference was given to Prohibition districts. In the eight months from April 1939 over a lakh of rupees was spent on the Government's scheme of protected rural water supply.

ALLEVIATION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

In order to provide for the scaling down of agriculturists' debts under the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938, 61 Debt Conciliation Boards were set up in

1938 and 31 additional Boards were constituted throughout the Presidency in the year under review. In the period of 8 months from April, 1939, the Boards scaled down debts amounting to Rs. 26.56 lakhs by Rs. 10.91 lakhs or 41 per cent. In addition, during the period of 19 months ending with September, 1939, debts amounting to Rs. 392.55 lakhs were scaled down by courts to Rs. 205.11 lakhs or by 47.7 per cent. These figures are exclusive of cases of voluntary settlement by debtors and creditors without going to court.

Side by side with the constitution of Debt Conciliation Boards, the scheme for the grant of loans to enable agriculturists to clear off their debts as scaled down, which had been kept in abeyance pending the passing of the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act, was revived in October, 1938, and extended to all districts. The final allotment sanctioned for the grant of loans for the purpose in 1938-39 was Rs. 4,02,900 of which, however, only a sum of Rs. 41,070 was actually spent.

CO-OPERATION.

The effect of the Agriculturists Relief Act, 1938, and of the enforcement of Prohibition in four districts was to lay emphasis upon the suitability of the Co-operative movement as an agency for rural development besides its function of catering to the credit needs of agriculturists. Consequently, while there was a marked increase in the number and the transactions of credit societies, the non-credit side of the movement was not neglected. A policy of cautious expansion was adopted and 883 new societies of all kinds were registered during the year. About 16,000 villages, out of over 50,000 in the Presidency, were covered by village credit societies. Side by side with the expansion of the movement the work of rectification and revival of existing societies was also pursued. A number of bad societies were weeded out only after all attempts at

revival had failed, and the registration of 197 societies was cancelled during the year. The system of controlled credit was extended and was in operation in 18 districts at the end of the year. A late monsoon and failure of crops in certain districts had an adverse effect on the economic position of the ryots and co-operative banks and societies provided relief to them, consistent with their financial interests, and all the concessions given to borrowers in previous years were continued.

The loan transactions of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank increased considerably, mainly owing to the growing demands made on Central Banks by societies and to the development of produce loans. The Bank devoted particular attention to the establishment of sale societies and helped them with subsidies besides lending to Central Banks at a special rate of 3 per cent for financing them. It also sponsored the organisation of a co-operative fire and general insurance society. The registration of the Christian Co-operative Central Bank was cancelled leaving the number of Central Banks at 30. Their financial position was on the whole satisfactory.

The Central Land Mortgage Bank, Limited, Madras, completed another year of sound progress. The number of individual members rose from 472 to 480 and of primary banks from 104 to 113. There was an increase in its paid-up share capital from Rs. 7.46 lakhs to Rs. 8.34 lakhs. The Bank issued loans totalling Rs. 39.11 lakhs to Primary Land Mortgage Banks. During the year the Government increased their guarantee of the debentures of the bank to Rs. 250 lakhs; the total value of debentures in circulation at the end of the year was Rs. 171.27 lakhs. There was no district which was not served by a Land Mortgage Bank.

The transactions of loan and sale societies developed appreciably during the year, and the Government continued to assist these societies with staff and subsidy. The

Madras Provincial Co-operative Marketing society dealt in various food stuffs including fruits and made steady progress. It effected sales to the value of Rs. 70,931, and a new branch was opened in George Town in November, 1939.

The Madras Handloom Weavers Provincial Co-operative Society paid a total subsidy of Rs. 31,949 to 143 weavers' societies. It also continued to guarantee the purchase of yarn by weavers' societies and the total amount guaranteed to 87 societies was Rs. 80,653. A calendering plant and a second-hand folding machine were purchased during the year. The society opened a sales depot at Trichinopoly.

Towards the close of the year there were 13 milk supply unions and 64 milk supply societies working in 20 districts. The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union installed a pasteurisation plant and supplied pasteurised milk to all its customers except the State hospitals.

On the outbreak of war there was a tendency among retail sellers of staple food grains to profiteer. With a view to counteract this, the organization of stores societies was pushed forward in urban areas and there were 130 stores societies functioning at the end of the year. Societies for the consolidation of holdings were started in six selected districts and some of them made fair progress. The societies consolidated 1,009 blocks of an area of 234 acres belonging to 112 members. The number of blocks after consolidation was 163.

AGRICULTURE.

Various improvements advocated by the Department especially in the cultivation of improved crops like paddy, cotton, sugarcane, cholan, groundnut and tobacco and the methods adopted in controlling insect pests and plant diseases were demonstrated to cultivators in their own fields. Exhibitions were held during fairs and festivals

and on other important occasions. The method of preserving fodder in silo pits and the working of improved agricultural implements were demonstrated. Takkavi loans were granted for the purchase of improved implements. The proper conservation of cattle manure was widely advocated.

The work on protein requirements of working bullocks was concluded. New standard rations based on the results of this investigation were suggested for trial in the agricultural research stations. Malt was prepared from cholam, rice and ragi and two or more malted cereals were blended together and a variety of foods prepared suitable for infants and invalids. Palatable malt extracts with good keeping qualities were obtained from ragi and cholam and blended successfully with shark liver oil, Calcium Glycerophosphate and iron citrate to prepare therapeutic products. The fermentation of molasses with yeast cultures for the distillation of power alcohol was under study. An active strain of yeast was isolated and found to produce up to 25 per cent of alcohol from molasses.

The study of the black soils of the Madras Deccan was in progress and a considerable volume of evidence has been collected regarding their physical and chemical properties. The carbon content of the soils was also under study since these soils are known to be very deficient in organic matter.

The experiments on the reclamation of alkaline soils at Mettu-marudur in Kulittalai taluk of the Trichinopoly district were continued. A normal crop of paddy was raised successfully on the plots treated with gypsum and sulphur while no crop could be grown on the adjacent control plots.

Investigations on rice revealed that the application of manures, preferably organic manure, increases the thickness of the bran layer in rice. The experiments on

depth of water and the interval between each irrigation for the rice crop, the optimum spacing and the number of seedlings per hole, and the judicious application of both artificial and organic manures were continued. Studies made in regard to water requirements of cambodia cotton showed that the demand for water is highest during the flowering phase and that irrigation in the ninth fortnight of growth is most important.

Better methods of extraction of Rock bee honey were studied and a honey press, a honey strainer and a centrifugal honey extractor were put on trial.

Further modifications were carried out in the construction of the green-manure trampler effecting an appreciable reduction in weight and cost of manufacture. Two types of wet land puddlers were standardised, one for working in heavy soil and another for lighter tracts. Minor alterations were made to the five tyned expanding cultivator to increase the number of tynes and make the implement more robust without increasing its weight. The chilled double mould plough with adjustable wings was provided with a self sharpening and adjustable bar point share to increase its utility. Preliminary experiments showed the possibility of modifying the curved blade guntaka for evolving an efficient groundnut lifting device. The mechanical cotton seed defibrating machine was converted for manual operation by two men. It was found useful for polishing malted cholam and rice.

The final market survey reports on coconut, sheep and goats, mangoes and lac were completed. Other reports on jute, cashewnut and sugar were under preparation. Experimental grading stations were started for eggs at two places in Guntur district, for Sirumani rice at Kuttalam in Tanjore district, for Molagolukulu rice in Nellore district, for Sathgudi oranges at Madras, for mangoes at Chittoor and for potatoes at Mettupalayam. The Indian Tobacco Association, Guntur, graded 205 bales

of Virginia tobacco for export to the United Kingdom. Some other tobacco merchants and egg merchants were also authorised to grade their produce and use the 'Agmark' seal and labels. Grade standards were drawn up for five more varieties of rice and for Wynaad oranges.

Since the outbreak of war a weekly review of the prices of agricultural commodities in the Presidency is being sent to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India and the Local Government and also published in the local dailies.

VETERINARY.

Three new veterinary dispensaries were opened during the year raising the total number of veterinary institutions to 118. The new B.V.Sc. degree course extending to five years was introduced. A short course for the training of "Stockmen" in the performance of castrations and inoculations, and the treatment of minor ailments of cattle was sanctioned by the Government.

Work on the improvement of livestock was continued at the two Livestock Research Stations at Hosur and Guntur. It was decided to discontinue the breeding of pigs as it was found uneconomical to keep them.

The number of breeding bulls maintained by private breeders in the districts under the scheme whereby the department gives premia for the maintenance of approved stud bulls was 215. The District Boards of Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and Chingleput had 124 breeding bulls purchased with the aid of grants given by Government. The Department also maintained 35 breeding bulls which are lent for service at a nominal fee.

The Serum Institute manufactured most of the department's requirements of Anti-Rinderpest Serum, Rinderpest Bull Virus, Rinderpest Goat Virus, Rinderpest Goat Spleen Tissue Vaccine, Anti-Haemorrhagic Septicaemia Serum and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia Vaccine. Experiments in

the use of Goat Spleen Tissue Vaccine were made in all the districts but the protective value of this product has not been finally assessed. The average mortality per outbreak from Rinderpest, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Blackquarter, Anthrax and Foot-and-Mouth Diseases showed a slight rise but there was a fall in the total incidence from these diseases. The districts of Tanjore, Malabar, Coimbatore, Madura, Ramnad and the Nilgiris remained completely free from Rinderpest. The policy of protecting animals against this disease in anticipation of outbreaks is believed to have helped considerably in suppressing it in the infected areas. The cost of protection has been reduced consequent upon the introduction of the method of protection with Goat Virus with a simultaneous dose of Anti-Rinderpest Serum and of Goat Spleen Tissue Vaccine. The method of protection by Vaccine alone in actual outbreaks of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia and Blackquarter was widely adopted as it gave satisfactory results and was found to be cheaper than other forms of protection.

The staff of the Department did propaganda work at cattle fairs. Several interesting talks on cattle diseases in Tamil and Telugu were given over the Radio. Three exhibition vans were used in the districts for propaganda work.

CHAPTER XI.—PUBLIC WORKS.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

During the year, famine broke out in the Coimbatore and Chingleput districts and famine relief operations were carried on for about eleven months in the Coimbatore district and for about two months in the Chingleput district. A special famine division was started in Coimbatore district and a subdivision in Chingleput district and both were continued until the end of the year. The Bellary Circle was abolished and the Bezwada and Madras Circles were reconstituted by a redistribution of Divisions with effect from the 1st December 1939. All irrigation under the Cauvery channels which was under the jurisdiction of the Superintending Engineer, Trichinopoly Circle, was transferred to that of the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore Circle.

IRRIGATION.

The Government sanctioned the formation of a special division to investigate the feasibility of constructing a reservoir across the Kortalaiyar river near Pundi in Chingleput district with a view to augmenting the water-supply to the City of Madras. The Corporation of Madras has agreed to bear the entire cost of the investigation. The Tungabhadra project was under examination and a soil survey at the Siruguppa farm and experiments at the Bhagavadi demonstration farm to determine what crops could be suitably grown in the project area were continued. The Upper Bhavani scheme was re-investigated to enable the Government to decide on considerations of relative cost and the benefits obtainable, whether the Lower or Upper Bhavani project should be selected.

In the Godavari Delta system though freshes in the river arrived very late, the first crop season was fair with

every promise of a good harvest, but a cyclone in October considerably damaged the standing crops. The Collair lake rose to a new record level for the past thirty years, resulting in the submersion of a very large area in the deltas and breaches in the banks of the Samalkota and Ellore canals and the Biccavole and Tulyabhaga drains. The execution of the Kalipatnam, Vemuladevi and Losari projects in the Godavari Western delta was in progress, while field work and the preparation of plans and estimates for the Anumunilanka project were completed.

In the Pennar River canals system, the Kanigiri reservoir, which is the main source of irrigation for the Sangam delta, dried up in August and again in September, but it surplussed in November owing to heavy rains which also damaged the new Pyderu channel.

The level of the Periyar lake was very low at the beginning of the irrigation season and as a consequence irrigation was started later than usual. In the early part of October, the level again went down, but heavy rains in November filled the reservoir and all the tanks in the Periyar delta. The condition of the standing crops was good.

Abnormal rains in October caused floods in the Budameru in the Kistna Eastern Delta, the Tammileru and other upland drains. Extensive areas in the region of the Collair lake and also in some villages alongside the drains were submerged. Heavy rains were also experienced in October in the Kistna Western Delta causing the upland drainage to breach the fourth and fifth reaches of the Commamur canal in more than seventy places, submerging low lying wet lands and damaging many huts in the villages bordering the drains. Immediate action was taken to form temporary ring bunds across the breaches so as to hold up water for irrigation and navigation. Several minor breaches were caused to the Kistna East Bank Canal by the heavy rains of October and

November but there was no damage either to irrigation works or to the standing crops.

The Mettur reservoir was opened for irrigation on the 12th June. On account of the heavy rains in November, 33 breaches occurred in the first 12 miles of the Grand Anicut Canal. The Agniar river over-topped and out-flanked the aqueduct washing away the last two vents and the abutment and causing considerable damage to the embankment and the reach below where 40 breaches occurred. There was also much damage to tanks in this area. The breaches were temporarily closed and water was again allowed into the Grand Anicut canal in the third week of December.

The rainfall in the Vizagapatam district was poor and supply in the rivers was low with the result that cultivation was begun late. Supply in the channels of the Chicacole Minor Rivers system was sufficient for irrigation and the crops in the project area were good while those under the river channels failed due to insufficient rains.

In accordance with the rules for the regulation of the Krishnaraja sagara reservoir in Mysore cross sections of the rivers at the three standard stations were taken in June and October as in the previous year. In connection with the proposals of the Mysore Government for a reservoir on the Kabbini at Hulhalli, the working tables showing the quantity of water that would be received and issued were prepared.

As an experiment, a dredger was used to clear silt in the Pulicat reach of the Buckingham canal so as to find out whether dredgers can be economically substituted for manual clearance.

ELECTRICITY.

A further important stage in the development of the Pykara System was reached with the putting in commission of two 12,500 K.V.A. generators and the changeover

in the operating voltage of the Pykara-Coimbatore transmission line from 66 K.V. to 110 K.V. together with the extension of the 66 K.V. line from Madura to Koilpatti and the completion of the Madura-Sivaganga 22 K.V. line with extensions to Karaikudi and Okkur. The thermal generating station at Theni was shut down and the load connected to Pykara. There was a steady increase in load and revenue, the output of the generating station being 102 million units and the peak load on the system 21,300 K.W. while the revenue was Rs. 35 lakhs or an increase of about Rs. 5½ lakhs over that of 1938. Good progress was made in rural electrification. About 30 additional villages were given supply and approximately 35 important extensions were completed and energised.

The output of the Mettur Power House was 44 million units and the peak load 9,400 K.W. Emergency gates suitable for remote electrical control were installed in the dam vents to safeguard against a recurrence of the flooding experienced in 1938. An order was placed for a fourth generating set and the necessary transformer and switch-gear to meet the normal increase in the load. Several distribution schemes were constructed and a dozen important towns and rural areas supplied with energy.

Further progress was made in the Papanasam Hydro-Thermal scheme. The coffer dam in the left half of the river bed was completed and the foundations in this section were laid. Work on the foundations for the diversion weir, the low pressure pipe line, the penstock line and the power house was commenced. Two additional oil-engine generating sets taken over from Theni were installed in the construction power house. A portion of the West Tinnevely area was given supply. The average number of skilled and unskilled labourers employed on the works was about 3,500.

The Vizagapatam Thermal Station maintained a continuous supply of power in spite of trouble in one of

the generating sets. The peak load on the station reached 1,010 K.W. with an average daily generation of 7,000 units. Supply was given to the towns of Bimlipatam and Vizianagram. The extension of the line to supply the Salur licensee was completed.

The construction of the Bezwada Thermal Power Station building and the erection of the power plant were completed and the station was put into commercial service on the 26th March 1939. From the Government Station, supply was given to the towns of Bezwada, Gudivada, Masulipatam, Ellore, Nuzvid, Guntur and Tenali. Rural power line extensions to Gollapalli, Patamata and Pedana were completed and put in service. The Pedda Avutapalli and Atkuru extensions were under construction. To meet the growing demand on the system the Government sanctioned the provision of an additional 3,000 K.W. set.

The extensions to the existing Municipal Power House building at Cocanada were completed and the 300 K.W. set transferred from Bezwada was re-erected. Arrangements were being made at the end of the year to take over the Power House from the municipality and commence supply.

There were 35 electricity undertakings worked by local authorities. The Karur Municipal Distribution scheme which was managed by Government was handed over to the municipality in April 1939 as it had reached the profit earning stage.

A general reduction of the tariffs in hydro-electric areas was approved by the Government and ordered to take effect from 1st January 1940.

ROADS.

During the year 1938-39 the Public Works Department maintained about 1,270 miles of road at a cost of approximately Rs. 7.42 lakhs while local bodies, excluding the Corporation of Madras, maintained nearly 38,000 miles including 23,883 of metalled roads. The work of laying

experimental surfaces on the Great Northern Trunk Road between miles 4 and 12 was completed, while the laying of a cement concrete surface on the Western Trunk Road between miles 3 and 14 at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.89 lakhs was progressing rapidly.

The budget for 1939-40 provides for a sum of Rs. 4.35 lakhs to be spent on communications under the control of the Public Works Department and grants-in-aid to local bodies towards the upkeep of roads in their charge amounting to Rs. 72.54 lakhs. Of this latter figure a grant of Rs. 19.73 lakhs has been allotted to local bodies for trunk roads, Rs. 3.39 lakhs for roads and bridges other than village communications and Rs. 14.77 lakhs to district boards for important marketing roads. Grants are also made by the Government from their share of the Central Road Fund, subject to the approval of each item by the Central Government, for the construction of new roads and bridges or the reconstruction or substantial improvement of existing ones. A sum of Rs. 18.89 lakhs from this Fund has been provided in the budget for new works or works in progress, chief among which are the construction of a girder bridge over the Ponnai river on the Madras-Bombay Trunk Road at a cost of Rs. 7.31 lakhs (half the cost will be met from the Reserve with the Government of India); the construction of a bridge across the Bharatapuzha river on the Tirur-Ponnani road in Malabar at a cost of Rs. 5.77 lakhs; improvements to the Madras-Calicut Trunk Road at a cost of Rs. 5.50 lakhs; and the construction of two bridges over the Korapuzha and Murat rivers in Malabar at a cost of Rs. 5.97 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 10.80 lakhs has been provided for works to be selected from the seven-year programme of road development approved by the Board of Communications.

BUILDINGS.

Among works completed or nearing completion during the year were the construction of additional buildings for

the Government Museum, Madras, quarters and other buildings for the Malabar Special Police, extensions to the Madras Central Record Office, and improvements to the Headquarters Hospital, Guntur. Other important works in progress included extensions to the Government Mental Hospital, Madras, the remodelling of the General Hospital, Madras, the construction of a combined administrative block for the General Hospital and Pathological Institute for the Madras Medical College and the remodelling of the Government Press.

Out of an allotment of Rs. 38.63 lakhs made in the budget for 1939-40 for buildings, some of which had already been commenced, a provision of Rs. 3.06 lakhs was made for the construction of a new Headquarters Hospital at Madura, Rs. 2.55 lakhs for an out-patient block in the Vizagapatam Hospital, Rs. 1.56 lakhs for new buildings for the Headquarters Hospital, Cocanada, Rs. 1.20 lakhs for the extensions to the Secretariat buildings, Rs. 1.36 lakhs for additional buildings for the Lady Willingdon Training College and Rs. 1.35 lakhs for an additional ward in the Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital.

BROADCASTING.

The policy of the Madras Government laid down in 1937 was to devote attention to popularizing listening-in among the rural population, since Broadcasting is exclusively a Central subject under the Government of India Act, 1935, and the Government of India had decided to retain control over all transmitting stations. In pursuance of this scheme, they undertook to install 102 sets at four or five selected rural centres in each district throughout the Presidency and till the end of December 1939, 87 of these sets had been installed. The Government decided that they could not extend their scheme of installation which involved heavy commitments, and as a consequence they agreed to install additional sets only on payment by the

panchayat boards concerned of the recurring and non-recurring charges, the former being limited to Rs. 10 per mensem for maintenance in addition to the annual licence fees. Altogether 24 panchayat boards in 11 districts took advantage of this scheme and sets had been installed for them by the end of December.

The Government also agreed to place orders for such of the municipalities as desired to have sets in their areas with a view to reducing the initial cost by large scale purchases. Sets were installed in 23 municipalities. The Government have also undertaken to give free servicing for municipal sets provided the actual cost of spare parts and the travelling expenses of servicemen are met by the municipalities.

A new 5 K.W. medium wave station was put into service at Trichinopoly in the year. The Government constituted an advisory committee to advise the Director of the All India Radio on programmes broadcast from Madras and Trichinopoly and special rural programmes in the languages of the province were broadcast daily from both stations.

CHAPTER XII.—PROHIBITION AND EXCISE.

PROHIBITION.

Prohibition was continued in the Salem, Chittoor and Cuddapah districts and extended to the North Arcot district on the 1st October. (The Act continued to be administered by the Police department which received whole hearted co-operation from non-officials and the officers of other departments.)

(In Salem Prohibition has been in force since the 1st October 1937 and in Chittoor and Cuddapah since the 1st October 1938. The question of creating a completely dry belt within a radius of five miles of the Prohibition districts was dropped, and instead, the arrack, toddy, ganja and opium shops in the towns of Erode, Bhavani and Kodumudi in the Coimbatore district were closed in the interests of Prohibition in Salem. The liquor shops in the belt areas adjoining Prohibition districts continued to work under restrictions. The supply of arrack to these shops and the number of trees permitted to be tapped are limited to the average of the previous five years and the possession of liquor outside licensed premises is prohibited.) The limit of private possession of ganja without a licence in the belt areas was reduced from 3 tolas to 2 tolas. These restrictions have been generally effective. Illicit possession of ganja accounted for a large percentage of the offences against the Prohibition Act. Although it is difficult to stamp out this form of crime there was every indication of a permanent improvement in the situation and an increasing difficulty in obtaining the drug for sale. (There were sudden outbreaks of illicit distillation in and around Salem town at the time of fairs and festivals, but these were promptly checked. The danger to prohibition from the border wet areas was

negligible owing to the restrictions imposed in the belt area and to constant alertness by the Police and Excise officers. The Mysore Government co-operated with the Madras Government and took effective steps to control the smuggling of liquor and drugs over the Mysore border to the neighbouring Prohibition districts.

The Collectors report that the Act worked successfully in all the districts and that it resulted in a marked improvement in the economic and social conditions of life among the classes formerly addicted to drink. Progress was made in the land colonization scheme for ex-tappers and in starting them on agriculture and cottage industries. Various co-operative societies were formed in the Prohibition districts and the question of organizing cottage industries was under consideration. The organization of amusements, rural games and folk dances in the villages, as a counter-attraction to drink progressed satisfactorily.)

EXCISE.

The experiments of closing arrack shops in certain toddy drinking areas, of prohibiting the sale of liquor to members of the hill tribes on the Nilgiris except on a medical certificate and of selling molasses arrack in sealed bottles in Mangalore town were continued. The experiment of selling cheap ippa arrack introduced in the Chicacole circle of the Vizagapatam district to combat illicit distillation appears to have had the desired effect and it was extended to the Pathapatnam taluk of the same district. In order to prevent the smuggling of cheap arrack from the plains into the Nilgiris, the possession of plains arrack in the Nilgiris except under a licence or permit was prohibited. With a view to controlling unlicensed sales and to checking drunkenness, the limit of private possession of arrack was reduced to two drams in all municipalities and in areas within a radius of five miles of them.

An increase was made in the rate of duty on ganja and bhang. The duty on arrack was raised in all districts except Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool and Vizagapatam. The total excise revenue during the first nine months of the year was Rs. 269·50 lakhs as against Rs. 293·35 lakhs in the corresponding period of 1938.

CHAPTER XIII.—SCHEDULED CLASSES.

CIVIL RIGHTS.

The Malabar Temple Entry Act which was passed during the closing months of 1938 was published in the Gazette in February 1939 and became law. The preparation of the lists was taken up at the conclusion of the year under review.

In July 1939 a number of temples in Madura, Tanjore, Tinnevely and certain other places were thrown open to the excluded classes. The most important of these temples are—

- (1) Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple, Madura.
- (2) Sri Kudalalagar temple, Madura.
- (3) Sri Sundararajaperumal temple, Madura district.
- (4) Sri Kalamegaperumal temple, Tirumohur, Madura taluk, Madura district.
- (5) Sri Brahadeeswarar temple, Tanjore.
- (6) Sri Tirukuttalanathaswami temple, Courtallam, Tenkasi taluk, Tinnevely district.
- (7) Sri Kasi Visvanathaswami temple, Tenkasi, Tenkasi taluk, Tinnevely district.

The throwing open of these temples created rather a grave situation. Under the Indian Penal Code, entry by the excluded classes into the Hindu temples constitutes the offence of defilement of places of worship. Every trustee or other authority in charge of the temple who permits such entry and every officer of the Government or local authority who assists at such entry abets such offence and can be prosecuted therefor. It was against the policy of the Government that persons actively or passively assisting in a social reform of this kind should be subjected to civil or criminal proceedings. The Legislature not being

in session, an ordinance was promulgated providing indemnity to all persons who would otherwise have been liable to be proceeded against in civil or criminal courts. A Bill was subsequently introduced in the Legislature authorising and indemnifying officers and other persons in respect of entry into and offer of worship in Hindu temples by the excluded classes. The Bill became law in September 1939, as the Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act.

The Act indemnifies the officers of the Government, trustees, priests and other persons in respect of acts done, steps taken or alleged failure of duty in connection with the entry and worship in Hindu temples by the excluded classes. The Act also enables a trustee (or if there is more than one trustee a majority of the trustees of a temple) to throw open the temple to the excluded classes with the previous sanction of Government, if in his (or their) opinion the worshippers in that temple are generally not opposed to such entry. After a temple has been so thrown open no suit for damages, injunction or declaration or for any other relief, no prosecution for any offence and no proceedings under any Act or law can be instituted in respect of such entry and worship into the temple in question. The temples thrown open in July 1939 have been deemed to be duly and properly thrown open under the Act.

Subsequent to the passing of the Act the Government granted permission to throw open the following temples to the excluded classes :—

- (1) The Sri Dandhayudapaniswami temple, Palni, Madura district ;
- (2) all the temples under the control of the Sri Dandhayudapaniswami temple Devasthanam, Palni, Madura district.

In a few other cases Government had to refuse permission to throw open the temples as there was no unanimity of

opinion among the trustees whether the worshippers were generally not opposed to temple entry.

EDUCATIONAL CONCESSIONS.

The policy of the Government has been to endeavour to get scheduled class pupils admitted into ordinary schools. Separate schools are opened for them only in places where, owing to caste prejudices, this is not practicable or where there are no schools at all. With a view to enforcing this policy the Government refuse recognition and grants to schools which do not accept scheduled class pupils and lay upon the management of schools where there are no such pupils the burden of proving that they have not been refused admission. The Government award a number of scholarships for ordinary education and commercial and professional courses to members of the scheduled classes. Certain industrial scholarships are also granted to scheduled class pupils learning a trade or profession in recognised industrial schools or to selected apprentices undergoing training in workshops or mills. Every year a provision of Rs. 5,000 is made for distribution by District Collectors to deserving pupils for the purchase of books and clothes and the payment of fees. No fees are levied from poor scheduled class pupils in elementary schools under public management and they pay only half fees in secondary schools. In Arts and Professional Colleges they are eligible for full fee remissions. Some local bodies granted total exemption from the payment of fees to scheduled class pupils in secondary schools under their control and made free supplies of books and slates to such pupils in elementary schools. Exemptions are also granted by the Commissioner of Labour from the payment of fees for the S.S.L.C. and other examinations.

The Labour Department was maintaining 1,178 schools specially for the benefit of these classes and 4 hostels where

free boarding and lodging is given to them. In addition substantial grants are paid every year to a number of private hostels for the maintenance of scheduled class boys and girls. Grants are also made to private agencies engaged in work connected with education and other ameliorative measures for these classes.

APPOINTMENTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

The Government have, generally speaking, reserved one out of every twelve appointments made to a provincial or subordinate service for members of these classes. The minimum general educational qualification for appointment to subordinate services has been appreciably lowered in their cases as a temporary measure up to 31st December 1940, and the age limit for them has been raised to 27 in the matter of appointments to ministerial services. In the case of posts for which the S.S.L.C. examination is prescribed as a minimum qualification any scheduled class candidate who has passed the Intermediate examination may apply irrespective of his age and graduates may apply for posts for which a degree or lower qualification is prescribed, whatever may be their age, provided they are otherwise qualified. Such candidates are also exempt from payment of the fees prescribed for application for appointment to posts in Government service.

OTHER CONCESSIONS.

In rural areas the Government help these classes to acquire house-sites by bearing half the cost up to certain limits and meeting the full cost of portions set aside for communal purposes. District Collectors are empowered to sanction sums up to a limit of Rs. 2,500 in each case on miscellaneous measures for these classes such as the construction of wells, pathways and latrines. Certain waste lands in practically every ryotwari village have been reserved for assignment to scheduled classes and wet lands are sold to

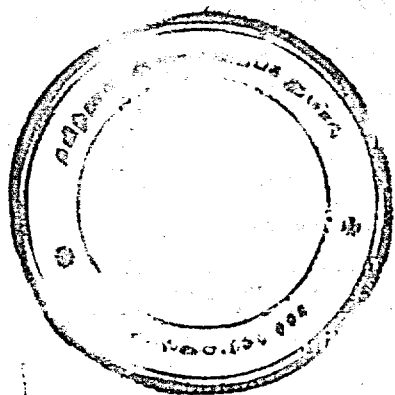
them at a fair price without auction, the value being collected in instalments. Further when any land assigned requires much reclamation they are exempt from payment of assessment for seven years subject to certain conditions. Valuable lanka lands in the deltaic areas of the Northern Circars are leased to them without auction at average or reduced rentals. Co-operative societies have been organized for a variety of purposes for the benefit of the scheduled classes.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

District Collectors are responsible for the welfare of the scheduled classes and the duty of co-ordinating their work in this regard has been entrusted to the Commissioner of Labour. In 1938 District Advisory Committees were set up to advise District Collectors on all matters relating to the amelioration of the scheduled classes and a Provincial Advisory Board was constituted to co-ordinate the work of the Committees. The term of office of the members of these bodies expired during the year and the Board and Committees were reconstituted for a further period of one year. Members of the District Advisory Committees have been permitted to visit all scheduled class institutions such as schools and hostels maintained or subsidized by the Government with a view to keeping in touch with these and other activities undertaken for the benefit of the scheduled classes. A special staff of the Labour Department was in charge of ameliorative work in 14 districts.

Six settlements for the reformation of criminal tribe members were maintained, of which one was managed by the Salvation Army and the rest by the Government. The main occupation provided at these settlements is agriculture. The department continued to be responsible for the reclamation of Koravars in the Salem District and, with the assistance of the police, of Kallars in the Madura

and Ramnad districts. During the year a new scheme of reclamation was started for the Yenadis of the Chittoor district. In the Madura district alone 255 elementary schools were maintained with a total strength of over 14,000 pupils. Other activities include the award of boarding grants and scholarships and the running of special co-operative societies for members of these tribes.



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