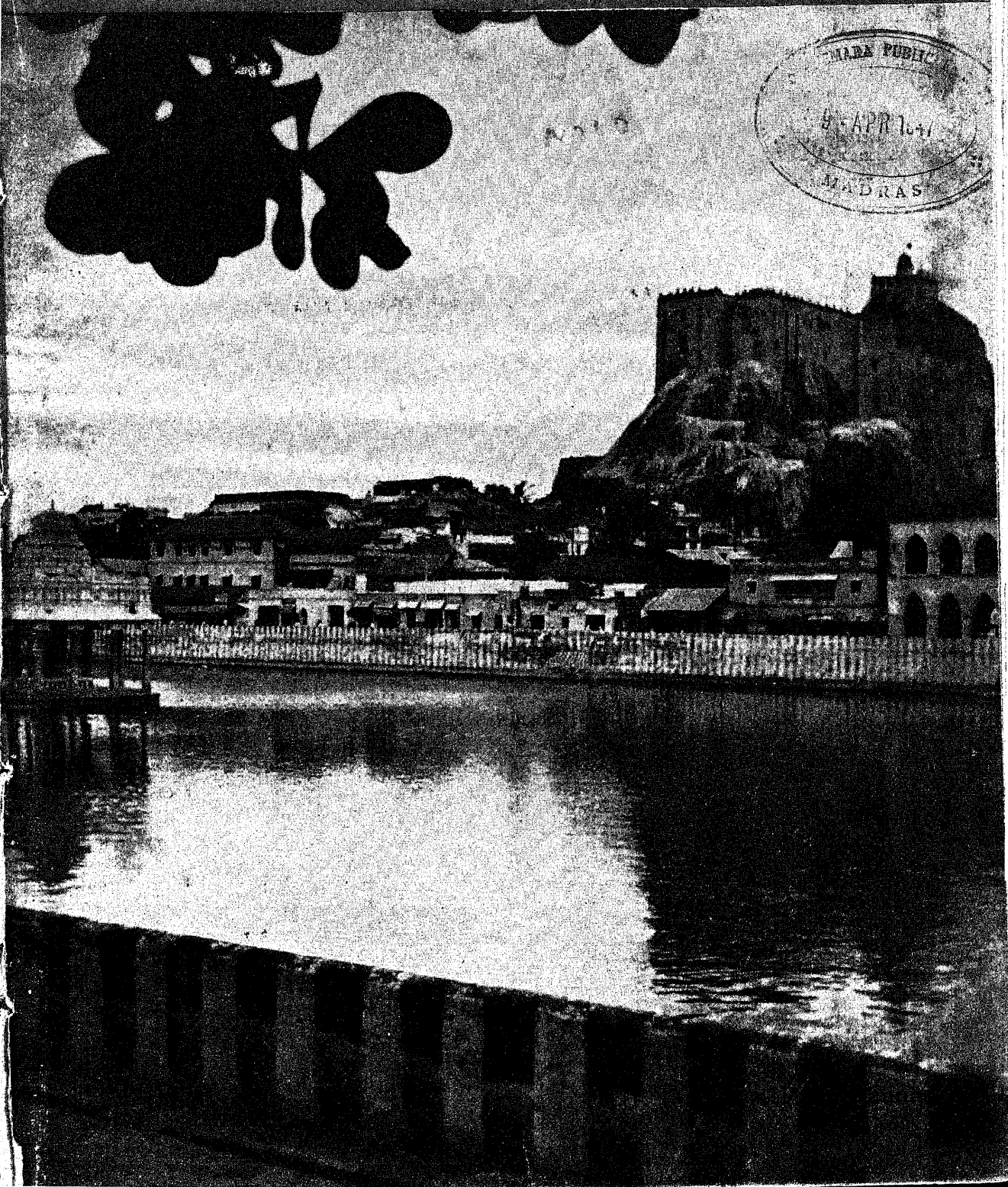


# MADRAS INFORMATION

MARA PUBLIC  
5 APR 1941  
MADRAS



## MAIN FEATURES

- (1) Cover page—Trichinopoly Rock Fort. (*By A Arunachalam.*)
- (2) Editorial
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- (11) From Paddy field to ration shop
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## ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

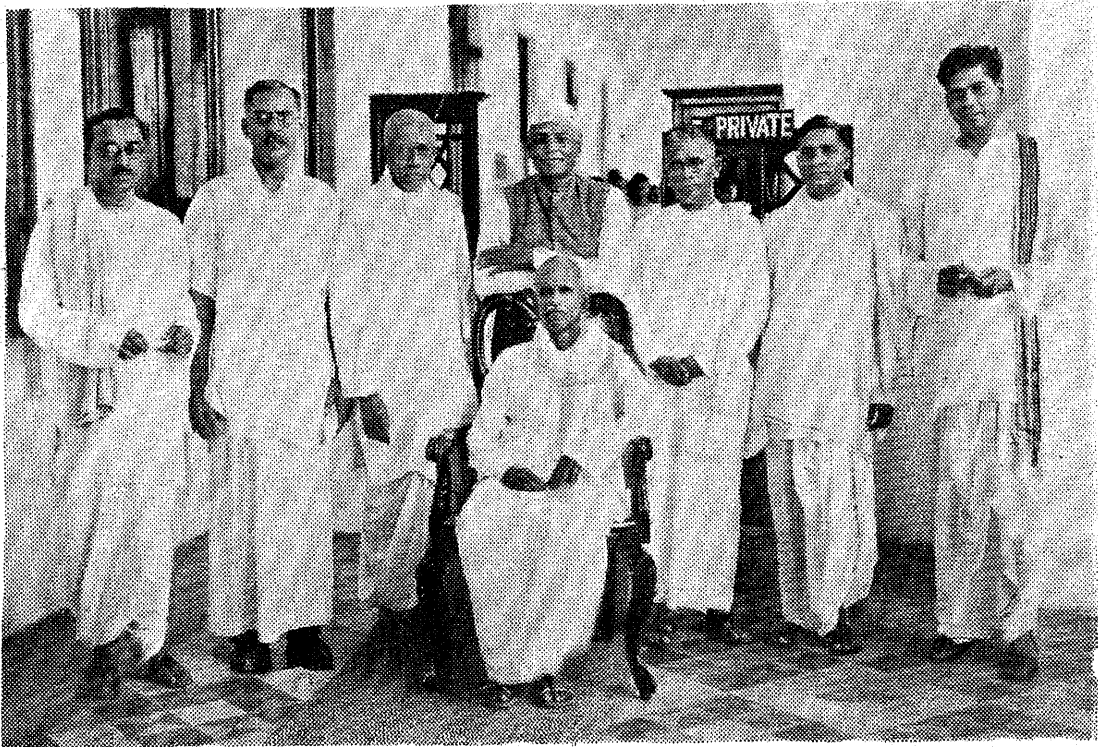
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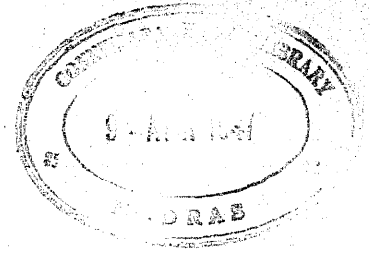
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## NEW MINISTERS



From left to right (standing) : Messrs. Sita Rama Reddy, Madhava Menon, Rajan, Subbaroyan, Bhakthavatsalam, Chandramouli, Gopal Reddy. Sitting in the centre is the Hon'ble the Premier. (For allocation of port folios see page 32.)



# Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 10

WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

March 29, 1947

## Editorial Notes

### Government and Public Transport

The Government of Madras having accepted the recommendation of the General Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee that public transport should be State-owned and State-managed, they are now engaged in the preliminary steps essential to implement that recommendation. In pursuance thereof they have sanctioned as a first step a scheme involving the running of a limited number of buses in the city of Madras and have constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to formulate proposals for bringing under State control the public transport services in this province. The method proposed to be followed by the Government in effecting this reform is to render the transfer of these services from private to public control as smooth as possible and as convenient as practicable from the standpoint of the transport operators themselves. The whole process is likely, as explained in the Press Note issued on this subject, to take some time to be finalised, while it may probably take some more time before it is brought into working order. The Government have tried in the Press Note to assuage the apprehensions entertained by the existing operators with regard to the termination of their services and have also explained the rationale of their decision to abolish the fleet system and to introduce the system of temporary permit of four months' duration. They have made it perfectly clear that the Government will take into account all legitimate claims for compensation for current permits as well as for

vehicles which are in a satisfactory condition. They have also assured those concerned that the interests of persons actually engaged in transport business at present will not be prejudiced as it should be possible and practicable to employ a maximum number of trained personnel when the transport business is taken over by the Government. The Press Note provides conspicuous testimony of the Government's awareness of the need to move cautiously and carefully in putting into effect the scheme of nationalisation. It also makes perfectly clear the Government's realization of the fact that actual maintenance of the transport services in an efficient condition is a difficult and intricate job requiring a vast army of trained personnel.

#### Temporary permits to new entrants

In view of the fact that it will take some time for the nationalisation scheme to work itself out to a finish, the Government have decided, firstly that temporary permits of four months' duration only would be issued and secondly that new entrants to the transport business should also be encouraged. At the back of the decision to issue temporary permits is the consideration that it cannot at present be definitely stated as to which of the transport services would be taken over by the Government first and which subsequently, while it is the Government's intention to grant later permanent permits for such routes as those which are not likely to be taken over by them

during the ensuing three years. With regard to permits to new entrants, it has been definitely and unequivocally stated that the permits are temporary and that the services run by the permit-holders are liable to be taken over according to the plan to be decided upon by the Government. At the same time the Government's view is that taking into account the complaints that individual operators continue to manage the services as badly or as inefficiently as they had been used to in the past, there was no justification for shutting out new entrants from getting the advantage, temporary though it may be, of the permit system.

### Nationalisation Principle

There can be no possible objection to the principle of nationalisation of road transport services itself in view of the fact that it is overwhelmingly recognized that all public utility services are best managed by the State and that the interests of the community as a whole will be best served by the State taking over these services. In accordance with the recommendation of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee and of the Transport Advisory Council, a number of Provincial Governments

have already decided upon nationalisation of road transport. Nationalisation involving State-ownership of these services is not only justified in principle but is also called for in response to the urgent need for road-rail co-ordination and the elimination of wasteful competition between the railways and bus transport. The Government's policy implementing nationalisation, with the taking over of passenger services in the first instance, is obviously in conformity with the ideal. There may be criticisms that public ownership of road transport services may not in practice be more efficient than private ownership and management thereof and that abuses will persist even under a scheme of State-ownership and control. Such criticisms do not however take account of the vital consideration that continuance of private ownership over road transport services has led to various abuses, inconveniences and troubles to the travelling public which are bound to be mitigated and brought under check when the State is in control thereof. The element of progressiveness in assuming ownership which the Government have decided to adopt should afford scope for cautious experimentation in a field not fully explored so far.

## Madras Government Press Notes

### FOOD AND CLOTHING

#### New Well-Subsidy Scheme

In order to encourage food production, the Government have, since 1944, sanctioned three well-subsidy schemes. One of the schemes has practically ended and the other two will end shortly. About 30,000 new wells have been completed and about 16,000 old wells have been repaired under all these schemes. Though there has been a fairly satisfactory increase in the number of wells, there is still scope for quicker and more substantial progress. As there has been widespread demand from the ryots for the continuance of Government assistance and the need to stimulate food production is still urgent, the Government consider that further endeavours to extend well-irrigation should be made and sustained until the very maximum number of wells are sunk. They have accordingly sanctioned a new well-subsidy scheme, in supersession of the three earlier schemes.

The new scheme applies to all the districts in the Province except the Nilgiris and Madras. In the districts of South Kanara and Malabar not only

wells but also tanks used for irrigation purposes will be eligible for subsidies. In one respect the new scheme differs from the existing accelerated scheme as it is proposed to grant no assistance under it to repairs to existing sources. South Kanara and Malabar will, however, be exceptions to this rule also, and subsidies will be available for repairs to tanks as well.

The scheme offers a subsidy of half the cost, subject to the maxima mentioned below :—

South Kanara	and	Rs. 300 for new wells,
Malabar.		and Rs. 500 for tanks, new or old.

Ceded Districts	..	Rs. 500 for new wells.
Other districts	..	Rs. 300 for new wells.

In the case of tanks (new and old) in South Kanara and Malabar, however, if the cost exceeds Rs. 1,000, the Collector will have discretion to sanction an amount equal to half the cost, up to a limit of Rs. 1,000, and the Board of Revenue will have similar powers up to a limit of Rs. 2,000. The maximum subsidy will be only Rs. 2,000 in any case.

It is also proposed to raise the maximum subsidy for wells to Rs. 500 in areas where condition similar to those in the Ceded Districts exist.

The amount of subsidy will not, as before, be given as a free grant in the first instance. It will be advanced as a takkavi loan at first and will be treated as subsidy only if the work is satisfactorily completed by 30th June 1948. Under no circumstances will this time for completion be extended. The disbursement of subsidies will stop on 31st March 1948.

Prior approval of the site of the well or tank is necessary. The proposed well or tank should have an ayacut of at least one acre. The usual condition regarding the growing of food crops for three years will be imposed. Food crops will include vegetables and such other crops as may be approved by the Collectors.

The loan, if it is not subsequently treated as subsidy, will be repayable in five equal annual instalments. It will, however, be free of interest for the first year and repayment will start only after three years.

Well-works for which subsidies have been granted under the Accelerated Scheme and the Ceded Districts Scheme will also be allowed the time prescribed in the new scheme, i.e., up to 30th June 1948, for completion, provided that some part of the work, not necessarily a substantial part, has already been done.

The Government trust that this scheme will give a greater stimulus to the extension of well-irrigation and that ryots will readily avail themselves of the liberal assistance offered and construct the maximum number of wells.

[March 3]

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### Surcharge Levies

The Government are at present collecting surcharge calculated at  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the value of the tendered quantity calculated at rates accepted for naked groundnut kernel or groundnut oil and at 2 annas per Imperial maund of jaggery on all exports outside the province against the quotas for 1946-47 before granting export permits. The accepted suppliers as well as others who pay surcharge are informed that the surcharge once paid into the Government treasury whether of their own accord or at the instance of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or an officer authorized by him will not be refunded at a later stage.

[March 4]

### Revised Cloth Control Order

The Government of Madras have promulgated the Madras Cloth (Dealers) Control Order, 1947, in supersession of the Madras Cloth (Dealers) Control Order, 1946, and the revised Order has come into force from the date of its promulgation, viz., 15th March 1947. Suitable provisions have been included in the new Order to protect all action taken under the old Order and to ensure the continued validity of the licences issued thereunder.

The object of the new Order is the same as that of the previous one, viz., the enforcement of a suitable licensing system for the effective control of all persons carrying on business in cloth, whether they are dealers, hawkers or commission agents.

The important points in which the revised Order differs from the old Order are given below:—

(1) The revised Order does not apply to handloom cloth and khadi. Separate control orders in respect of handloom cloth and khadi will be promulgated shortly. Under the new "Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947," proposed to be promulgated, licence fees will be levied from the dealers who deal exclusively in handloom cloth.

(2) The revised Order applies only to cotton cloth manufactured on powerlooms, rayon fabrics and to every type of cloth which has been notified as an essential article under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946.

(3) The licensing authority under the new Order is the Collector and includes any officer authorized by him in this behalf.

(4) In order to secure a proper distribution of cloth, powers have been given to the Collectors and the Provincial Textile Controller to issue directions to any dealer to sell a specified quantity of cloth to any person and not to sell it to any one else.

The existing licences of the dealers in cloth will be renewed under the revised control Order now promulgated after collecting the prescribed licence fees. The grant of these new licences will be subject to the overhauling of the system of distribution in each district which is now under the consideration of the Collectors. The licences of those dealers who are eliminated as a result of such overhauling will be cancelled. There will be no refund of the licence fees on any account.

[March 5]

### Cases under Food Control Regulations

There were about 342 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province in respect of offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations during the week ending February 15, 1947. About 216 cases have resulted in convictions and sentenced.

Other cases of infringement of the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations are *sub judice* and the results are awaited.

[March 6]

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### No Wheat Flour for Hotels

In view of the low stock of maida and of the necessity to conserve the existing stocks for bakeries manufacturing bread up to the end of June 1947, the Board directs that wheat flour (maida) should not be used by any catering establishment or other establishments like boarding houses, private messes, etc.

These orders apply to both rural and statutorily rationed areas.

[March 6]

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### Skimmed Milk Powder for Sale

The Government have some imported skimmed milk powder available for sale to the following classes of institutions on payment of cost price :—

(a) Mission hospitals and other private hospitals all over the province which have in-patients.

(b) Boarding schools, hostels and orphanages which feed their lodgers at their own premises.

The concession to class (b) institutions was hitherto limited to certain deficit districts. It has now been extended to all districts.

Other particulars can be had from the office of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies.

[March 8]

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### Yarn Distribution through Co-operatives

In a Press Note, dated 6th February 1947, the Government announced that the decision to utilize the existing co-operative organizations and the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies (which may be organized hereafter) for the

distribution of cloth and yarn in districts other than Malabar should be deferred till the end of May 1947. On further consideration, the Government have decided that the scheme to entrust the distribution of yarn to co-operative organizations may be proceeded with if suitable co-operative societies come forward to undertake the work.

[March 11]

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### Restriction on Parties

In the Press Note, dated 13th February 1947, the Government announced that in view of the present food situation they will not be in a position to entertain any future applications for exemption from the Order restricting feeding at parties other than marriage parties to thirty. They therefore appealed to the public to desist from sending applications for exemption in future. In spite of this appeal, applications for exemption are still pouring in. The public are hereby informed that the Government have decided to reject such applications summarily with effect from 15th March 1947.

[March 13]

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### Revised Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order

Consequent on the reorganization of the Textile Control Department, by which the Collectors have been made fully responsible for all items of textile control work, which can be done on a district basis, the Government of Madras have promulgated the Madras Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Brokers) Control Order, 1947, in supersession of the Madras Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Brokers) Control Order, 1946.

The object of the new Order is the same as that of the previous one, viz., the enforcement of a suitable licensing system for the effective control of all persons conducting business as brokers in cotton cloth or yarn or both. The Collector or any officer authorized by the Collector, has been made the licensing authority under this Order.

Suitable provisions have been included in the new Order to protect all action taken under the old Order and to ensure the continued validity of licences issued thereunder.

[March 14]

## Co-operative Societies and Private Dealers' Employees

Representations have been received from the employees of dealers in cloth and yarn that they will be thrown out of employment as a result of the policy of the Government to utilize the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies and other co-operative organizations for the distribution of cloth and yarn. The knowledge and experience of these employees will undoubtedly be very useful to the societies in their new task of distribution of cloth and yarn, which will require considerable additional staff. The Government have, therefore, issued instructions that these employees should be absorbed in the staff of the newly formed co-operative organizations to the fullest extent practicable.

[March 15]

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## Artificial Silk Yarn Control Order

The Government have promulgated the Madras Artificial Silk Yarn (Control) Order, 1947, in supersession of the Madras Artificial Silk Yarn (Dealers) Control Order, 1946, which has continued to be in force after 30th September 1946 by virtue of section 9 of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946. The revised Order comes into force on the date of its publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, that is, on 18th March 1947.

2. The revised Order follows generally the lines of the old Order, the only important changes being those specified below.

3. Like the old Order, the revised Order provides for the licensing of importers of, and wholesale and retail dealers in, artificial silk yarn. As the withdrawal of price control has increased the prices of artificial silk yarn, enabling the dealers and importers to make larger profits, the Government have decided to enhance the licence fees from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 in the case of importers, from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 in the case of wholesalers and from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 in the case of retailers. As the existing licences have been granted up to 31st March 1947, and as the new licences will be for the calendar year, the licence fees for 1947 have been reduced proportionately by one-fourth of the old licence fees, that is, the fees for 1947 will be Rs. 87-8-0 for an importer's licence, Rs. 20 for a wholesaler's licence and Rs. 8-12-0 for a retail dealer's licence.

Sales tax will be leviable on sales of artificial silk yarn in this province, as before.

4. Existing licensees should apply for licences under the new Order within twenty-one days from the date of its commencement; continuance of the business after the said period of twenty-one days, without such application, will be a contravention of the revised Order and will be punishable accordingly.

5. As there is no production of artificial silk yarn in this province, the Government have decided to adopt a liberal licensing policy so as to attract adequate imports of this article. All private merchants who carried on business at any time prior to 1st January 1944 will be eligible for licences under the revised Order. The claims of persons, who have not done business in the past as importers, will also be considered for the grant of importers' licences if they can adduce evidence to the satisfaction of the Provincial Textile Commissioner to show that they have now been successful in placing orders for the import of artificial silk yarn. Even these restrictions will be relaxed completely in the case of suitable co-operative organizations which are willing to undertake business in artificial silk yarn.

6. In accordance with the principle adopted in the scheme of reorganization of the Textile Control Department, which the Government have recently announced, the licensing of importers and other kinds of control over them will be in the hands of the Provincial Textile Commissioner, while the Collectors will exercise similar functions in respect of wholesalers and retailers.

7. As the provisions of the Central Government's Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944, are no longer valid in respect of artificial silk yarn, the revised Order includes a provision for controlling the distribution of this article within the Province on the lines of clause 18-B of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1945.

8. As the revised Order has been promulgated under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, the penal provisions of that Act, namely, sections 12 to 16, will apply to contraventions of the Order.

9. Price control over artificial silk yarn has been withdrawn all over India in the hope that, with the increase in the volume of imports, the trade will not succumb to the temptation of earning unreasonable profits. For the same reason no provision for price control has been included in the new Order. But if at any time it is found that the trade is not playing the game properly, the Government will not hesitate to amend the Order suitably and make provision for an adequate

scheme of price control. The Government are most anxious to avoid all unnecessary interference with the normal activities of traders and they trust that there will be no occasion to restrict those activities any further.

[March 17]

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### Bread Shortage

The Government have received representations from bread manufacturing interests complaining that restrictions on the manufacture of bread out of wheat products like Maida have adversely affected their business and requesting the Government to relax the rule permitting the issue of bread tickets only to habitual consumers of bread. The position in respect of the stocks of wheat and wheat products in this province continues to be unsatisfactory. No allotments of wheat and wheat products have been made to Madras from January, nor are allotments likely to be

made before the end of June 1947. The province's total stock at present of wheat products is about 3,000 tons and this has to be made to last till the end of June. It has therefore become necessary to severely reduce the consumption of wheat products and bread. When it is realized that the pre-war normal consumption of wheat products per month was 3,800 tons the need for drastic cuts will be appreciated. Bakeries and biscuit-makers will have to be content with token allotments and may even have to close down temporarily; but this cannot be helped. The Government are making efforts to secure an allotment of wheat products to Madras as soon as possible; but until a fresh allotment is received, it will be impossible to relax the existing restrictions: they may have to be tightened up still further. The public and bread and biscuit makers are requested to put up with the unavoidable inconvenience.

[March 20]

## DEVELOPMENT

### Term "Harijans" adopted

At present the term "Non-converts" is being used to denote the Hindu members of all the communities who are eligible for help by the Labour Department, and the term "converts" to denote all persons who belonged to those communities but who had been converted to religions other than Hinduism. The Government have now decided that in future the term "non-converts" should not be used to denote Hindu members of the eligible communities and that the word "Harijans" should be used to denote all persons belonging to the "Scheduled Castes," who continue to profess the Hindu religion. The expression "other eligible communities" will be used to denote all non-Harijans Hindu members of the communities eligible for help by the Labour Department. The term "converts" will however be retained in respect of persons who once belonged to the eligible communities but had subsequently become converts to religions other than Hinduism.

[March 6]

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### Newsprint Control relaxed

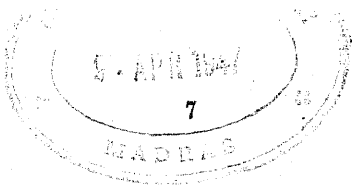
The Government of India have decided that the existing control on the use of newsprint should be relaxed with effect from 1st April 1947. The

new scheme of relaxation has been explained in the Press Note, dated 14th February 1947, issued by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Supplies, published in the "Indian Express," dated 14th February 1947. One of the chief features of the relaxation on the use of the newsprint is that permission from the Government of India will not be necessary from 1st April 1947, for the printing or publication of any new newspaper or journal on newsprint. There will, therefore, be no prohibition on the starting of new newspapers and journals on newsprint with effect from 1st April 1947. As a consequence of this relaxation and in view of the difficult supply position of ordinary varieties of paper, the Government of India do not propose to grant permission for the publication of any new newspaper, bulletin, magazine, or periodical on paper other than newsprint. The Government desire to bring it to the notice of all who are interested in the starting of new newspapers and journals, that they will be free to start their journals on newsprint from 1st April 1947, and that applications for permission to print periodicals on printing paper will not henceforth be considered except to the extent that newsprint is unsuitable for the purpose. All pending applications both for newsprint quota and for permission to use other types of paper will be treated as lapsed.

[March 8]



MARCH 29, 1947]



MADRAS INFORMATION

### B. & C. Mills Dispute

A trade dispute has arisen between the workers and the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Limited, Madras, regarding the emoluments of the workers and certain conditions of labour. The Government have appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to investigate into and report on the trade dispute.

[March 10]

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### Nellikuppam Sugar Factory Affairs

The Government have received several representations that the Nellikuppam Sugar Factory has not been accepting the unregistered cane in the factory area and that the factory should be persuaded to accept this cane if the poorer ryots are not to be put to loss. The question was discussed at a conference held on the 25th February 1947, with the representatives of the factory authorities and of the cane growers of the area and the following agreed settlement has been arrived at :—

(1) That the factory authorities in the area in question should continue to make available all possible facilities for converting cane into jaggery in the local sections amounting to about 300 acres of unregistered cane, as this is the most economical course from the point of view of both the ryots and the factory, while the crushing of cane into jaggery at the proper time will result in more sweetening material being available to the people of the province as a whole.

(2) That in the event of any of the unregistered cane in the local sections not being converted into jaggery before the end of the crushing season, the factory would accept such cane for crushing under their usual conditions but at the price of Rs. 25 per ton delivered ex-factory. No unregistered cane would be crushed by the factory until after the end of the season. If any un-registered cane is passed off as registered cane with the object of obtaining the higher price, the factory would not accept the cane even at Rs. 25 per ton.

(3) that the factory will not under any circumstances accept unregistered cane next season.

[March 11]

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### B. & C. Mills Strike Illegal

Government have seen certain tendentious statements in the Press relating to the strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras,

The first intimation of the impending strike they had was from the Commissioner of Labour, who was informed of it by the management of the Mills. A copy of the strike notice was subsequently received by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour and by the Commissioner. The Commissioner was immediately asked to intervene and attempt an amicable settlement. Accordingly, he met both parties on 27th February 1947. He pointed out to the workers that most of the demands were covered by the Court of Enquiry already sitting and that the other important issues would also be referred to the Court. He therefore asked the labour leaders not to precipitate a strike. These leaders agreed to place the Commissioner of Labour's suggestions before the Executive Committee of the Union and send a reply by 3rd March 1947. This reply was to the effect that the strike notice could not be withdrawn.

The Government explained the position in their Press Note issued on 4th March 1947. Subsequently, as it was felt that an early decision as regards these issues was necessary, the Government ordered the constitution of a separate Court of Enquiry and announced this decision in their Press Communiqué, dated 10th March 1947. Notwithstanding all these steps, the strike began on 11th March 1947. On the morning of 13th March 1947, the workers marched in procession to the residence of the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour. He asked them to depute their representatives to meet him on the same day at 2 p.m. These representatives did not meet him.

The Government wish to make it clear that as the strike began and continues after the appointment of a Court of Enquiry, it is illegal.

[March 15]

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### Government Control over Industries

The Government of Madras have had under consideration the question of formulating a planned economy in regard to industries. They have divided industries into three classes, viz., Defence Industries, Key Industries and Public Utilities.

In regard to the Defence Industries the Government have decided that they should be State-owned and controlled by the State. Some key industries requiring large capital like iron and steel, tractors and fertilizers will be State-owned. In other cases there would be only State-control. Public utilities will be owned by some organ of the State.

Where State-control is to be exercised, the Government may take a major part of the shares or impose, before granting any assistance, such as mining leases, and assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act, all, or any of the following conditions, which will bind the heirs, assignees and transferees of the concern :

(1) The promoter of the company must agree to hand over the industry to the Government either at the book value or at the replacement value at the time of transfer to the State, whichever is less. No separate value or compensation will be allowed for goodwill.

(2) No compensation shall be payable to the managing agents or management of the industry for the termination of their services. An undertaking to this effect will have to be provided in the agreement of the company with

the managing agents or other servants of the company.

(3) The company shall undertake to supply any of its products, if so required, for consumption on works belonging to or subsidized by Government, at the market prices or the cost of production plus a profit of 5 per cent on the capital utilized for production, whichever is lower.

(4) The Government will have the right to nominate one or more directors, if they consider it necessary.

(5) The working conditions of labour should conform to the standards recognized or to be laid down by the Government.

(6) The company shall train, free of cost, apprentices nominated by the Government.

[March 17 ]

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Aero-scrap Utensils

Cooking utensils made out of scrap metal from aeroplane parts have found a ready market in this country. They especially commend to the poor folk for their attractiveness, durability and low price. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, however, has issued a warning against their use inasmuch as food cooked in aero-scrap utensils has been found injurious to health.

[March 5]

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### Madras Government's Public Health Policy

Among the subjects discussed at the Central Provincial Health Conference that was held at New Delhi in the second week of October 1946 were the recommendations of the Bhore Committee that the Medical Relief and Public Health Organizations in the Provinces should be amalgamated under a single head to be known as the Director of Health Services, that in the districts and in the smaller units the same doctor should combine curative and preventive functions and that the training of the future doctor should be modified so as to enable him to carry out these composite duties. The resolution that was passed at the Conference runs as follows :—

“The Conference accepts the principle of amalgamation of Medical and Public Health Departments and considers that the amalgamation should take place when a suitable opportunity occurs.

“The Hon'ble Ministers from Madras and Bombay dissented from this view. The Hon'ble Minister from Madras considered that co-ordination between the two departments was preferable to amalgamation.”

The Government of Madras desire to set out in full the reasons for the stand taken by their representative, as some criticisms have appeared about it in the Press. The following are the reasons :—

(i) Progress in public health activities in this province has been marked only after the separation, which was effected some years ago, of the Public Health Department which is concerned with preventive functions, from the Medical Department which is in charge of curative work, each of these departments working separately under a separate administrative head. This Government is of opinion that it will affect the efficiency of the departments concerned if they are amalgamated again, and that such a step will be retrograde.

(ii) The need for combining curative and preventive aspects of public health work in the primary centre is admitted in the plans approved by this Government, but they do not consider it necessary or expedient to make each doctor a 'dual-purpose' man. In this view it will be a waste to train officers for both types of work when only some of them will be required to do either at a time. Such a system of training is likely also to retard the pace of production of personnel.

(iii) As far as this Government are aware, it does not appear that the system in other advanced

countries, e.g., England, provides for each medical man to engage in both preventive and curative activities or for a common cadre from which officers are posted now to the preventive side and now to the curative side.

(iv) A common cadre as indicated would mean transfer of officers from the curative side to the preventive side and *vice versa* for administrative reasons (seniority and the like) and would affect the efficiency of the personnel and of the departments.

(v) The essential idea of the Bhoré Committee recommendations is that preventive and curative services should be delivered together to the public and that the directing organization should be common. This will be provided for by

(a) the arrangements relating to the primary centres and

(b) the fact that co-ordination is at present being achieved in a sufficient measure at the provincial headquarters

(1) by an arrangement under which the Surgeon-General is recognized as the Government's chief adviser in all major matters affecting public health and as such is authorized to scrutinize the proposals emanating from the Director of Public Health,

(2) by the appointment of a separate Joint Secretary to deal with questions concerning both preventive and curative aspects of public health, and

(3) by one Minister for Public Health dealing with the subjects in question.

[March 10]

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### Medical Relief in Villages

In connexion with the reorganization of Medical Relief in villages, the Government have sanctioned a scheme to accord recognition to practitioners of Indigenous Systems of Medicine, to improve their status and qualifications and to make their services available to the rural population on a regular basis. Under the scheme, District Collectors will select the most suitable private practitioners in villages with a population of 10,000 or more for the purpose of recognition as village Vaidyas or Hakims. Each village will have one such practitioner registered by the Central Board of Indian Medicine. Those who have not already been registered will, if selected by the

Collector, have an opportunity to get themselves registered on payment of the prescribed fee. If funds permit, the panchayat or the district board concerned can pay an honorarium to the recognized practitioner, the payment of which will be subject to satisfactory service to the villagers. The recognition will be withdrawn and the honorarium withheld if his services are found to be unsatisfactory or the fees charged by him are exorbitant. A scheme will be prepared for the training of village Vaidyas and Hakims and for granting them a certificate after they pass an examination at the end of the training.

[March 11]

### State Bus Service

The principle of nationalization of bus transport having been accepted by the Madras Government, the first step in implementing that policy has been taken with the inauguration of the State Transport Service on March 24. The inauguration was performed by Mr. R. Raghava Menon, lately Minister for Motor Transport and Food, and the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Food and Motor Transport, was present. Dr. Rajan stated in his speech that nationalization of bus transport is a matter which had come to stay and the principles involved in it cannot be cavilled at. He paid a tribute to the interest evinced by Mr. T. Prakasam, lately Premier, and Mr. Raghava Menon to finalise the scheme. He specially commended to the bus conductors the need for courtesy to the passengers and suggested that complaint books should be kept in the buses in which the members of the public can note their complaints, if any, against the service.

It is proposed to extend the scheme in the near future and more state buses will be running on the Madras roads. The congestion in the City buses and trams being what it is, the public of Madras will welcome the State Bus Service with its potentialities for reducing the rush and rendering the transport less inconvenient and irksome than what it is to the city folk. If the experiment succeeds it will establish the principle of nationalization of transport on a firm footing and facilitate its furtherance.

## TRANSPORT

### Unused Motor Cars : Control Removed

The Government have been continuing control of unused motor cars after 1st October 1946. So far over a thousand cars have been sold under the permit system to essential users. Due to the inherent defects in the system followed previously and due to the unwillingness of the permit holders to purchase the car specified in the permits as provided by the present rules, about 110 cars became unfrozen and were sold to non-permit holders.

There are over 3,000 applications pending with the Provincial Motor Transport Controller, It has been a most difficult and embarrassing task for the Provincial Motor Transport Controller to fix the priority of each applicant especially when the necessity for a car and the non-availability of any other alternative conveyance are the main criteria. The complaints from a large number of applicants who could not get permits as early as they desire will always be there which sometimes find expression in unhealthy criticism.

The Government feel that a stage has been reached when control regarding sale under permits can be removed, continuing only the control over prices. The Civil Motor Car Control Order, 1945, is superseded and a new control Order issued under section 9 (2) of Act XIV of 1946. However, it is pointed out that permits already issued up to date will remain valid against the cars noted in them.

The Government will however watch the effect of the removal of the permit system and if need be will not hesitate to re-introduce it.

At the conference convened by the Government of the motor car dealers and representatives in September 1946 they had agreed to reserve up to 20 per cent of the cars received by them for the use of the Government. The Government will, however, reserve the power only to have 10 per cent of the cars imported by the dealers.

[March 4]

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### Nationalization of Road Transport

In some of the Government Orders recently issued reference was made to the Government's intention to nationalize public motor transport in this province. It might be noted here that the General Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee resolved as early as December 1944 to recommend to the Government that public transport should be State-owned and State-managed. The Ninth meeting of the Transport Advisory Council held at New Delhi on 29th

December 1946 unanimously accepted the urgent need for Road-rail co-ordination and for elimination of wasteful competition. At this All-India Conference, some of the Provinces including this province were in favour of schemes of provincialisation of Road Transport under Government control and ownership. In this connexion, the majority of the provinces also agreed that railways should be allowed to participate financially in such schemes.

This Government have been actively considering for some time the question of nationalizing Road Motor Transport Services. The following steps have so far been taken :—

(1) Sanction of a scheme involving the running of a limited number of buses in the City of Madras, and

(2) Formation of a Cabinet Sub-Committee to formulate proposals for bringing under State control the public transport services in this province.

The Government are aware that transport concerns during the war years have worked under considerable difficulty and have been of the greatest service to the public as well as to the administration. After very careful consideration, however, the Government have decided that in the interests of public administration it would be advisable for the State to take over the passenger services in the first instance. The process of transferring services will, of course, take some time and probably a few years will elapse before it is complete. Transition will be made as convenient as possible for the transport operators themselves and a regular plan will be drawn up specifying the services to be taken and how far gradually. The Sub-Committee will bear in mind the apprehensions and grievances of the existing operators with regard to the termination of their services and consequent loss. The Government will naturally take into account legitimate claims for compensation for current permits as well as vehicles which are in satisfactory condition. Furthermore, in their desire not to prejudice the persons actually engaged in transport business the Government would consider as far as practicable the employment of the maximum number of efficient personnel from the existing companies.

It is understood that the transport operators were surprised at having been informed that temporary permits of four months' duration only would be issued in future instead of three years'

permit under section 58 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. The reason for this is, that until all details for running of State transport services and the order in which they are to be taken over have been settled, it cannot be said which permit holder will be left undisturbed for a period of three years. It may be possible later to grant permanent permits over such routes as those which are not likely to be taken over by the Government during the ensuing three years.

The Government have noticed some misgivings on the part of existing operators with regard to the recent Government Order abolishing the fleet system so far prevailing in this province. The short experience of transport management by operators owning twenty or more vehicles has shown that this system has not been conducive to better transport organization or to afford greater convenience and facility to the public. The privilege of monopoly granted to some operators has in fact led to gross abuse resulting in great hardship to the travelling public. It has also been noticed that in many cases the so called amalgamated companies were unified only on paper. In the majority of cases the former individual operators continued to manage their services just as badly or just as efficiently as they were doing previously. At the time of fleet formation a number of individual operators were thrown out of their employment and forced to combine with companies or sell their vehicles to operators often on unfavourable terms. In view of these considerations, the Government decided to rescind the two Government Orders on this

subject and permit individuals or fresh entrants to operate provided they do so efficiently and are able to put three vehicles on the road. The minimum of three vehicles was fixed so as to ensure one spare bus for two regular buses which may be considered as a fair minimum from the efficiency point of view. Some operators may doubt the necessity for introduction of new comers in view of Government's decision to nationalize transport services. Here, it may be pointed out that any scheme for nationalization will require careful study, taking into account the legitimate claims of various interests and will naturally take some time. The Government realize that actual maintenance of transport service is a difficult and intricate job requiring a vast army of trained personnel. The scheme will have therefore to be introduced gradually and cautiously. Meanwhile, there seems to be no justification for continuing a system which was found to be to the detriment of the public; and the Government have therefore after careful consideration ordered the Regional Transport Authorities to issue permits to new entrants also. Such applicants must realize that their permits are only temporary and that the services run by them may be taken over according to plan to be decided upon by the Government. The Government further desire to make it clear that in granting new permits the Transport Authorities will bear in mind the actual traffic demand and every care will be taken to avoid unhealthy and ruinous competition.

[March 13]

## PROHIBITION

### Working of Prohibition Act

The following is a report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot districts during January 1947.

*Preliminary remarks.*—Prohibition has been in force from 1st October 1946 in all the above districts. Its enforcement continued to be in charge of the Police Department in the district of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and the Excise Department in the other four districts.

*Enforcement work—Cases.*—The total number of cases detected during the month was 1,763 as against 1,291 detected during the previous month. There has been an appreciable increase in the number of cases detected in January. The

number of illicit distillation cases increased from 446 to 675. The increase was most marked in North Arcot and Cuddapah districts. Only five cases of illicit distillation were detected in Coimbatore district against nine cases detected in December 1946.

The number of illicit tapping cases continued to be low.

The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs rose from 156 to 223. As in December 1946 there were large seizures of Mysore ganja.

*Denatured spirit.*—The total sale of denatured spirit in all Prohibition districts (except Kurnool) rose from 1,406 to 1,570 gallons during the month. The sale in North Arcot continued to be very high. The number of cases of attempts to render denatured spirit fit for human consumption however decreased from 5 to 2.

*Border problems.*—Border patrols continued to be active during the month. Though the number of cases of smuggling of liquor increased from 83 to 106, there were no indications of large scale smuggling into prohibition areas from outside.

*Assistance given by officials of other departments and non-officials.*—There was excellent co-operation by the Police in the Excise Prohibition districts. As many as 176 cases were detected by the Police in these districts.

Seventeen cases were detected by village officers and 57 cases were detected with their assistance. The assistance given by village officers was good in North Arcot district where they detected four cases and rendered assistance in the detection of 34 cases. In Cuddapah district the village officers did not do any work for the detection of cases. In Coimbatore only one case was detected at the instance of a village officer.

In all 13 cases were detected by or with the assistance of other officers.

Two hundred and eighty-eight cases were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders other than regular informants, all the cases being in the Police Prohibition districts. In the North Arcot district the assistance rendered by outsiders was particularly good.

Twenty-seven cases were detected by or at the instance of Taluk and Village Prohibition Committee members. No cases were detected by or with the assistance of Taluk and Village Prohibition Committee members in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Coimbatore and Chittoor. The formation of Taluk Prohibition Committee was complete in Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore. In Chittoor district, Taluk Prohibition Committees have been formed except in Madanapalle division.

Village Prohibition Committees have been formed throughout Anantapur and Bellary and in parts of Kurnool, Salem and Chittoor districts. In North Arcot and Coimbatore, these committees were in the course of formation.

*General.*—On the whole the preventive work during the month was very satisfactory. The Excise staff in the Ceded districts evinced much zeal and enthusiasm and particularly in Cuddapah the staff continued to do outstanding work. The enforcement staff in North Arcot and Salem also did very good work.

*Ameliorative work—Employment of ex-tappers.*—Some of the ex-toddy tappers have emigrated to non-prohibition districts. Some have found employment locally in agriculture or in

other occupation. As there were facilities for the manufacture of palmyra jaggery only in four districts the organization of co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies was undertaken only in those districts. The position regarding the organization of these societies was as follows:—

Name of district.	Number of co-operative societies.	Number of licences issued.
Coimbatore ..	90	4,100
Salem ..	46	4,858
North Arcot ..	25	503
Chittoor ..	1	60

In the North Arcot district a co-operative society for mat-weaving has been organized at Katpadi. A society called the Katpadi Co-operative Township Society has been registered for building up a new town on a co-operative basis with an outlay of Rs. 2 crores. This scheme is expected to provide employment to many ex-toddy tappers. In North Arcot district the Land Colonization Society at Vellore has been requested to admit 10 more ex-toddy tappers as members.

*Promotion of thrift.*—The campaign for collecting savings from ex-addicts and the general public in hundi boxes distributed by co-operative societies showed progress.

*Recreation and counter-attractions—Refreshment stalls.*—Refreshment stalls which were opened in the prohibition districts with the help of Government subsidy have all been either closed down or taken over by private agencies. Private tea and coffee shops have increased in large numbers.

Bhajanas, Harikathas, dramas, cinemas, folk dances and other entertainments were encouraged in all the districts. In the Salem district Adidravida women put up a street drama at Mathigiri and in Kalarpathi some of the ex-toddy tappers joined in enacting a drama. In the Coimbatore district the Pollachi and Gobichettipalayam divisions organized dramas in several places. Bommalattams (Pantomime shows) were given in the districts of Kurnool and Cuddapah. In the North Arcot district the Madras Secretariat Dramatic Party gave a performance with tickets and another without tickets. The collections on tickets amounted to Rs. 12,544. The amount left after meeting the expenditure of the troupe is intended for helping the ameliorative activities connected with prohibition. A dramatic troupe from Nizam's State provided entertainments in the Hospet division. The cinema at Pamidi in Anantapur district and 16 cinema companies in the Salem district provided free entertainment to about 20 ex-addicts every night. An ex-toddy renter has

established a touring cinema in the locality of an old toddy shop in Sirvel taluk in the Kurnool district,

Arrangements were made with certain panchayat boards and the Hindupur Municipality for the opening of public parks.

Ballad singers did useful work in every district singing songs at public gatherings and organizing community singing wherever possible. All the ballad singers assisted local bhajana parties of which there were hundreds in every district and also built up new bhajana parties. There were 3,411 grama sanghams at the end of January 1947. Rural games and other entertainments were organized by these grama sanghams in their respective villages as often as possible. They also undertook rural uplift work like cleaning of streets, the lighting of villages, the construction of drains, the sinking of wells, etc. Special mention may be made of the fact that the grama sangham at Chilamathur in the Hindupur taluk

put up a variety entertainment on the occasion of His Excellency the Governor's visit to the village. His Excellency was particularly pleased with the Pandari Bhajana and congratulated the leader of the Bhajana Party on the performance.

Two new rural uplift schools were opened during the month. The students were given instructions in rural games as well as in rural uplift work.

*Women and Prohibition.*—The assistance of women in the cause of prohibition was secured in the districts of Salem and Bellary where the Indian Women Civil Corps are doing useful work. In Bellary town, a creche has been opened where 35 children below the age of 3 are looked after with the help of public subscriptions.

*General.*—On the whole the ameliorative work done in the prohibition districts was satisfactory except in Bellary where there was no Special Development Officer during the month.

[March 10]

## REVENUE

### The working of the Estates Land Act

*Volume of litigation.*—The total number of suits and applications instituted under the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908, during fasli 1355 was 120,532 (33,842 suits and 86,690 applications) as against 143,175 (59,621 suits and 83,554 applications) in fasli 1351. The following figures show the general trend of litigation under the Act :—

Fasli.	Total number of proceedings in thousands.	Fasli.	Total number of proceedings in thousands.
1342	184	1348	110
1343	190	1349	126
1344	165	1350	138
1345	129	1351	143
1346	133	1355	121
3147	105		

There was an appreciable decrease in the number of suits as well as applications filed in the fasli under review, when compared with those received in fasli 1351. The decrease is due to the prevailing high prices of agricultural produce

and the consequent improvement in the financial conditions of the ryots and also to adjustment between the ryots and the landholders out of court. There was however a large number of suits and applications in the Ramnad and Vizagapatam districts. This may be attributed to the anxiety of the numerous and large estates in these districts to avail themselves fully of the existence of Special Deputy Collectors' Courts stationed there in order to realize as much as possible of their heavy arrears while prices of agricultural produce were still high and before legislation affecting zamindaris adversely was introduced. About 86 per cent of the number of proceedings taken during fasli 1355 (i.e., 104,044) related to recovery of rent as against 88 and 90 in faslis 1351 and 1350 respectively. Of these, 11,368 or 9.4 per cent were for recovery by distraint and sale of movables and holdings. The remaining 90.6 per cent were either regular suits for recovery of rent or applications for execution of decrees in such suits. In faslis 1350 and 1351 the corresponding percentages of suits and execution applications together were 62 and 76, respectively. The increase in the number of applications for execution of decrees is due to the continuance of the Special Deputy Collectors' Courts solely for Estates Land Act work.

2. *Disposal of suits and applications.*—The total number of proceedings pending at the beginning of fasli 1355 was 41,364. Together with 120,532 received during the fasli, the total for disposal was 161,896. Out of this number 117,518 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 44,378 at the end of the fasli. The pendency of suits at the end of fasli 1355 (12,641) compares favourably with that at the end of fasli 1351 (18,320). There has however been a deterioration in the pendency of applications.

3. *Sales of ryots' holdings.*—In fasli 1355 an extent of 7,893 acres of ryots' holdings was brought to sale for arrears amounting to Rs. 3,03,898 and a sum of Rs. 1,50,870 was realized. The corresponding figures for fasli 1351 were 18,133, 385,001 and 342,102, respectively. The amount realized was 49.6 per cent of the arrears as against 89 per cent in fasli 1351.

The value realized per acre in this fasli was less than the estimated value by Rs. 30-13-0 per acre as against Rs. 12-3-0 per acre in fasli 1351. The disparity between the estimated value of lands sold and the actual amount realized by sale continues to be wide. It is due to want of competition at the sales which resulted in the landholders themselves purchasing the lands for nominal amounts which were just equal to the arrears and the under-estimation of the property. A distinction has been made between 'true' and 'forced' sales. The estimated value of land in true sales works out to Rs. 42 per acre and the value realized in such sales to Rs. 35 per acre. The corresponding figures in respect of forced sales are 52 per acre and 15 per acre. Thus the disparity exists in a marked degree in respect of forced sales.

4. *Treatment of porambokes.*—There were only a few cases of unlawful interference by the proprietors with porambokes set apart for the common use of the villagers during the fasli under review.

5. *General.*—It is reported that the landholders as usual feel that the processes for the recovery of rents have been made costly by the Madras Estates Land (Amendment) Act of 1934 and that the Act is beneficial neither to the landholders nor to the ryots. The provision for remission of rent by application under section 39-A of the Act has not been availed of during the fasli under review.

There were generally no disputes about occupancy rights between major inamdars and their tenants.

The relationship between the landholders and the ryots was generally cordial except in the Venkatagiri estate of the Nellore district, the Ramnad and Sivaganga estates in the Ramnad district, the Udayarpalayam and Ariyalur Zamins in the Trichinopoly district and in some villages in the districts of Chingleput and East Godavari. The main complaints of the ryots against the landholders have been that irrigation works are neglected, that they are more heavily taxed than the ryots in the ryotwari areas, with no corresponding advantages or facilities or improvements to their irrigation sources and that 'kancha' fees are collected for grazing on communal lands. There is considerable feeling among the public that the zamindaris should be liquidated and the estate lands converted into ryotwari. There is a widespread move on the part of the ryots of the Ramnad and Sivaganga estates for commutation of grain rents into cash rents so as to avail themselves of the high prices of paddy. It is generally felt by the zamin ryots that more powers should be taken by the Government under Act XVIII of 1943 for repairing and improving irrigation works so that the decision of the Government as to the nature of repairs required might be final, without leaving it to the landholder to dispute it in a civil court alleging that improvements are sought to be effected under colour of repairs. In the Chingleput district the proprietors have neglected to maintain and improve the irrigation works so much that action had to be taken under Act XVIII of 1943 compulsorily in very many cases.

Of late, innumerable petitions have been presented to the Hon'ble Ministers from zamindari ryots touching one or other of the points mentioned above, but administrative action is found possible only to a limited extent, as the relationship between the landholder and the ryot is governed by the elaborate provisions of the Estates Land Act, 1908, and no quick remedy can be found for grievances which are by no means new or even of recent origin.

The Government have decided to repeal the Madras Estates Land Act in so far as it applies to permanently settled estates, unsettled palayams and jagirs. They propose to introduce shortly the Madras Estates Land Revenue Bill, 1947, which has been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st January 1947.



# Government Departments at Work

## Revenue

Sanction is accorded to the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 1,760 (rupees one thousand seven hundred and sixty only) for the relief of distress caused by fire which broke out in Etikoppaka village of Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam district.

The Government have sanctioned the free grant of 351 palmyra trees to the villagers of Tirupapuliyur in South Arcot who were affected by the floods of December 1946. They have been permitted to cut and remove the palmyra trees from T.S. No. 55 (tope poramboke) in the village.

The Government have also sanctioned an additional amount of Rs. 805 for immediate relief of distress caused by the floods in the South Arcot district.

Remission of assessment has been granted on sand-cast lands in Ponamalai and other villages of Villupuram taluk even though the lands measure less than one acre. In the Ponamalai village the remission of assessment on the sand-cast lands has been granted up to 30th June 1946, after which date the lands will be treated as mamul waste and the ryots asked to pay the assessment or relinquish the lands.

Full remission of the assessment or water-rate for fasli 1356 has been granted in respect of the lands in Bapatla, Tenali, Repalle and Guntur taluks of the Guntur district where the estimated outturn of the crops is 2 annas and below as a result of the damage caused by the recent floods.

The new well-subsidy scheme was introduced from 1st March 1947. Details of the scheme were announced in the Press Note, dated 3rd March 1947.

The Government accepted the recommendation of the Board of Revenue and direct that all triune officers be classified as headmen and paid dearness allowance at Rs. 5 (five only) per mensem each, with effect from the date of this order.

## Development

At the instance of the Reserve Bank of India, the Government of Madras appointed an Economist in 1944 to conduct enquiries to find out the extent of the decrease in agricultural indebtedness as a result of the rise in prices on account of the war, and the remaining agricultural indebtedness.

The Economist for Enquiry into Rural Indebtedness has since submitted his report. The report is under the consideration of Government.

Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act was passed in 1938 with the object of relieving the indebtedness of agriculturists. Practical experience in the working of the Act has revealed many defects in the interpretation of the Act. Several representations have been made to amend the Act. The question of amending the Act is under the consideration of the Government.

## Weights and Measures

In 1945, the Board of Revenue submitted to the Government a draft Bill for the consideration of the Government, regarding the standardization of weights and measures in the Province. It has been considered that before undertaking legislation a small conference of traders may be convened and that before the conference is convened the views of the various Chambers of Commerce in this province should be invited. The Chambers of Commerce have accordingly been addressed in the matter.

## Education

The Government have issued orders that the G.O. No. 1495, Education, dated 31st July 1946, under which separate grants are to be paid to the managements of aided elementary schools for the upkeep of building, equipment, etc., should be given effect to from 1st January 1947, only and not from 1st September 1946, as originally ordered.

The Government have had under consideration the question of providing improved facilities for teaching in Indian Systems of Medicine and also for carrying out research in those systems. For these purposes they sanction, in the first instance, the opening of a College of Indian Medicine at Madras and also a Research Department of Indian Medicine at Madras. Fresh admissions to the existing School of Indian Medicine will be discontinued from July 1947. Arrangements will, however, be made for the continuance of the studies of the students who have already been admitted into the school. After these students complete their courses the school will be abolished.

The Government have recently issued a questionnaire on Educational Reorganization covering the entire field of education, for eliciting public

opinion. The replies received have been collated and are under examination.

The Government recently sanctioned revised scales of pay for teachers in schools under local bodies and aided agencies as well as in Government institutions. The new scales of pay are distinct improvements on the present ones.

A scheme for the further education of demobilized personnel has been approved and a Board has been constituted to scrutinize applications, to settle the institutions, to fix the maintenance allowance, etc.

The Government have approved a list of scientific and technical terms in the languages of the Provinces for adoption in the text-books. The approved terms will be used in actual practice in schools from the next school year, i.e., 1947-48, and the text-books from 1948-49. Only text-books which are using these terms should be recognized by the Text-Books Committee from that year.

The Government have also undertaken to arrange for the publication of text-books on Basic Education in Tamil and Telugu and propose to constitute a committee for the purpose.

## Labour Situation in the Province

### Report for the Second Fortnight of February 1947

In their Order, dated 20th February, 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Standard Furniture Company, Limited, Kallai, to the District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

In their Order, dated 21st February 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Nellore Ceramics, Limited, to District and Sessions Judge, Nellore, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers who were on the rolls on 8th February 1947 were allowed to resume work on 24th February 1947.

In their Order, dated 22nd February 1947, the Government of Madras have appointed a Court of Inquiry under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, and have referred to it the dispute regarding increased wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc., now existing between the workers and the management of motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type foundries for inquiry and report. Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya will be the sole member of the Court and Mr. E. A. Watson and Sri M. Sitaramudu have been nominated as assessors on behalf of employers and workers respectively.

The Madras Automobile Workers Union withdrew on 27th February 1947 the notice of strike served on the managements of Messrs. Simpson & Co., Ltd., Addison & Co., Ltd., George Oakes, Limited, and the S.R.V.S. (Lorry Workshops Section). Pending the findings of the

Court of Inquiry appointed by the Government to examine conditions of employment in the motor transport companies, motor workshops, etc., the union has agreed to the new schedule of wages and dearness allowance of 2½ annas per point of rise above 100 in cost of living index figure prepared by the management. The union has given an assurance that the workers would put forth their wholehearted effort to step up production.

The Madras Labour Union served a notice of strike on the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills on 17th February 1947 making 21 demands. The Commissioner of Labour met both the parties on 27th February 1947 and discussed the demands. The President of the Union has agreed to inform the decision of the Union on the suggestions of the Commissioner before 3rd March 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has sent his report to Government.

The Madras Provincial Type Foundry Workers Union served a notice of strike on 1st February 1947, on the managements of 12 type foundries in Madras. The Union has been advised by the Labour Officer, Madras, to put forward their demands before the Court of Inquiry appointed by Government to examine conditions of employment in the motor transport services, type foundries, etc.

The Honorary Secretary, Nellore District Motor Labour Union, Nellore, has reported that he has withdrawn the notice of strike fixed for 25th February 1947, consequent on the appointment of a Court of Inquiry for the transport services in the province.

Sri M. Sitarama Nayudu, General Secretary, Madras Drivers' Association, who issued the notice of general strike on 25th January 1947 has published printed leaflets withdrawing the notice of strike in view of the appointment by Government of a Court of Enquiry for Transport Works, etc.

The Kumbakonam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Employees' Association, Kumbakonam, has informed the Managing Director of the Kumbakonam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Madras, that the workers would go on strike any day after 1st March 1947 if their demands for increase of wages, provident fund, allowances, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Vellore, and the District Magistrate, Tanjore, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute. The management have reported that they are trying to come to a settlement with the union by direct negotiation.

The Secretary, Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company Workers' Union, Pugalur, has issued a notice of strike to the management of the Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company, Limited, Pugalur, intimating that the workers would go on strike from 20th March 1947, if their demands for increase of wages for casual labourers and payment of dearness allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem to all workers are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Vellore, has been asked to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

The General Secretary, Jute Workers' Union, Ellore, has issued a notice of strike, dated 17th February 1947, to the management of the East India Commercial Company, Limited, Nellore, intimating that the jute workers will go on strike on 3rd March 1947, if their demands for increase in wages and dearness allowance, victory bonus, provident fund, leave facilities, production bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Bezwada, and the Inspector of Factories, Bezwada, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The workers of Chrome Leather Company, who struck work on 31st December 1946, without notice, are still on strike. The workers did not resume work in spite of the Commissioner's advice to them to return to work on the dates notified by the company. The management have been advised to re-open the factory giving a week's notice.

The workers of Messrs. Hoe and Company, Madras, belonging to the Madras Press Labour Union, who struck work on 13th January, 1947,

and obstructed the workers of the Hoe and Company Employees' Association from entering the factory, are now anxious to return to work. The proprietor of the company, who met the Commissioner of Labour, has stated that, as he has already taken a large number of new workers, he would take back as many of the strikers as possible.

The Managing Director of the Demellow's Foundry closed his factory without notice on 27th January 1947. The Factory department is taking necessary action against the Managing Director as wages, notice pay, leave pay, etc., have not been paid to the workers.

The workers of the Abraham Bus Transport, Poonamallee, numbering about 70, struck work without notice on 14th February 1947, demanding regular payment of wages and receipts for security deposits, etc. A settlement has been brought about by the Commissioner of Labour, and the workers resumed work on the morning of 21st February 1947.

The workers of the Madras Pencil Factory struck work for half a day without notice on 23rd January 1947, as a protest against the arrest of the Communist leaders and resumed work on 24th January, 1947. They again struck work without notice in the afternoon of 1st February 1947, to protest against the action of the management in declaring all Saturdays as full working days instead of half-holidays as hitherto, though the limit of 48 hours of work allowed in the Factories Act has not been exceeded. They again struck work without notice on 6th February 1947, as a protest against the promulgation of the Madras Public Safety Ordinance and resumed work on 7th February 1947 without assigning any reason. Thereupon, the management put up a notice dispensing with their services and declaring a lock-out from 8th February 1947. The Labour Officer is looking into the matter.

On the understanding arrived at on 20th February 1947 that they would abide by the award of the Hon'ble Premier regarding bonus, the Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union called off the strike on 24th February 1947 and all the textile mills in Coimbatore district have been re-opened.

The contract labourers of Shree Bhajrang Jute Mills, Limited, Guntur, continue to be on strike since 20th January 1947. The management have wired on 27th February 1947 stating that the dispute has been compromised.

The workers of the Tin Can Manufacturing Company, Limited, Guntur, struck work on

12th February 1947 demanding 40 per cent increase in basic wages and better conditions of service. The Labour Officer, Bezwada, is looking into the matter.

The workers of the Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur, who were on strike from 9th January 1947, resumed work on 13th February 1947, after coming to an agreement with the management by conciliation effected by the Labour department and direct negotiation.

The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute between the workers who struck work on 15th February 1947 and the management of the West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Madras, regarding increased staff, increased wages and allowances, etc., may be referred to the District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers have been advised to resume work immediately.

All the beedi factories in Tellicherry except the Kuyil Beedi Factory which has been permanently closed down have been re-opened.

The workers of the Pulliccar Mills, Tiruchengode, struck work on 27th January 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has advised the union to call

off the strike and to press its demand for increased basic wages before the Court of Inquiry.

The workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, Mettur Dam, struck work from the evening of 15th February 1947. They have decided to continue the strike till the publication of the Hon'ble Premier's pronouncement on the question of increase of bonus to the workers in the Coimbatore Mills and until their 13 other demands are conceded by the management.

The workers of the Trichinopoly branch of Messrs. Hoe and Company, Madras, struck work on 15th January 1947 in spite of the assurance given by the Commissioner of Labour that the terms arrived at Madras would also apply to the Trichinopoly branch of the company. The management have terminated the services of the workers for having gone on strike without any justification. The management have been advised to take back the workers.

The workers of the Loyal Textile Mills, Limited, Koilpatti, and the Lakshmi Mills, Limited, Koilpatti, struck work on 18th February 1947 in sympathy with the textile workers' general strike in Coimbatore. The workers of the Lakshmi Mills, Limited, resumed work on 19th February 1947, and the workers of the Loyal Mills on 20th February 1947.

## Nutritional Activities in the Province

### Report for Quarter ending 30th September 1946

Surveys of diet and deficiency diseases were undertaken during the period in selected areas in the deficit districts of Bellary and Kurnool and in a Muslim orphanage in Mazamalai village in Trichinopoly district. The data of the survey carried out in Kadiri Panchayat of Anantapur district during June 1946, which was not included in the last report is also incorporated in this report. Surveys were undertaken, as a rule, for a week in each area. The food ingredients used in the cooking of each meal were weighed and recorded. The families for the survey were chosen at random from among the lowest income groups of the population. During the survey the children in the respective centres were also examined for signs of obvious food deficiency. Wherever possible, the heights and weights of school children in the areas visited were also recorded for comparative studies.

A generally low intake of all protective foods is evident. The consumption of vegetables, especially green leafy vegetables, pulses, milk, fruits,

fat, fish and meat was seen to be far below requirements. The calories are mostly made up of cereals. The shortage of rice is made up by other foodgrains and millets like cholam, cumbu, ragi, etc. Although wheat and maize are also being regularly consumed by the people in other parts according to their availability, it is significant that very little of these grains are consumed by the families surveyed. The labouring class families obtain cereals both through ration shop and as wages from their employers, making up to a total often in excess of their ration. There was no evidence of starvation reported from any of the areas surveyed, though signs of sub-nutrition are common, especially among children.

Among the children specially examined in the villages visited for the surveys no unusual prevalence of any specific diet deficiency conditions have been reported. The more common deficiencies are those of Vitamin 'A' and 'B<sup>2</sup>' in all the areas visited.

### Special relief measures.

*Free midday meals to school children.*—The scheme for supply of free midday meals to deserving elementary school children, as part of the scheme of compulsory education, has been functioning in selected centres in all the districts in the province. Wheat and sambhar now form the usual menu in most places. The calorific value of one meal averaged to about 500, though it varies slightly from place to place, depending on the menu, and the accessory food stuffs available.

During the period about 7,500 school children in the city of Madras were regularly supplied with free midday meals on all the working days under the auspices of the Corporation. Till the end of April 1946, each pupil was given a pound of cooked rice with sambar which has since been changed to  $\frac{3}{4}$  pound cooked wheat and sambhar. About 450 lb. of dhol and 1,000 lb. of vegetables a day are used on an average in the preparation of the sambhar for those 7,500 children.

Children in all the labour schools under Government are also being provided with free midday meals. These schools especially serve the eligible communities of the province. These children are also given wheat in some form or other, with sambhar prepared with dhol and vegetables. Wheat uppuma, dhosai and puri are the dishes largely in use, though in certain districts wheat is prepared in the form of 'kanji' and served with cooked greengram and butter milk. The children in these schools have now largely got accustomed to wheat as an alternative to their long accustomed rice.

Small schemes for the supply of free midday meals to selected school children are also functioning in certain municipalities.

### Free milk supply to priority consumers.

Government are subsidising different schemes of free distribution of milk to priority consumers, such as infants, toddlers, expectant and nursing mothers and school children. In the City of Madras about 2,000 measures of milk are daily supplied free by Government for distribution to priority consumers, through the child-welfare centres. Selected children suffering from malnutrition or showing signs of any pronounced vitamin deficiency are in addition given shark liver oil and calcium lactate.

Government have also a scheme of free distribution of milk reconstituted from imported milk powder to school children. According to the report received from the Director of Public Instruction it serves all children, attending

standards I to V in elementary schools and primary departments of secondary schools, excepting those who are already receiving free midday meals, in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot at the rate of one ollock (8 oz.) per pupil per day on all working days. This scheme originally sanctioned up to December 1946 has now been extended up to 28th February 1947. Five more districts, viz., Ramnad, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Tinnevely and Coimbatore have also been brought under the scheme.

Free milk distribution to priority consumers was undertaken on a small scale in certain municipalities, viz. (Vellore, Cannanore, Chittoor, Hindu-pur, Tuticorin, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Tinnevely, Gudivada and Ongole. The distribution is effected generally through the maternity and child welfare centres.

### Distribution of groundnut toffees as supplementary food.

A scheme for the supply of toffees made of groundnuts and jaggery was introduced in the month of July 1946. Toffees were distributed to all districts on a monthly programme. The scheme is reported to be not working satisfactorily owing to the quick deterioration of the toffee.

*Industrial canteens.*—There are now 227 canteens attached to industrial establishments as against 210 reported in the previous quarter.

### Education on "Food and Nutrition."

A Nutrition Exhibition was organized in Madras City in August 1946. Exhibition of illustrative and educative charts, posters, models, etc., demonstration of palatable recipes with unfamiliar foodstuffs with special reference to protective foods and the food values of the common South Indian foodstuffs, formed the basis of the planning of this largely attended exhibition. Another exhibition on a smaller scale was also arranged during the annual general exhibition at the Hindu High School, Triplicane, during September 1946.

The All-India Radio has been regularly broadcasting simple recipes with a view to popularising alternative foodstuffs. Broadcast talks and lectures on food topics organized by the All-India Radio in different languages have been another important educative measure on the subject of food and nutrition.

### Compost manure from Town wastes.

Forty municipal towns and thirty panchayats are now preparing compost manure from night soil

and town refuse by one or other methods. During the quarter, 0.78 million cubic feet of compost was prepared and 0.47 million cubic feet of matured compost was sold to the ryots. The sale of prepared compost was chiefly effected through the local co-operative sales societies. Madras Province continued to be one of the largest centres of compost production in India. According to the latest consolidated report received from the Department of Agriculture, Government of India, out of about 3.0 million cubic feet of compost produced during the first quarter of the year in the whole of India, about 1.1 million cubic feet have been utilized and therefore accumulation of stocks are still occurring in several places. Educative measures are being undertaken extensively to explain its preparation, to popularise its manual value and to dispel the prejudice which still persists against its use among ryots. The compost scheme used to assist the "Grow More Food" campaign to a considerable extent in those days of scarcity of chemical manure besides introducing a method for sanitary disposal of town wastes to the best economic advantage.

A scheme has been recently sanctioned by the Government, under the auspices of the Agriculture Department, to study the relative nutritive value of different strains of foodcrops before releasing them for general cultivation from Research Stations. The agricultural chemists are analysing the strains of seeds of various food and fodder crops for estimating their proximate principles of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, ash and salts for the purpose of the scheme.

#### "Grow More Fish" campaign.

Various schemes of increasing the production of food fishes have been undertaken by the Department of Industries, as outlined below.

The Poondi waters stocked last year were harvested and 219 maunds of fish were harvested and distributed. A fish farming Demonstration, Exhibition and Sales were recently held in the City of Madras. A 'once a week' fresh fish sale has been opened and this is freely taken advantage of by the public.

Various experiments are also in progress at the Fisheries Technological Station to improve the existing methods of curing fish so as to retain their nutritive value to a maximum. Smoked, light cured, pickled and desiccated fish prepared hygienically are also made available for sale in small quantities.

The Department of Industries have also a programme to produce shark liver oil in large quantities and on the strength of this Government are

considering the distribution of shark liver oil among priority consumers through hospitals and maternity and child-welfare centres.

#### Laboratory studies on unaccustomed food stuffs.

In the Nutrition Laboratory, studies in recipes with unaccustomed foodstuffs of immediate significance were continued, besides examination of foodstuffs of various kinds received for advice from various sources.

The study of vital statistics has thus not revealed any abnormal feature which can be ascribed to food shortage. Periodical examination of destitutes and of vulnerable sections of population carried out in the districts have also not revealed any signs of starvation among them.

#### Biometric studies.

The heights and weights of 480 elementary school children between 6 and 13 years (boys and girls) in Bellary, 957 in Anantapur and 241 in Cuddapah districts were compared with those of children in the City of Madras—*vide* Biometric table appended to the 1945 report.

The heights and weights of these mufassal children are found uniformly low compared to the Madras City standard for 1938. The deficiencies are more pronounced in the higher age groups. In the ages 6 to 13 years, the heights of the mufassal children are thus found deficient by 1 inch to 3 inches and weights by 3 to 10 pounds. One cause of this disparity between these samples of children in the rural and urban areas may be that they are not strictly comparable groups in respect of economic status. These studies broadly indicate that the mufassal children do not compare favourably with those in the City.

#### Nutrition Sub-Committee.

The Regional Nutrition Sub-Committee met twice during the quarter. The meetings were also attended by representatives from the Nutrition branch of the Food Department, New Delhi, and other experts in the field.

The suggestion of the Committee to open a model restaurant in Madras City has produced fruitful results. The Y.M.C.A., Madras, has undertaken to open two nutrition canteens for the supply of balanced food at cheap rates. One such canteen has since been opened.

In response to the Committee's suggestions made during the previous meetings, special schemes have been introduced for intensifying the growth of vegetables in school compounds, etc.

(Continued on page 27)

## Co-operative Workshops for Ex-servicemen

A majority of ex-servicemen recruited are tradesmen and the skill acquired by them whilst in the Defence Services is an acquisition which should not as far as possible be wasted by employing them as unskilled labourers. In the plan for the creation of employment for ex-servicemen, these facts have been taken into account and provision has accordingly been made for tradesmen with knowledge of Engineering trades in Co-operative Workshops, for tradesmen with knowledge of building trades, such as, masons and bricklayers in Construction Co-operatives, for motor mechanics in Motor Transport Co-operatives, for radio mechanics in Radio Co-operatives and for tailors and cutters in Tailors' Co-operatives. The Government have so far sanctioned the establishment of 17 factories estimated to cost about Rs. 30 lakhs. These provide employment for metal workers, carpenters, bricklayers, masons and unskilled labourers. According to the programme of employment prepared by the Director of Resettlement and Employment the number of men who are expected to be employed under the above schemes for the three years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 is as follows :—

1946-47	..	..	80,850
1947-48	..	..	80,700
1948-49	..	..	15,450
			177,000

Of the 17 co-operative workshops so far sanctioned 12 have been registered, of which five have actually begun work.

The Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshops, Madras, the Metal Factories at Kumbakonam and Vizagapatam and the Timber Factories at Tiruvottiyur and Vizagapatam have already commenced manufacturing work. The members of the Metal and Timber Factories in Tinnevely district are now being given training in the respective trades under the Technical Training Scheme. The erection of M and B sheds for the Metal and Timber Factories at Katpadi (North Arcot district) has been completed and they will be started very early. They are expected to commence regular work in April and the training in Metal and Cabinet-making is also expected to commence from that date. The Kallai Storage Depot has been taken over from the Disposals Directorate for locating the Malabar Timber Factories. Preliminary arrangements such as

procurement of tools are being made. The Defence Department has agreed to dispose of the military building at Olavakkot required for the metal factory and the sale is under negotiation. Preliminary tests in regard to production of tiles have been completed in the Brick and Tile factory at Madura.

The proposal to start ten Regional Co-operatives for Radio Sales and Servicing in different places with a central society at Madras has already been approved. This scheme, it is hoped, will absorb about 850 ex-servicemen. Suitable tradesmen have been selected and preliminary steps in regard to selection of buildings are also being taken. The proposal to start 20 motor transport co-operative societies for goods and passenger traffic has also been approved in selected places. About 5,000 ex-servicemen are expected to be employed as drivers, mechanics, etc., under this scheme. Two of these societies have already been registered at Vizagapatam and Bezwada. The remaining 18 societies are expected to be registered during the next month. The Co-operatives for Cottage Industries offer the largest field for employment of ex-servicemen. The Rice Milling Co-operatives equipped with the Rama Hullers will provide employment for ex-servicemen in or near their villages at fair wages, and it has been introduced in selected firkas in this Presidency. The scheme is ultimately expected to provide employment for about 50,000 men. Statistics of ex-servicemen and paddy cultivation in firkas selected for intensive development have been collected, but the formation of the societies was being held up for want of steel. The Government of India have since allotted some steel for this purpose and the societies are expected to function very soon. The design of equipment capable of mass production methods for the other cottage and small scale industries necessary to make firkas self-sufficient, such as groundnut decorticating, cream jaggery manufacture, oil-seed crushing, and oil refining and cotton ginning are also under consideration.

Two societies for weavers have been organized, one in Coimbatore and the other in Cannanore (Malabar district).

### More about building co-operatives

With a view to find employment for ex-servicemen, the Government have approved a scheme for organizing Labour Contract Societies on Co-operative basis for demobilized personnel for

undertaking public works and other forms of manual labour. To begin with, they have sanctioned the formation of ten Co-operative Labour Contract Societies of which, nine have already been formed, and these are to be converted into Building Co-operatives. The societies at Madras, Chingleput and the Mappilla Labour Force have been amalgamated into one Construction Co-operative Society and it has been entrusted with the execution of three big Government building works in Madras. The societies at Vizagapatam and Madura have also executed contract works.

Though it is proposed at the outset to give these societies some Government contracts to enable them to gain experience, the ultimate object is to make them self-supporting and capable of competing for ordinary contracts for non-Government works as well and thus afford the members of these societies an opportunity to acquire a permanent means of livelihood under reasonably

decent conditions and in an organized unit. The scheme contemplates the provision of state aid to the societies as follows :—

- (i) Providing work to keep the societies going.
- (ii) Provision of initial capital equipment free of cost to the societies.
- (iii) Guaranteeing the borrowings of the societies from the central banks to meet working charges.

Membership of contract societies has been made as attractive as possible. Each member will have to take at least one share of Rs. 50 and the Government have permitted the collection of share capital in instalments. The idea, in brief, is to make the labourer an active shareholder with a real interest in the enterprise instead of only a hired workman.

## Education—What Government are Doing

Since the present Ministry assumed office, the opening of two Basic Training schools for training teachers in the Basic System of Education has been sanctioned. The question of introducing Basic education in this province will be considered after the teachers admitted to these schools complete their training. About twelve officers have also been deputed to Wardha to attend the course of training conducted there by Hindustani Talimi Sangh. More Basic schools will be opened after these officers return from Wardha. A proposal to convert certain ordinary elementary schools into Basic schools is also under consideration. A Board to advise the Government on matters relating to Basic education has been set up.

One of the schemes in the Government Post-war Five-Year Plan is the introduction of compulsory elementary education in the province. As a preliminary to this, the Government sanctioned in 1945-46 the introduction in selected villages of a limited scheme of compulsion up to standards I to V. The scheme was extended to other selected villages in 1946-47. Funds have been provided in the Budget Estimate for 1947-48 for the further extension of the scheme to some more villages. About 1.70 lakhs of children will be ultimately brought to school in the areas selected for the introduction of compulsory elementary education during 1945-46, about a lakh of children in the

areas selected during 1946-47, and about 1.50 lakhs of children in the areas selected during 1947-48.

Last year, the Government sanctioned the opening of additional training classes for training the large number of teachers required in connexion with the introduction of compulsory elementary education. Additional training classes will be opened in 1947-48 also for the same purpose. The Government have also enhanced the rates of stipends for teachers undergoing training from Rs. 8 to 12 per elementary grade training and from Rs. 12 to 18 for secondary grade training.

The Government have ordered that the assessed grants paid on behalf of aided elementary school teachers should be paid to the teachers themselves, in full, and that separate grants equal to 15 per cent of the assessed grants should be paid to managements for the upkeep of school buildings, etc. They have also ordered that grants-in-aid for elementary school teachers should be paid monthly, instead of quarterly as at present.

The Government are also considering proposals for improving the status and prospects of elementary school teachers in all possible ways.

### Secondary Education

With a view to encourage the study of Hindustani, the Government have directed that the teaching of Hindustani as an optional language in



Forms II to IV should be introduced in all secondary schools in which the language is not now taught.

The Government have also directed that the teaching of English in Standard IV of elementary schools and in Classes I to IV in the primary departments of secondary schools should be abolished with effect from the current school year and in Standard V and in Class V with effect from the next school year. The study of English language will commence in Standard VI of lower secondary schools and in Form I of secondary schools. The Government have also ordered that the medium of instruction should be the regional language. The question of making the regional languages the first language and English the second language in the scheme for the S.S.L.C. Examination is under consideration.

With a view to meet the great rush of students for admission in secondary schools, the Government ordered last year that the number of pupils to be admitted in each class might be increased by 5 provided the minimum space required for each pupil was kept up.

With a view to encourage the managements of all aided educational institutions (other than elementary schools) to pay dearness allowance to the members of the staff at the rates admissible to the Government servants, the Government have undertaken to make grants not exceeding half the allowance admissible to the members of the staff at Government rates, irrespective of whether the managements pay in full or not out of their own funds their half of the allowance. The managements are expected to pay the allowance in the first instance and then claim the grant due towards that expenditure.

#### College and University Education

One of the Government's post-war schemes is the opening of two Engineering Colleges, one for the Andhra Desa and the other for the Ceded Districts. One of the Colleges, viz., that intended for the Andhra Desa, has been temporarily opened at Cocanada, to be ultimately shifted to Vizagapatam. As regards the other college, 50 students have been admitted to the Engineering College, Guindy, and 15 to the Arthur Hope College of Technology, Coimbatore, with a view to transferring them to the Engineering College for the Ceded Districts when it is opened at Anantapur or any other suitable place.

The Government have also appointed an Expert Committee to advise them on matters connected with the Engineering education, especially the

co-ordination of the courses of studies to be adopted in the different colleges and the location, etc., of the new colleges.

The Government Arts College, Coimbatore, has been raised to the first grade with effect from 1946-47. B.Sc. courses have been opened in the Government Muslim College (men), Madras, from this year. A new first-grade College for Muslim women has also been opened in Madras.

To meet the great rush of students for admission in colleges in the current academic year, the Government addressed the Universities and got the necessary sanction to admit three batches of students to Science classes and the maximum number to Arts courses.

They also approved the adoption of Tamil as the medium of instruction for the III group subjects in the Intermediate course in the Government Arts College, Coimbatore, and the Municipal College, Salem.

The Government have constituted a University Grants Committee consisting of seven members to examine new schemes proposed by the Universities and to advise Government in regard to the allocation of grants to them.

They have also constituted a Provincial Advisory Board of Education consisting of 29 members to advise them on all matters relating to any grade of education that may be referred to them.

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#### Village Officers, only Part-time Men

There seems to be some misapprehension in the minds of village officers as to whether they can undertake any subsidiary occupation to supplement the salaries paid by the Government. Village officers are only part-time officers and the Government wish to take this opportunity of explaining that there is no objection to village officers taking up other part-time employment or occupation or engaging in trade or taking up contract works in their own villages provided their legitimate duties as village officers are not prejudiced thereby and provided they have obtained the previous permission in writing of the Revenue Divisional Officer concerned. If they wish to undertake contract works outside the village in their charge, they should apply for and obtain the sanction of the Government.

[March 14]

# Importance of Handloom Industry in Provincial Economy

## Weavers' Co-ops to Tackle Cloth Problem

One of the problems that has cropped up on account of the conditions created by war is the acute cloth scarcity in the country. Lack of imports of yarn and cloth from foreign countries, the steep fall in the production of cloth by the Indian mills for civilian consumption, the large requirements of cloth by the Military and the non-availability of adequate quantities of yarn to the weavers to engage their handlooms continuously, have contributed to the serious shortage of cloth in the market. Even the termination of the war did not ease the situation. Systematic and concentrated attempts are being made both by the Provincial and Central Governments to tackle this problem by making arrangements for augmenting production and for equitable distribution of the available quantities of cloth to the consuming public. The weavers' co-operative societies in this Province have been playing an important role in catering to the cloth requirements of the people and also in exercising a salutary influence on the handloom cloth trade.

The handloom industry in this province ranks in importance next to agriculture only. It has survived, in a substantial form, the several vicissitudes through which it has passed; and the prominent position it occupies in the economy of the province can be judged by the fact that there are about five lakhs of looms in the province and that the province produces the largest quantity of handloom cloth among all the provinces of India. The attempts to organize the industry on a co-operative basis in order to ameliorate the economic condition of the poor weavers who have been labouring under many disabilities, to regulate production of handloom cloth and distribute it equitably among the consuming public, have attained remarkable success during the last five years.

Apart from the other factors, the prevalence of blackmarketing in yarn and cloth has also been responsible for shortage of cloth in the normal market. The weavers' co-operative organization as it is working now eliminates the possibilities of these malpractices and ensures the return of the entire yarn in the shape of cloth to be despatched to the consuming markets in due course. The weavers' co-operative society structure consists of primary weavers' co-operative and an apex institution, viz., the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society to which

the primary weavers' societies are affiliated. The Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society regulates and co-ordinates the activities of the primaries, purchases yarn and other raw materials required by them in bulk and arranges for their distribution to the primaries charging a small margin of profit just enough to meet its overhead charges. It also undertakes to market the cloth produced by the primaries through the network of its emporiums spread throughout the Province. It has so far opened 39 emporiums for the distribution of yarn to the primaries and for the marketing of their finished goods. The primary weavers' societies have been functioning as production societies, i.e., they distribute yarn to the members and take back the cloth produced out of the yarn. The weavers receive wages from the society for the production of cloth. By this process, the entire yarn distributed to weavers is accounted for in the form of cloth and the possibilities of blackmarketing of yarn are eliminated. The problem of marketing also is systematically tackled. In order to ensure a fair distribution of cloth to the public, the Provincial Weavers' Society purchases from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the production of the primaries and sells it through its emporiums at reasonable rates to the public. As regards the remaining cloth, the primaries sell direct to the consumers or to the co-operative stores societies in the neighbourhood. As a last resort, sales to merchants are effected, generally with a view to avoid accumulation of stocks and prevent loss to the society.

During 1942-43, when the middle class and poor people were hit hard on account of scarcity of cloth, Government launched a scheme for the production of the cheap handloom cloth through the Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society and its primaries and through the collective weaving centres which were started under the control of the Provincial Textile Commissioner. The scheme was vigorously implemented by the Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society and as a result of its sustained efforts 20,196 looms in 192 primary weavers' societies were harnessed for the purpose. Varieties of cloth, which the people of the province are accustomed to use, were selected and large scale production of these varieties was undertaken. Cheap handloom cloth to the extent of 59 lakhs of yards was produced under the scheme by the weavers' co-operative societies, and the entire cloth

except for a million yards, which were exported to Ceylon, was disposed of in this province.

The following statement indicates the rapid strides, which the primary weavers' co-operative

societies and the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society have made during the last five years and the extent to which they have served the public ;—

#### Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
1 Number of primary weavers' societies.	215	228	263	311	336
2 Number of members .. .. .	19,676	31,431	42,438	51,131	65,286
3 Number of working looms .. .. .	9,766	23,720	16,854	29,936	39,452
	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.
4 Paid up share capital .. .. .	2.21	4.16	6.23	10.26	20.7
5 Value of cloth produced .. .. .	20.31	91.12	85.88	169.54	347.69
6 Value of cloth sold .. .. .	25.31	95.83	87.11	174.44	373.09

#### Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Societies.

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
1 Number of members .. .. .	379	462	550	618	1,258
	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.	RS. IN LAKHS.
2 Share capital .. .. .	0.90	1.25	1.36	1.40	1.50
3 Value of goods sold through the emporiums.	2.85	9.23	35.19	41.64	83.75

The primary weavers' societies produced during the last year cloth worth Rs. 347 lakhs and sold cloth to the value of Rs. 373 lakhs. The sales through the emporiums of the provincial weavers' society amounted to Rs. 83.75 lakhs. At present there are about 350 weavers' societies commanding approximately 52,000 looms as against 5 lakhs of looms in the province. The monthly production of cloth of these societies amounts to Rs. 30 lakhs.

The weavers' co-operative societies take all possible measure to minimize the cost of production with a view to make cloth available at reasonable rates. They regulate the rates of wages to the weavers in order to keep the cost of production within reasonable limits and at the same time ensure a fair return to the weavers for their labour. Even before the handloom cloth price control was issued by Government, the provincial weavers' society and the primary weavers' societies introduced voluntary price control of their fabrics. They were selling handloom cloth charging a margin of 18½ per cent only over the cost of production, which is less than the total margin allowed in the existing handloom cloth price control order. The prices of cloth arrived at on this basis were stamped on the cloth and the cloth was sold to the public at the labelled prices. The provincial weavers' society was purchasing cloth from the primaries, allowing 6½ per cent to them over the cost of production, and selling it through its emporiums at the cost of production plus 18½ per cent. In respect of sales to the co-operative institution and recognized dealers it allowed a commission of 6½ per cent on the labelled prices

after taking an undertaking from them to sell the cloth at the labelled prices only.

Under the existing handloom cloth price control order, the producers' price is fixed at the cost of production plus 15 per cent thereof, and a producer should not sell cloth to the wholesale dealer at a price which exceeds the producers' price to, a retailer at a price which exceeds the producers' price by more than 4 per cent and to a consumer at a price, which exceeds the producers' price by more than 14 per cent. The provincial weavers' society has been purchasing the cloth from the primaries at the producers' price and selling it charging a margin of 10 per cent only as against 14 per cent provided for in the control order in order to make the cloth available to the public at lower rates. Some of the weavers societies also have been charging lesser margins of profits in respect of their sales to the public.

The handloom fabrics of the weavers' societies have become cheaper and more popular in the market. There is however no uniformity in the production costs of different societies which in some instances can probably be readjusted. The proposed formation of the taluk and provincial Wages Boards will speedily remedy this defect. The expansion of weavers' co-operative movement aiming at the speedy assimilation of all the working looms into the co-operative structure which the Government have decided upon will greatly benefit the consumers in making the handloom cloth available at reasonable rates and in meeting to an appreciable extent the acute cloth situation in the Province.

# Co-operatives help to solve Food Problem

(CONTRIBUTED)

The War brought about adverse effects on the food position of the country in general and the Madras Province in particular. The entry of Japan into the war and her occupation of Indo-China, Siam and Burma and the consequent cutting off of supplies of rice from this source led to a marked deterioration of the food position of the Province which used to supplement its production by import from these countries. The position has been aggravated by almost total failure of crops in some districts owing to unfavourable seasonal conditions in recent years. Hoarding, high prices, profiteering and black marketing have often characterised the process of distribution and necessitated a number of Government measures to deal with them. Devising ways and means of increasing food crops, introduction of schemes of procurement and rationing of foodgrains, control of prices of essential commodities, are some of the important measures taken by the Government and in all these matters co-operative societies have whole-heartedly assisted the Government.

Co-operation is based on the voluntary organization of people, run and managed by them on democratic lines eminently suited to undertake procurement and distribution. Therefore the people of this province have lost no time in forming co-operative associations—particularly co-operative stores—for the satisfaction of their common economic interests. Co-operative stores, or consumers' co-operative societies as they are often called, are organizations of buyers to purchase their requirements cheaply in bulk from production centres and distribute them among themselves according to their needs, eliminating a number of middlemen in the process. The profits made in the business which generally goes into the pocket of the shopkeeper are shared by the members as rebate on their purchases after selling apart a portion towards the reserve fund.

As a result of the increasing faith of the people in the essential social justice and democratic methods of business associated with the co-operative distributive system, a large number of co-operative stores or consumers' co-operative societies have sprung up throughout the province. Leading non-officials from all walks of life have come forward to manage the stores. The pace of progress in the field will be appreciated if it is realized that during the year 1945-46 more than 1,300 primary or retail co-operative stores

with about 1,000 branches or depots and 21 district co-operative central or wholesale stores distributed foodgrains and other essential commodities to the public to the value of about Rs. 25 crores, as against 85 stores with an annual sales turn-over of less than Rs. 25 lakhs on the eve of the world war. There are to-day nearly 4½ lakhs of members on the rolls of the 13 hundred odd primary or retail co-operative stores which have been federated into 21 district co-operative wholesale or central stores. The share capital of both the retail and central stores voluntarily contributed by the public amounted to nearly a crore of rupees on 30th June, 1946.

The policy of Government has been to encourage and utilise Co-operative institutions to the maximum extent possible in all schemes of procurement and rationing. It is an encouraging sign that managements of co-operative societies have never hesitated to avail themselves of the opportunities to serve the people. They have, in conjunction with the agencies set up for the enforcement of trade and economic controls, been helpful to check the rise in prices, put down profiteering and black marketing and ensure a fair distribution of commodities in short supply, subject, of course, to their limitations. To enable the public to get the benefit of co-operative distribution, Government have permitted co-operative stores to sell to non-members as a temporary measure.

The primary co-operative stores are participating in schemes of statutory rationing of foodgrains in all the 84 Municipal towns and in the district of Malabar. Out of 524 primary stores situated in urban and semi-urban areas, 242 stores have been allotted during the year 1945-46, 755 ration shops under the statutory rationing schemes. The number of ration cards registered with the stores on 30th June, 1946, was 3.48 lakhs as against 2.97 lakhs at the end of the previous co-operative year (1944-45). Roughly about a fifth of the ration shops in the municipal town are run by co-operative societies.

The role of the District co-operative wholesale stores in statutory rationing by way of wholesale stocking and distribution of rice to authorize retail dealers is no less important. Their services are freely utilized in the distribution of controlled commodities and the import and procurement of foodgrains. The wholesale co-operative stores at Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool,

Chingleput and Mangalore have been recognized as sole stockists of foodgrains under the rationing scheme. During the year 1945-46 they stocked foodgrains valued at Rs. 528.21 lakhs and sold stocks worth Rs. 529.98 lacs under the scheme of rationing.

Considering that rationing by itself cannot meet the situation, Government have, with a view to tide over the food crisis, directed the intensification of procurement operations so as to secure all the available surplus foodgrains from producers. In this scheme, too, co-operative institutions are made wide use of. While ensuring the interests of consumers, co-operative societies look to the interests of producers also by using correct weights and measures and by refraining from unauthorised deductions and mamools that generally characterise private trade in foodgrains.

During the co-operative year ended 30th June 1946, fifty-seven primary stores were entrusted with procurement of paddy and rice, while 49 stores undertook procurement of millets. The value of foodgrains procured and sold by them during the year amounted to Rs. 28.02 lakhs and Rs. 20.15 lakhs, respectively. The number of stores engaged in procurement work and the value of foodgrains procured by them have enormously gone up during the current co-operative year.

Of the 21 district co-operative wholesale stores in the Province, 15 wholesale stores have been participating in procurement. The South Kanara Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Mangalore, enjoys the unique honour of being the first wholesale stores to be entrusted with *monopoly* procurement of foodgrains in the entire district of South Kanara, and it has been satisfactorily carrying the work for three successive seasons. Two other co-operative wholesale stores which have recently been entrusted with District-wide procurement are the Trichinopoly District Co-operative Wholesale Stores and the Vizianagram Central Co-operative Stores (in the Vizagapatam district). The value of foodgrains procured and sold by all these co-operative wholesale stores during the year amounted to Rs. 280.41 lakhs and Rs. 280.24 lakhs, respectively.

Early in June 1946, Government ordered the formations of village, taluk, and district committees with a view to render the food administration more effective and to associate non-officials with the work. While the village committees are entrusted with administrative functions connected with procurement operations such as scrutiny of demand lists, checking of strength of families, issue of ration cards, etc., co-operative institutions

wherever they exist and are willing to undertake it are expected to do the actual procurement work.

As the Government are very keen on speeding up and intensifying arrangements for procurement of all the available foodgrains, and as the need for co-operative agencies to undertake the work has been keenly felt, co-operative sale or marketing societies, co-operative agricultural improvement societies and select rural co-operative credit societies have also been allowed to take up procurement after suitably amending their by-laws.

In Malabar about 106 producers'-cum-consumers' co-operative societies consisting of both producers and consumers have been started for purposes of procurement and distribution of foodgrains and other controlled commodities such as cloth, sugar, kerosene, agricultural implements, etc. There is enthusiasm for these societies and they have within a very short period collected more than Rs. 40 lakhs as share capital. Similar societies are now being formed in the four northern circars districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. These schemes are being worked out through District Food Rationing Officers with the assistance of special staff sanctioned for the purpose.

It will thus be evident that the consumers' co-operative movement has been playing a very notable and varied role in the food economy of the Province and rendered great social service to the community during very difficult times. The results so far achieved would not have been possible but for the popular support for co-operative stores on one hand and the encouragement the movement has received from the Government on the other. It is also clear that the Co-operative technique of distribution of the necessaries of life has permeated almost every section of the community. It will indeed be a national gain if the creative impulses and capacities of people called into play by the difficult conditions created by the war are fully exploited, conserved and harnessed for their permanent good in the years to come.

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(Continued from page 20.)

A sub-committee was constituted from among the members of the Nutrition Sub-Committee to draw standards of quality for foodgrains from the nutrition and health point of view. The Sub-Committee has since drawn up those standards.

The Sub-Committee considered that some effective check must be exercised over the food products that are put on the market and that standards of purity in respect of foodstuffs intended for consumption should be fixed.

# From Paddy Field to Ration Shop

## Supply System Explained

Probably few, if any, ration card-holders who draw their weekly rations of rice in the cities and towns of the Province pause to consider the elaborate organization that exists to ensure the supplies in the ration shops. During the year 1946, no less than 672,730 tons of rice were transferred from the surplus districts of the Province for consumption in the deficit districts and as much as 345,000 tons were imported from overseas countries like Burma, Brazil and Siam and other places in India like Orissa, Central Provinces, Punjab and the Eastern States. Almost all this rice was sold over the counter in the 25,000 odd ration shops scattered over the length and breadth of this Province.

### Purchase.

Let us first have a look at the purchase system by which the paddy is brought from the producers (in the surplus districts), is milled and despatched from the railway stations. The District Supply Officer of the surplus district is given by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) a certain quota of rice to export every month to the deficit districts. He then enters into contracts with the authorized procurement agents in his district, co-operative societies or millers, to supply him with the requisite quantities of rice and paddy. The procurement agents have to see that adequate quantities of paddy are procured from the producers. The contract between the District Supply Officer and the supplier is usually for rice, though occasionally paddy also is exported. The price fixed is for delivery at the nearest railway station. This price takes into consideration the transport charges from the village to the mill and from the mill to the station, whether it is by means of carts or lorries or canal-barges. The work of the procuring agents is controlled and supervised at every stage by Government officers. The prices they pay to the ryots are now fixed and they have to limit their profits and other charges to the official scale. These accounts are subject to constant check and they have at frequent intervals to furnish statements of their purchases and stocks to the local officers.

### Quality.

It is unfortunately true that the quality of the rice in the ration shop is not always up to pre-war standards. During 1946, especially there have

been many complaints; complaints of bad smelling rice, of under-polished rice, of rice containing paddy-grains, of red rice and so on. There were many reasons for this. In 1946, the provincial rice position was so bad that the Government had to take rice from anywhere they could get it and very often pay through the nose for it when it came from outside the Province. Quantity, rather than quality, was the criterion, if much-dreaded starvation was to be avoided and so inferior quality rice from overseas and from other Provinces and States in India had to be accepted under protest usually and distributed in the deficit districts when it was sold by means of a Government subsidy at local rates. Even provincial rice was often not up to its usual standard, because it had to be procured sometimes still wet from the thrashing-floor, hastily milled and despatched by rail, if rationing arrangements in some distant deficit district were not to break down. Under these circumstances, it was not always possible for the exporting staff to test the quality of all the consignments or prevent the malpractices of certain suppliers with the usual vigilance. Speedy movement was the prime object, if the ration shops were to get their supplies.

Ever since control came into being, the Government have insisted on certain well-defined standards of quality in the supply of rice and paddy. District Supply Officers have been instructed to reject rice altogether, if it is moist, smells bad, or if it is a mixture of boiled and raw rice. In addition, suppliers are fined, if the rice supplied by them contains more than specified percentages of broken, red-grains, dirt and foreign matter.

The previous specification of passable rice laid down that rice should receive an adequate but not excessive polish. Two gentle polishes to render the rice fit for human consumption were allowed. In August 1946, however, the Government found it necessary to restrict milling to de-husking of paddy only and banned all polishing of rice. The reason for this order was that it ensured a higher outturn of rice from the paddy which was very necessary when stocks of rice were so low throughout the Province. It is estimated that as a result of the application of this order, the outturn of rice has risen by 3 per cent in the Province. The order is also beneficial from nutritional point of view since polishing of rice removes the cuticle covering the grain which

is rich in vitamin B-1. The Civil Supplies specifications have therefore been altered in this important respect and millers are no longer permitted to supply polished rice in the despatching areas nor are consumers in the importing centres allowed to have this rice polished in mills. The Government have issued most stringent instructions to their subordinate officers to see that rice mills are regularly inspected and that unhealthy practices such as the use of stale water for boiling paddy are stopped. The rice produced in conformity with this order has not the attractive appearance that milled rice has, but consumers can feel satisfaction if they realize that the rice resources of the province are being saved and that the nutritional content of their ration is being increased.

#### Movement.

The extension of the World War II to the Far East in 1941 and the growing importance of India as a base of military operations resulted in great congestion on the railways in this country. All essential goods had to be moved on a priority system and rice for civilian consumption was occasionally subjected to awkward delays in movement, and at times rice had to be moved by sea in country crafts or steamers. On an average 60,000 tons of rice are moved each month from the surplus to the deficit districts. This means 3,000 Broad-gauge or 6,000 Metre-gauge waggon-loads. One of the most important duties of the District Supply Officer is to arrange with the local railway authorities to have waggons

placed at the stations where he has accumulated rice for export. Often his demands for waggons far exceed the supply and a dangerous bottleneck results which can only be remedied by the railway turning on special trains or by down-grading the priority of other goods in favour of rice movements. For instance, when during December 1946, practically all the railway lines were breached by floods, for a time no other commodities except rice were transported on the line between Bezwada and Madras. Of course, the closest contact is maintained between the Government and the railway officials over the movement of rice and the railways have co-operated magnificently ever since 1942 in seeing that the rice was moved, however pressing the other demands upon them were. In fact, movements of rice continued almost on the same scale as before during the strike on the South Indian Railway in August and September, 1946 even though the staff was more than halved at that time.

These are only three aspects of the supply system. Much could be said about the price fixation, the subsidies that Government bear and the elaborate machinery and staff that exists for distribution of rice in the importing districts. But, the particulars already given may give an idea of how many links there are in the chain of supply between the paddy field and the ration shop. Producer, purchaser, miller, Government official, railwayman or sailor—all play their part in seeing that the rice is sold to the public at fixed prices throughout the Province.

## Popular Governments and public relations

By C.V.H. RAO.

(Director of Information and Publicity, Government of Madras)

It is an important characteristic of the present times that Governments have begun to consider the necessity for maintaining contacts with the public and organs of public opinion and inform the public about what they are doing. A democratic system of Government presupposes and predicates popular consent to the acts of the administration. You cannot have democracy without popular co-operation and popular support. A dictatorial or bureaucratic Government may afford to function in the dark and may not feel the need to enlist such support or co-operation in the ordinary sense of those terms. Its acts and decisions may have no reference to popular approval, though by themselves they may not in

all cases be opposed to the public interest as the dictator or the bureaucrat conceives it. But there is no obligation on a bureaucracy to consult the wishes of the people except to the extent that it alone considers necessary. It is concerned more with regimentation of public opinion and less with enlisting it for the public good. A democracy however cannot function that way; for the moment a popular Government begins to act in a manner antithetical to popular will, it stands in danger of the public will ousting it. Being elected by the people its responsibility to the public is unabsolvable and conditions everyone of the policies it wants to promote and initiate.

### The Functions of the Legislature.

The Legislature in a democracy usually acts as a bridge between public opinion and Government. It interprets the former to the latter and ensures the responsiveness of the latter to the former. But a Legislature is not a continuous or permanent body, because in the first place it can meet only periodically and in the second it is liable to dissolution and prorogation. The Executive Government is on the other hand a permanent, continuous institution, the central point of which is represented by the now well known saying, "The King is dead, long live the King," using the term "King" here to be co-terminous with Government. The Legislature at the same time is concerned solely with law-making and legislating for the public welfare while the actual day-to-day execution of the law is the function of the Executive Government, whether removable or irremovable, responsible or non-responsible.

Depending as it does on public support, a democratic popular Government cannot afford to neglect the need for cultivating that support by maintaining continuous and close contacts with the public and by explaining itself to them and by ensuring for itself public approbation and support. The education of the political sovereign is, therefore, an imperative and inescapable function of a popular Government. It is necessary not only because the policies of any Government are likely to touch the life of the community at a number of points and in all spheres, but also because a responsible Government of the parliamentary type should have an eye on the next election. The electorate cannot be left guessing or neglected, much less can it be trifled with. When either of these is not possible or desirable, it is much better and more preferable to educate and enlighten it. "We must educate our masters" is not a dictum applicable merely to the imparting of elementary education to the people at large; it is applicable much more to political education—to education which has for its purpose the engenderment of intelligent appreciation for what the Government does.

### Educating the Public.

It is from this point of view that the maintenance of public relations assumes the aspect of an important and vital part of the work of a popular Government. This problem acquires special significance during war-time when the need for public support for the war effort and the preservation of public morale are of paramount importance. What had been found to be of so important and so essential a function during the war is not less so

during the succeeding peace, when Governments everywhere are engaged in the more complicated and difficult business of reconstruction of the shattered national economies of their respective countries and when every nerve is being strained or ought to be strained to ensure permanent and stable peace. There is nothing which can contribute so largely to this consummation than an enlightened and awakened public opinion which can make itself felt.

Public relations in the sense of Government explaining themselves to the people and the people being conversant with Governmental activities is therefore a vital part of the technique of democratic, popular Government. It is at the same time a difficult and rather complicated work also. Granting that the people must be told what the Government is doing and proposes to do, the question arises as to how much they should be told and in what manner. It is the common complaint of the people, as represented by the press, the Legislature and so on that they are not told enough while it is the common plea of those in authority that the over-riding consideration of public interest prevents everything being told. Much depends on what is regarded as public interest at a particular time. On the assumption, however, that democratic Government presupposes public discussion and frank and full exposition of issues it would appear that such frank and full public discussion will not be possible unless the people know all the facts of a case, possess all the information essential and are in a position to bring an informed mind to bear on the points at issue. Safety as much as desirability, lies therefore, in imparting and not withholding information, in frankness rather than in secretiveness. When all the actions and policies of a popular Government are pre-eminently conceived in the general interest of the people as a whole, there can in fact be no secretiveness about them.

### Instruments of Publicity.

The media for imparting and communicating information are well-known and modern scientific advance has placed at the disposal of the Governments such powerful instruments of publicity as the newspapers, the radio, the film and the printing press. It is the function of a Public Relations staff to utilize these different publicity media for putting across to the public whatever the popular Government has been doing, to educate, enlighten and inform them about it. At the same time the idea should be not so much to regiment public opinion into one set mould of thought which is the bane of totalitarian regimes, but to promote,



enlightened discussion, to induce correct understanding and to inculcate a proper appreciation of the Government's work, which is the way of a democratic regime. What is done in these respects will be justified by results in the shape of public confidence, in the form of improved public morale and public support and public co-operation. The draw-back is inherent in the work of the public relations staff that publicity for the activities of a Government may deteriorate into propaganda for a party, for the purpose of promoting party interests and consolidating the party position. That danger has to be guarded against by drawing a demarcating-line between blatant and barefaced propaganda and plain, unvarnished information. It may be difficult to draw that line and the prospects of overlapping are considerable. But it is not impossible to do so when the Public Relations Departments of a Government comprehend their business and are allowed a certain initiative.

#### Intelligent Censorship.

Of course, occasions do arise when even democratic Governments have to consider the necessity for keeping away from the public, facts and information. Such an occasion is a period of war or a period of intensive public excitement and convulsion. During such a period as the experiences of the last war have shown, Governments are sometimes liable to errors of decision and errors of discretion in dealing with public opinion and important organs of public opinion like the press. There may be occasions when these errors led during the last war to curious and difficult, if not, serious situations, when the public felt confused and uncertain, when the

need for public morale was sacrificed for what was regarded as the demands of military secrecy and when restrictions had to be imposed on the newspapers with regard to the publication of certain items of news for which there appeared to be no justification in the light of subsequent events. Censorship acted like an ass or a blind-folded person without aim or objective. Such occasions are, however, rare, and very soon democratic countries engaged in war realized that it was far better and more advantageous to tell the truth and the whole truth about military events than to leave the public to speculate and conjecture. The war showed also that telling the facts paid dividend in the shape of restoration of public morale while the totalitarian methods or regimenting opinion or exaggerating things defeated itself in the end.

With these experiences before us only one conclusion is possible and it is that it is the essence of a democratic system of Government that it should keep themselves abreast of public opinion and should enlighten and educate it at every stage. Nothing is more important and more beneficial than this enlightenment, and popular Governments which do not realise the need for discharging this function are probably not playing fair to the electorates or probably even to themselves. At the same time, this work is that of an expert and not of a layman, of those who can feel and understand the public mind and who know their job. It requires initiative, resourcefulness and a trained journalistic eye as to the needs of a particular time or occasion. And within the four corners of Government's policy on any matter, freedom of interpretation and exposition of that policy should be permitted.

## Village-well Thrown open to Harijans

### Governor's appreciation of gesture

On the 17th February, in the course of his tour in the Madura district, His Excellency the Governor visited Karadikal, a predominantly Kallar village on his return from Thirumangalam to Madura. The Harijans of the village approached His Excellency with a request for a site for a well, whereupon he suggested to the Kallars that the Harijans should be allowed to take water from the caste people's well. The Kallars said that they would convene a meeting to discuss the question. Subsequently the Collector of Madura presided over the meeting where two aged Harijans ceremonially lifted water from the village well. In appreciation of the gesture of the caste people

of Karadikal, His Excellency the Governor sent them a message in Tamil of which the following is the English rendering :—

“When I visited your village on February 17, I requested you to permit the Harijans of your village to use the village-well. I learn that you have agreed to this and the Harijans are now taking water from the well. I think that in doing so you have shown a spirit of generosity and tolerance and set an example which I hope all villages in the province will follow.”

It is reported that the village-well has been thrown open permanently to the Harijans of Karadikal.

## MINISTERIAL CHANGES

### PRAKASAM MINISTRY RESIGNS

Accepting the resignation of Prakasam Ministry His Excellency the Governor has issued the following orders:—

I, Archibald Edward Nye, hereby accept with effect from the afternoon of 23rd March, 1947, the resignation tendered by the following members of my Council of Ministers, namely:—

1. Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, M.L.A.
2. Hon'ble Mrs. Lakshmipathi, M.L.A.
3. Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri, M.L.A.
4. Hon'ble Sri K. Bhashyam, M.L.A.
5. Hon'ble Sri K. Koti Reddi, M.L.A.
6. Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth, M.L.A.
7. Hon'ble Sri R. Raghava Menon, M.L.A.
8. Hon'ble Sri B. Venkatratnam, M.L.A.

### NEW MINISTRY SWORN IN

His Excellency the Governor has appointed the following gentlemen to be Members of the Council of Ministers:—

1. Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar—Public (excluding Law and Order, Elections, Excluded Areas and Partially Excluded Areas),

Hindu Religious Endowments, Khadi and Firka Development.

2. Hon'ble Dr. P. Subbaroyan—Home, Public (Law and Order), Legal, Legislation and High Court.

3. Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan—Food, Labour and Motor Transport.

4. Hon'ble Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam—Public Works and Planning.

5. Hon'ble Sri B. Gopala Reddi—Finance, Commercial Taxes, Public (Elections and Excluded Areas and Excluded Partially Areas).

6. Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas—Prohibition, Excise, Housing and Registration.

7. Hon'ble Sri H. Sitarama Reddi—Industries and Information.

8. Hon'ble Sri K. Chandramouli—Local Administration and Co-operation.

9. Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar—Education.

10. Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon—Agriculture, Forests, Veterinary and Prisons.

11. Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao—Land Revenue.

12. Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty—Public Health and Medicine.

13. Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya—Harijan Uplift, Fisheries, Cinchona and Rural Development.

## Book Reviews

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

(B.B.C. Pamphlets.)

Oxford University Press. Price, 12 annas.

This book offers a collection of six literary talks, broadcast by the B.B.C. E. M. Forster, the noted English novelist, gives a critical appreciation of Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar', and draws attention to the poetical flashes of magic and beauty which pierce through the clouds of tragedy.

"No one but Milton could have written Milton." In this characteristically cryptic comment, George Sampson, an eminent literary critic, sums up the uniqueness of Milton's poetic genius. The critic deals with the shorter poems of Milton in this particular talk.

The more modern writers like Thomas Hardy, William Hazlitt and Shaw have also been included in the book under review. Sketchy as these short talks must essentially be, they do succeed in giving a lucid, though brief, glimpse of some of the masterminds of British literature; for as an eminent man of letters remarked; "Shakespeare

and Shaw, between themselves, cover the entire world of the mind."

### LANDMARKS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

(B.B.C. Pamphlets.)

Oxford University Press.

Price, 12 annas.

This is a companion volume to the one on British literature. In this collection, American men of letters like Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Mark Twain and Jack London, are presented to the layman by eminent literary critics. The talk on Mark Twain, the king among literary men, as he was called, is particularly interesting, containing some spicy quotations and witty sayings of this great jester. "Training is everything; the peach was once a bitter almond" and "cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with college education", are some typical examples of the telling witticisms of Mark Twain. These sayings which combine robust realism with a sense of the grotesque, have earned for Twain the name of an analyst of humanity.

## Harijan Fund Exhibition Pictures



*A flat wooden chakti used for husking paddy. Turns out unpolished rice. Can husk 4 maunds a day of 8 hours. Is worked by one woman. Cost Rs. 12-8-0.*



*They are making lace.*

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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