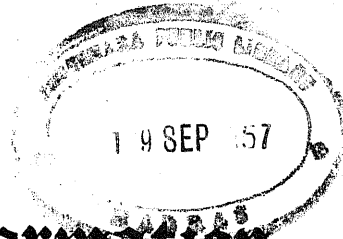


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"WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE"

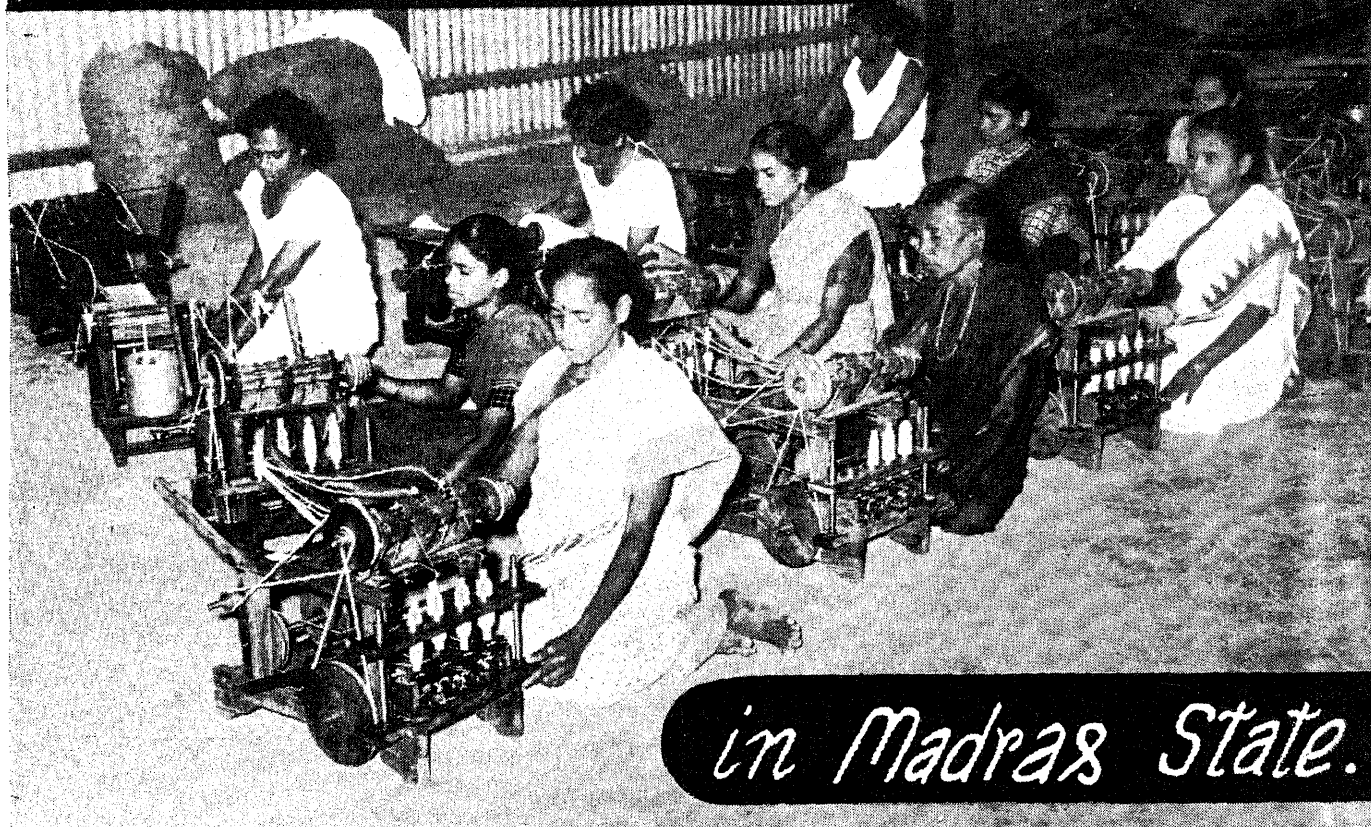
September 1957

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On the cover page : A view of Rupees Two Crore Krishnagiri Reservoir Project which is nearing completion. Waters impounded in the dam were let out for irrigation on the Independence Day.

Khadi Development



in Madras State.

By Sri R. PARTHASARATHI, Director of Khadi.

It was nearly four decades ago that Mahatma Gandhi rediscovered the Charkha for the villagers who had no occupation during nearly six to eight months in the year, when there were no agricultural operations. The All-India Spinners' Association was constituted with Mahatma Gandhi as its first President. Khadi was one of the main items of Gandhiji's constructive programme ever since 1921. The gospel of the Charkha was preached by Gandhiji in season and out of season and thus it was that Khadi attained the pre-eminent place in the national programme of economic reconstruction. During the period of the struggle for independence ever since Gandhiji took over the leadership of the nation, Khadi was in the fore-front of the programme and became automatically the symbol of freedom and the badge of sacrifice for the country's cause. Till the advent of Independence the

then Governments, both Central and State looked down upon Khadi with benign contempt, if not active aggression. During the early years of the advent of Khadi it had great political significance attached to it and though Gandhiji conceived of the Khadi Programme as one of the main solutions for rural unemployment and thus invested it with economic significance, yet its economic value was overshadowed at that time by a sense of patriotism which became the main stay for the movement.

With the advent of independence however Khadi naturally lost much of its political significance except perhaps its hallowed association with the struggle for independence. It therefore became necessary for Khadi enthusiasts and economists to emphasise its real and more lasting significance as an economic solution rather than

a patriotic or political urge. The outlook of the Government also underwent a change and Khadi began to attain an honoured place within the portals of Government with people's repute at its head began to look upon it with a more practical and kindly attitude than its predecessors.

The All India Spinners' Association started under Gandhiji's leadership and guidance penetrated into the villages and set up a number of production centres by introducing the Charkha, distributing cotton, collecting and purchasing yarn from spinners and enlisting weavers for production of Khadi out of the yarn so collected. Tamilnad stood in the fore-front of this movement and was the largest producer of Khadi; Tamilnad Khadi became, in course of time, a by-word for quality. Madras was the first State—and remains so still—to take

Tamil as Official Language

The Revenue, Public Works Department, Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments and Education Departments are among others, in the first batch of Department chosen by Government for using Tamil in their correspondence, under the Official Language Act.

The consideration in the process of implementation of the Official Language Act will be that the introduction of Tamil as the Language of correspondence of any department should not result in any deterioration in the quality or pace of disposal of business in the Department. Subject to this condition Tamil will be introduced, as official language in the offices below the level of the Heads of Departments. In the first instance in all offices (other than Courts) where English typewriters have not been sanctioned, Tamil will be introduced as the language of correspondence as soon as the standard glossary of administrative terms is supplied to them.

In regard to other offices, they will be taken up in convenient batches, the order of preference being determined

with reference to the extent to which the general public, particularly the ryots in the villages, have to deal with them.

The following Departments will constitute the first batch :—

(a) Revenue Department (including the offices of the Block Development Officers).

(b) Public Works Department (Irrigation and Electricity).

(c) The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Departments.

(d) The Education Department.

(e) The Local Bodies.

(f) The Department of Agriculture.

(g) The Co-operative Department.

(h) The Village and Panchayat Courts (All other Courts will be taken up only after the translation of the various Acts and after making sure that all legal points can be expressed with precision in Tamil. The Bills and Acts and the several statutory notifications will continue to be in English till Tamil is introduced in all

Courts, other than the Village and Panchayat Courts.)

In the meantime Printing and Distribution of the Standard Glossary and Tamil translation of the District Office Manual to all offices and preparation of supplementary glossaries will be taken up, as also standardisation of the keyboard for the Tamil typewriters and arranging for the supply of Tamil typewriters to Government Offices; and translation of the Departmental Codes, Manuals and Forms.

The switching over to Tamil medium will be effected after due notification under the Madras Official Language Act, 1956. With immediate effect from the date of switch over, the concerned Departments will issue all communications or orders to the general public or the private individuals only in Tamil. But the use of English is not precluded even in these Departments as for example in Taluk Offices, reports on suit notices and suits will have to be sent in English till the translation of the Acts concerned become available. The use of English will, however, be reduced to the minimum.

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Progressive Painters Exhibition at the School of Arts

By SRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN.

The Exhibition of Paintings, Sculptures and handicrafts, organized by the Progressive Painters Association, Madras, got off to a flying start when, on 7th November at 6 p.m., it was declared open by Sri P. V. Rajamannar, the acting Governor of Madras. It is difficult to conceive of a person better fitted to do this. For, apart from his eminent social and official position, Sri Rajamannar is acknowledged as a lover, connoisseur and patron of art. He besides is a friend of the artists in the best sense of the term.

As expressed by Sri K. C. S. Paniker in his speech welcoming the Governor, the current exhibition is significant in that it holds up a powerful trend that has been influencing the Madras artists, viz., response to colour.

Appropriately enough Paniker's pictures stand out as masterly exposition of colouring and his influence is seen in most of the works exhibited by the other artists. But the influence is confined to the line of approach and has not affected the individuality of artists. Thus there is diversity of expression and thought. This is as it should be.

Oils predominate and the palette knife treatment has captivated many artists. The water colour medium for which Madras used to be well known is poorly represented both in number and quality.

Coming to individual artists, among those who are either students or who used to be students till very recently, Sri C. J. Anthonydoss works stand out. His pictures breathe out a brooding dynamism: the stylised statuesque quality of his figures, cleverness of arrangement, austere economy of details and subtlety of colours contribute not a little to this effect. The surrealist influence is there but the individuality of the artist overshadows this. His "Fisher Woman" is one among his best.

Sri Perumal is another artist whose works stand out. He is a person who evidently has allowed 'painting to come to him'. His pictures, with

their unsophisticated spontaneity, verge on the primitive and possess, precisely because of this, the directness and force and uninhabited expressiveness of thought and emotion. His portrait studies are specially noteworthy.

Sri P. K. Prabhakar has put up two excellent works. His picture 'Vinobha Bhawe' with its well knit arrangement, decorative motif and stylised representationalism help to bring out the crusading fervour of the Acharya. Sri M. Reddappa Naidu has exhibited some good works that are technically competent. But (to one who has seen his efforts last year) he seems to be resting on his laurels won a year back. One looks in vain for a development of thought and expression. Sri R. S. Rasu's works are interesting. 'Thele Malish' and 'Bhatakhami' are specially noteworthy. 'A young girl with mirror' is a very effective and forceful picture by Sri Samarendranath Roy. Sri Akkithath Narayanan's still life studies are good and full of promise. Sri P. V. Rama Rao has put up some intriguing works which are competent and thought-provoking. Sri N. P. Kalyanasundaram's 'Still Life' is remarkable for its pleasing colours and technique. The abstract "Compositions" of Sri R. Varadha Rajan are interesting. Sri V. Sanjeeva Rao has exhibited a few sketches that are excellent. The works of Messrs. Kerala Varma, Mammen and T. Krishna Rao deserve notice.

Among the works of established artists Sri K. Srinivasulu's "Sunflowers" executed in his characteristic style is outstanding. Sri S. Dhanapal, perhaps one of the best sculptors of our nation, has put up three pieces, of which "Avvayar" deserves special mention. This is remarkable for its compactness of composition and highly effective expressiveness. The angularity of form, though it is a variation from the flowing lines for which Sri Dhanapal's works are famous, helps to give an air of raw poignancy to the subject. Speaking of sculptures, the

works of Sri Phul Chand Pyne deserve special notice.

In the commercial art section there are some interesting works on display with Textile Design by Moulana Jon setting the standard for excellence.

A novel feature of this year's exhibition is the inclusion of craft works executed by the instructors and students of the crafts section of the School of Arts and Crafts. This branch of fine arts is ably represented by Sri Kuppuswamy with the execution of the centre-table-piece work, in brass, designed by Sri K. C. S. Paniker. Messrs. Vajravelu and Gangadharachari, the former with a pendant and the latter with a necklace reveal themselves as master goldsmiths who have the artistic skill to reorientate tradition to suit the demands of taste and fashion of the current times.

While the Progressive Painters Association have to be congratulated for putting up such a good show it has at the same time to be pointed out that they have allowed definitely non-progressive and decadent specimens of art to creep into the exhibition. There are at least a dozen pictures which will hardly earn a place in any exhibition, on merit.

Some of the exhibits in the Progressive Painters Art Exhibition Conducted at the School of Arts and Crafts are reproduced in the opposite page. They are

1. *Mother and Child* by Sri K. C. Panicker.
2. *Avvayar* (Sculpture piece) by S. Dhanapal.
3. *Fisher woman* by Sri C. Anthonydoss.
4. *Thele Malish* by Sri R. S. Rasu.
5. *Centre-table-piece work in brass* by Sri Kuppuswamy.
6. *Portrait of man* by Sri P. Perumal.
7. *Harvest* by Sri M. Reddappa Naidu.
8. *Composition* by Sri R. Varadharajan.

3

up Khadi work as a Government Scheme of rural development and to give it a prominent place in its ameliorative welfare programme.

State Government's Scheme.

In 1946 the Government took over from the All-India Spinners' Association four main centres covering 136 villages consisting of 1,800 spinners and over 500 weavers and introduced what is known as the "Intensive Khadi Scheme". The Scheme was blessed by Mahatma Gandhi who advised the Government then, to frame a scheme by selecting a group of compact villages in which Khadi had made some progress already. The main centres selected were Vellakoil, and Avinashi in Coimbatore District, Chinnasalem in South Arcot and T. Kallupatti in Madurai, Payyanur in Malabar and six Main Centres in the Andhra districts of the then undivided Madras State. With this nucleus, Government's Khadi Scheme started ten years ago and has since grown rapidly into an expanding development scheme.

The pace, growth and development can be well judged by the fact that now there are nearly 90,000 spinners coming under the Government Khadi Schemes and nearly 2,500 weavers. The total production of Khadi in Government centres has risen from about 5 lakhs of yards annually when the Scheme started ten years ago to nearly 25 lakhs of yards now.

The value of Khadi produced has risen from nearly Rs. 2½ lakhs in 1947-1948 to nearly Rs.55 lakhs in 1956-57. The number of Main Centres has increased now to seven. There are now seven Main Centres and forty nine sub-centres and nearly fifty Visiting Centres functioning, covering over 500 villages.

(These figures relate only to the Government Scheme; the Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh, and a few other institutions have an equal number of centres, if not more and their production a little over that of the Government).

The working of the Khadi Scheme was originally under the Director of Rural Welfare and later under the Joint Development Commissioner. With the enormous development and progress of Khadi and the importance that it has attained in the Second Five-Year Plan and with the advent

of the Ambar Charkha Programme, the Government found it necessary to set up a separate Department for Khadi Development last year.

When the Government took over some of the Khadi Centres from the All India Spinners' Association in 1946 it had to take over also the staff in, these Centres and except for one or two Officers appointed for supervision the administrative machinery was practically confined to the two sections in the Secretariat Department under the Joint Development Commissioner. Experience and the peace of progress have necessitated the gradual expansion of the administrative machinery also.

Administrative Set-up.

Originally the set up was as follows:—Each Main Centre was managed by an Officer called the Centre Khadi Officer and he was assisted by two or three Assistants whose ranks were distinguished as First and Second Grade Assistants. Each Sub Centre was put in charge of a First Grade Assistant who was generally assisted by two Second Grade Assistants. Most of the Centres had also Boy Assistants and in heavy yarn centres yarn sorters were engaged. Three Khadi Inspectors were appointed and it was their business mainly to inspect the quality of cloth, the looms and the Centres. One Officer

designated as the Khadi Special Assistant with Headquarters at Tirupur was put in charge over all these Centres. With the increase of production and the necessity for proper distribution it was found necessary to have a central place for stocking the Khadi produced in the Government Centres and to distribute for retail and wholesale sales. A Central Godown was therefore set up under the charge of a Manager in 1955. In order to meet the growing demand for several coloured and printed varieties in Khadi it was also found necessary to set up a Dyeing and Printing Unit. The Government Khadi Dyeing and Printing Unit came into existence in 1955 and was put in charge of technically qualified Manager. All these three Officers are stationed at Tirupur and have their ministerial staff to assist them.

This may be taken as the field organisation of the Intensive Khadi Scheme and this set up still continues. At the headquarters level there was a Khadi Special Officer under the Joint Development Commissioner to supervise the work in the various centres and also to look after the administrative side in the Secretariat. Originally the Director of Rural Welfare was directly dealing with the subject of Khadi at the Secretariat level. Later the Joint Development Commissioner who replaced the Director of Rural



A Self-Sufficiency Khadi Centre run by the State Government Villagers get the money handing over yarn spun by them.

Welfare became the chief administrative head of the Khadi Scheme. With the constitution of a separate Department for Khadi the head of that Department, viz., the Director of Khadi was invested with the administrative functions of the Director of Rural Welfare, or Joint Development Commissioner, so far as the Khadi Schemes were concerned. At the Secretariat level the Joint Secretary to Government, Public (R.D.P.) Department is the authority over the Director of Khadi.

The Khadi Scheme come under four main heads.

1. Intensive Khadi Scheme.

The Department has now under its direct control three main schemes the first of which is the Intensive Khadi Scheme with which originally the Government started the Khadi Scheme. The areas and centres in which there were already spinners were brought under this scheme. More Sub-Centres are being added on to the existing ones as the scheme develops. The basic product necessary for Khadi or for cotton textiles, for a matter of that is of course cotton. Mahatma Gandhi's idea which was considered idealistic, was that every spinner should cultivate his or her own cotton, gin it, card it and spin it into yarn. But with the increase in the number of spinning and textile mills cotton has become a commercial crop and cotton growing

has been turned into a profitable occupation and a speculative industry. So the spinners have to buy their cotton in the market; instead of leaving them to their own resources in the matter, it became the primary duty of the Khadi organisations to procure cotton and sell it at a fair price to the spinners. Thus cotton is procured during the season in the open market and stocked in the various centres for supply to the spinners at almost the cost price, which ranges from a rupee to one rupee two annas or three annas per pound.

To augment family income.

Charkhas and accessories and implements are also supplied to spinners. In the old days the spinners were using their traditional wheel Charkha with its big wheel hoisted up vertically on two wooden rests. At the instance of Mahatma Gandhi a much lighter and more productive type of Charkha known as the Kisan Charkha was introduced and it has become now very popular. On account of its speed-wheel it is quicker and easier to operate. The cost of a Kisan Charkha is Rs. 7. These are supplied or used to be supplied till very recently at half costs to the spinners, the Government of India bearing half the cost by way of subsidy. Very recently the Government of India has modified this subsidy to one of Rs. 2-8-0 or half the cost

whichever is less. The spinners are paid 4 annas per hank (a hank is made up of 853 yards of yarn). In the earlier days, spinning wages were paid according to the quality of the yarn. But at the instance and under the inspiration of Gandhiji a minimum wage was fixed and the price at which yarn should be purchased from spinners was fixed at four annas per hank irrespective of quality or fineness. This would of course include the cost of cotton. The spinners can get about 2 to 2½ annas as wages per hank. The normal quality of yarn produced by spinners varies from 15 counts to 30 counts. The majority spin about 16 counts. Thus from one pound of cotton 15 hanks can be produced allowing a small percentage for wastage. A pound of cotton would cost anywhere between Re. 1 to Re. 1-3-0. A spinner can normally spin about 10 to 12 hanks per week. An average spinner would get anywhere between Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per week. This would be a considerable addition to the family income especially taking into account the fact that any occupation involving hard manual labour outside their own homes like breaking road metal a woman earns about eight annas per day and a man about twelve annas to Re. 1 a day. Taking the average annual income of an agricultural family in a village at Rs. 1,000 (with two able bodied male members earning Rs. 1-8-0 a day); the additional income by spinning, taking two (women) members of the family as spinners would augment the family income by 25 to 30 per cent. True to the basic policy of introducing the self-sufficiency ideal, in almost all the centres, the spinners deposit a part of the yarn produced by them for their own use. Usually this is one fourth of the yarn and in some centres even up to 50 per cent. When sufficient quantity was accumulated, the spinners are given Khadi of the value equivalent to the value of yarn held in deposit.

Higher wages for Khadi weaving.

The spinners bring their yarn which they spin at home to the nearest Khadi Centre. Generally these are not more than three to four miles away from their homes. There are also what are known as Visiting Centres where on certain days of the week arrangements for purchase of yarn have been made and the one or two Assistants attached to the nearest Sub-Centre visit the



To meet the increased demand from general public for Khadi, sales depots are opened in Madras City and other important centres of the State.

places on the specified days for the purchase of yarn. There are 50 such Visiting Centres working under the Intensive Khadi Scheme.

The yarn thus purchased is sorted out in the centres according to the counts and the quality. Then they are issued to the weavers for weaving particular varieties, in such of the centres or sub-centres where there are Khadi looms and weavers available; there are other centres which are purely spinning centres and the yarn collected in these centres is sent to the nearest weaving centre.

Khadi weaving, which of course was the traditional occupation of the weavers in our country, till about a few decades ago, has become now a specialised art which requires special skill, knowledge and experience. The number of looms available for Khadi weaving is still much too low for the quantity of yarn available and hence the weavers dictate their own terms. Thus a higher wage has to be given for Khadi weaving than for weaving mill yarn. The wages range from eight annas per yard to Rs. 2 per yard. That is one of the main reasons for Khadi being higher in cost than mill or handloom cloth.

2. Extensive Khadi Scheme.

The Extensive Khadi Scheme which has recently been introduced by the Government is really intended to introduce spinning in areas where it has not taken root already. There is vast scope for enlisting a large number of spinners. At present the bulk of the spinners are in the dry areas where the agricultural operations depend on the scarce rains and in any case the agriculturists have no work in the fields for nearly eight months in the year. This is one of the reasons why thousands of people have willingly taken to spinning in these areas. Several other villages in the not so dry districts have been left untapped; but experience has shown that even in these areas if Charkhas are made available and facilities given for spinners a large number of people are ready to come forward to take to spinning. With this idea in view the Extensive Khadi Scheme has been introduced in almost all the districts in the State. Twenty-one centres are now functioning in ten districts with one Khadi Worker for each Centre and two Superintendents under whom these Khadi



A Khadi Exhibition was organised in connection with the celebration of the Centenary of the first Freedom struggle. Sri R. Parthasarathi, Director of Khadi, is seen conducting Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Home, through the Exhibition. Sri G. Venkatachalapathi, Joint Development Commissioner, is also seen in the picture.

Workers function. Khadi Workers, introduce Charkhas to new spinners and collect the yarn and the collected yarn is sent by the Superintendents to the Intensive Khadi Centres for Weaving. The Charkhas are issued to spinners on condition that they should be used regularly and at least $7\frac{1}{2}$ hanks of yarn produced on each Charkha per month (This minimum is only for the beginners.)

Extensive Khadi Scheme in the National Extension Service Blocks.

The Extensive Khadi Scheme was introduced in 19 firkas during the year 1949-50 and was extended in 30 more firkas in the year 1950-51. The services of the Rural Welfare Officers and the Gramasevaks employed in the Rural Welfare Scheme were availed of to implement the scheme. With the partition of the Andhra State in 1953, the scheme was in force in 33 selected firkas and parts of firkas administered by 13 Rural Welfare Officers assisted by the Khadi Workers and Gramasevaks in the Madras State. Consequent on the merger of the Rural Welfare Scheme in the National Extension Service in 1953, the working of the scheme has been entrusted with the Block Development Officers in charge of National

Extension Service blocks of three respective firkas. The scheme is now in force in 55 National Extension Service blocks. Under the scheme Charkhas are supplied to spinners at concessional rates equal to half the price or Rs. 2-8-0 per Charkha whichever is less. The spinners are also supplied with other implements and cotton where necessary at cost price and facilities are provided to enable them to have their yarn woven into Khadi.

One Extension Officer, Khadi, and three Spinning organizers are in charge of the Khadi Scheme in each block under a Block Development Officer.

3. Comprehensive Khadi Scheme.

Madras State which has been a pioneer in several development programmes, including Khadi, has also shown the way in the Community Development Programme, in which Khadi has been given a very important place. Since the Community Development Programme is based on the principle of increased production and increased employment, the Khadi Industry has been considered the only easy and simple industry which can be introduced on a very large scale in the villages and provide an effective answer to mass unemployment and under-employment at a very low cost.

MADRAS INFORMATION

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This is the only industry which does not need the huge capital, heavy machinery (most of it to be imported at great cost to the detriment of our foreign exchange) required for heavy industries of mass production with labour saving devices. It is the only cottage industry which can be introduced and function within a short period and produce quick and immediate results. The comprehensive Khadi Scheme therefore was introduced in the Community Project areas and the Community Development Blocks as a measure of meeting the under-employment problem in the villages. At present the scheme is in force in 51 Community Development Blocks.

The general outline of the scheme is as follows : Charkhas will be introduced at the rate of 1,000 per Block in a year at the subsidized rates. The chief responsibility for this is that of the Block Development Officer concerned. The cotton will be purchased and supplied to spinners at cost price. Yarn produced will be purchased by the Block Development Officer and sent to the Manager, Central Godown, Tiruppur. In each Block one Khadi

Extension Officer and three spinning Organizers are put in charge of this work under the Block Development Officers. Though this scheme is not directly worked by the Khadi Department the technical supervision over the khadi work done in the Block Development areas, is done by that Department.

4. Ambar Charkha Programme.

One of the important schemes taken up recently for implementation by the Government through the Khadi Department is the Ambar Charkha Scheme. Before the scheme itself could be explained it would be necessary to know something about the Ambar Charkha. So much has been stated and published about the Ambar Charkha that it would be useful to know what exactly is this Ambar Charkha. The name has been often misapplied to various other types of spinning machines. But what is particularly known as the Ambar Charkha is a four spindle spinning machine which is operated by hand with a wooden frame 28" in length 16" in breadth and 21" height weighing 26 lb. and a number of wheels, pulleys

and rings. The origin of the Ambar Charkha is itself of interest to us because the inventor or the person who discovered the improved method of hand spinning belongs to the Tirunelveli District. His name is Ekambaram from which is derived the name of the Charkha he discovered. The principle on which this Charkha functions is based on the spinning and drafting technique in the mills. While on the ordinary wheel Charkha or Kisan Charkha drafting is to be done by the skill of hand by drawing out the yarn from the sliver which is held in the hand and the twisting also has to be done by the hand, Sri Ekambaram devised his spinning machine with an automatic device for drafting the yarn from long slivers, automatically fed to the spindles and for automatic twisting and winding on bobbins. When Sri Ekambaram devised his spinning machine it had only two spindles. The Akhil Bharat Sarva Seva Sangh took up an extensive research over the original spinning machine of Ekambaram, extending over nearly four or five years and finally brought out the four spindle Ambar Charkha of the present day.

Khadi will solve rural unemployment

Research is still going on for further improvements in certain aspects and for further simplifying the mechanical construction of the Ambar Charkha.

In this connection it will be of considerable interest to know from a recent report that Sri Vinobaji has come out with a clear statement that four spindles are about the utmost limit to which he can reconcile himself with regard to the Charkha.

Advantages of Ambar Charkha.

The advantage of the Ambar Charkha apart from its automatic feeding, draft twisting and winding is that the output will be more. As long ago as 25 or 30 years back Mahatma Gandhi offered a prize of Rs. 5,000 for an improved Charkha which could produce more yarn within a short period but without replacing the individual human labour of one person. Later on this prize was raised to Rs. 1 lakh but till now no improvement Charkha has ever come up to the standard specified by Mahatma Gandhi. Even recently the Khadi and village Industries Commission has announced

a similar prize of Rs. 1 lakh for an improved Ambar Charkha and specifications and conditions have been published in the papers recently.

The Ambar Charkha set comprises three units ; one is the spinning unit, the other is the slivering unit and the third is the carding unit. The slivering unit is called the Belni and the carding unit is called Dhunai Modia. The Charkha set costs from Rs. 100 to Rs. 120.

It has been estimated from experience gained that a trained spinner can spin on the Ambar Charkha on an average about 8 hanks of medium quality yarn per day of 8 working hours. It has been estimated by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board which first drew up the Ambar Charkha Scheme that it would be possible to give employment to nearly 5,000,000 of people in the Second Five Year Plan period through the Ambar Charkha. The average that a spinner can earn by working the Ambar Charkha is estimated to be from 12 annas to Re. 1 per day. The price of Ambar Charkha yarn has been fixed at Re. 0-2-9 per

hank. Taking the cost of cotton as Re. 0-1-3, the wages will be Re. 0-1-6 per hank which will be much less than the rate fixed for traditional Charkha yarn. This is for 16 to 20 counts ; but the finer the yarn the more will be the wages earned. Since the Ambar Charkha yarn will be uniform and with good twist it will be easier for the weavers also to weave with this yarn and therefore the weaving wages would also be brought down. Thus the cost of Khadi from Ambar Charkha yarn can be expected to be reduced by a maximum of 40 per cent of the present cost of ordinary Khadi. Through a phased period of levelling and equalisation it will be possible to bring down the cost of Khadi considerably through the Ambar Charkha.

Training Programme.

The State Government took up the Ambar Charkha Programme last year and the first Parishramalaya or training centre for the spinners was opened by our revered President at Tirumangalam on August 16 last year. There are now four Parishramalayams in the State.

Each Parishramalaya is equipped to train 100 spinners at a time. Each course consists of three months. At the end of each day the spinner should show a minimum capacity to produce a minimum quantity of yarn of specified quality. During the period of training the spinner will get the wages fixed for the Ambar Charkha yarn. After the training period is over the spinner will be provided with an Ambar Charkha which will be given to him or her on a hire purchase basis. The cost will be recovered from the spinner in easy monthly instalments within a period of four years, i.e., 48 instalments. The instalments need not be paid in cash, but out of the yarn produced by the spinner, a small portion or percentage of yarn will be held as deposit and the value credited towards the instalment. It is Sri Vinobaji's idea that self sufficiency in cloth can be achieved through the Ambar Charkha at the village level, taluk level, district level and regional level. Each Parishramalaya has at present 5 Instructors but this may be increased to 10 Instructors if and when the required number is available. Each Instructor will train 10 spinners at a time. For purchasing the yarn from spinners and converting into cloth the same type of organization as for the Intensive Khadi Scheme, viz., a production centre with a Centre Khadi Officer and Assistants is being entrusted with the work.

Two Field Officers for organizing and supervising the Ambar Charkha Scheme in execution within two defined regions are now functioning under this Scheme. So far nearly 500 spinners have been trained and another 300 are under training. A Vidyalyaya has been functioning at Kangayam near Tiruppur for giving training to Instructors necessary for the Parishramalayas. During this year, it is proposed to set up 40 Parishramalayas. At the end of the year, it is expected that nearly 4,000 spinners would have received training on the Ambar Charkha. For the whole Five-Year Plan period the State Government has undertaken to introduce 25,000 Ambar Charkhas and train 25,000 spinners. This is a target easily achievable, if there are the requisite number of trained personnel and required number of Ambar Charkhas available.

Sri Vaikuntlal Mehta, Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has estimated that it would be possible to give employment to 50 lakhs

of people in India during the Second Plan period. The Government of India has agreed to subsidise for 180,000 Ambar Charkhas this year. If the desired target is achieved and results are encouraging, as they are bound to be, from next year there will be provision made for increasing the number of Ambar Charkhas.

Marketing.

Till recently the Government did not have any considerable organization for marketing the Khadi produced in the centres. Each production centre itself conducted retail selling in these places. The Khadi consumed by spinners for self sufficiency purposes came to about a fourth of the total productions. Supplies to State Government and Government of India Departments accounted for nearly a half of the total production. There were not more than five Retail Sales Depots in towns. With the increase in production it has become necessary to increase the number of Sales Depots to make the Khadi produced by Government more easily available to the public. There are now nine Sales Depots in the urban areas—four of them in the city itself. The other Sales Depots are in Coimbatore Madurai, Kumbakonam, Cuddalore and Tiruchirappalli. Seven more Sales Depots are to be opened shortly one in the city and six in the districts (at Kancheepuram, Vellore, Salem, Tirunelveli, Karaikudi and Nagercoil).

The wholesale supplies to Government of India are mainly effected through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Besides these supplies, the requirements of Government Departments of this State as well as other States are directly supplied by the Khadi Department. Enquiries have also started coming from foreign countries for Khadi.

Special efforts are being taken, to improve the quality of Khadi and to introduce new varieties. With the increase in production, improvement of quality, introduction of new and colourful varieties, and use of Ambar Charkha yarn which would ensure fineness and also gradual reduction in price, the popularity of Khadi is bound to increase in the near future and the demand for Khadi varieties will be on the upward trend, which has already started.

Very soon much of the prejudice against Khadi and the usual arguments trotted out against it are bound to vanish by sheer merit and the realization that far from being a "socio-political" programme, it is a vitally important economic programme which alone can solve successfully rural unemployment and under-employment.

C.D. and N.E.S. Areas

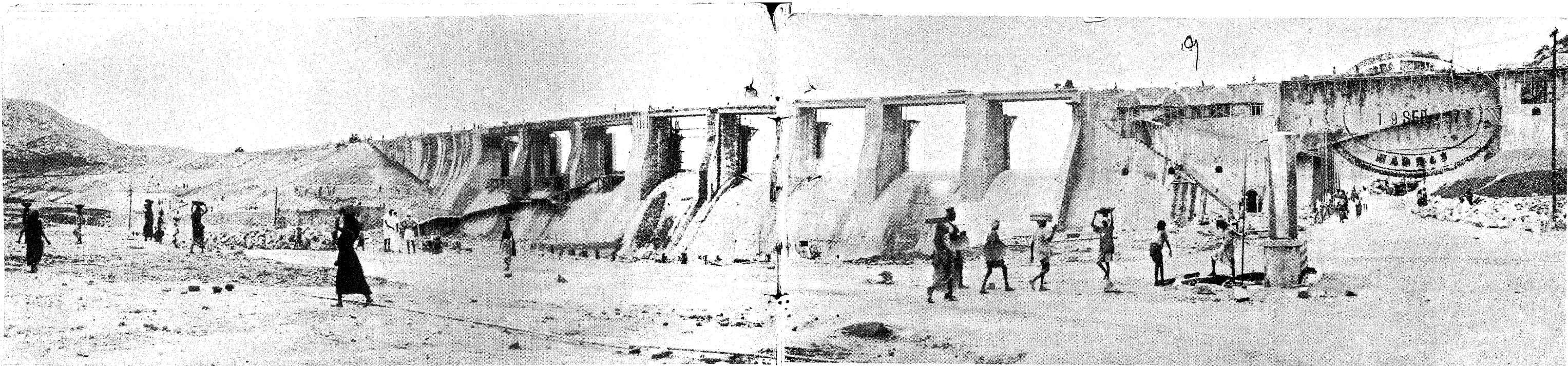
Progress Reviewed

The Rural Development Board of the Madras State met in the Secretariat, in the last week of July. The Chief Secretary who is the Development Commissioner presided over the meeting. Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments concerned were also present.

The Board reviewed the physical achievements in the Community Development and National Extensions Scheme areas during the quarter ended 31st March 1957 as compared with the achievements for the quarter ended 31st March 1956 and also, the cumulative achievements for the period ending 31st March 1957. For the sake of comparison the cumulative achievements in the Project areas of other States up to the period ending 30th December 1956 were also considered. The Board noted with satisfaction the progress made under the following heads during the quarter ended 31st March 1957:—

Number of compost pits dug, seeds distributed, area under fruits and vegetables, area reclaimed, area brought under irrigation, pedigree animals supplied, cattle inoculated and vaccinated, fingerlings supplied, rural latrines constructed, drains constructed, village-houses constructed, number of Co-operative societies started, and new members enrolled in the Societies, number of Vikash mandals and Mahila Samaties organized.

The Board issued directives for the speedy issue of First aid kits to Grama Sevaks and also First aid Veterinary kits. The Board was apprised of the orders issued by the Government for the speedy constructions of the Quarters for the office of the Block Development Officer and the Agricultural Depot as well as the quarters for the block staff.



Krishnagiri Waters Irrigate Salem Fields

THE RUPEES TWO CRORE Krishnagiri Reservoir Project was opened on August 15, the tenth anniversary of Independence to irrigate 7,500 acres of parched fields of Salem District. The Project was sanctioned in November 1954 and the work was inaugurated in January 1955. About ninety per cent of the work on the project and canals is completed. Built across the river Ponniyar near Krishnagiri this part-earth and part-masonry dam will be 3,250 feet long and is designed to impound monsoon flows in the river.

The Ponniyar has its source in the south-eastern slopes of Chennakesava

Two main channels extending over a distance of nine and eight miles respectively carry waters of Krishnagiri Reservoir to irrigate 7,500 acres of parched fields.

Hills in Nandidurg, Mysore State. The total length of the river from its source to sea is 260 miles of which 53 miles are in Mysore State, 110 miles in Salem, 21 miles in North Arcot and 76 miles in South Arcot districts of Madras State. The drainage area of the river is nearly 5,000 square miles. There is practically no flow in the river except during the monsoonic seasons when too, it comes in flash flows of short duration, immediately after which the flow dwindles down to a trickle of a few cusecs. These features preclude the use of the river flows in the most part of its reach to any large diversion scheme without storage reservoirs. The necessity for

major irrigation project in the Salem district has been felt for quite a considerable time and construction of a reservoir in the district was proposed so long ago as 1875 by Mr. Thomas, the then Collector of Salem district. But the project was then dropped as adequate data was not available about the supply and as the scheme was not remunerative. The post-war conditions and the necessity for more food production in the State gave an impetus to revive the scheme.

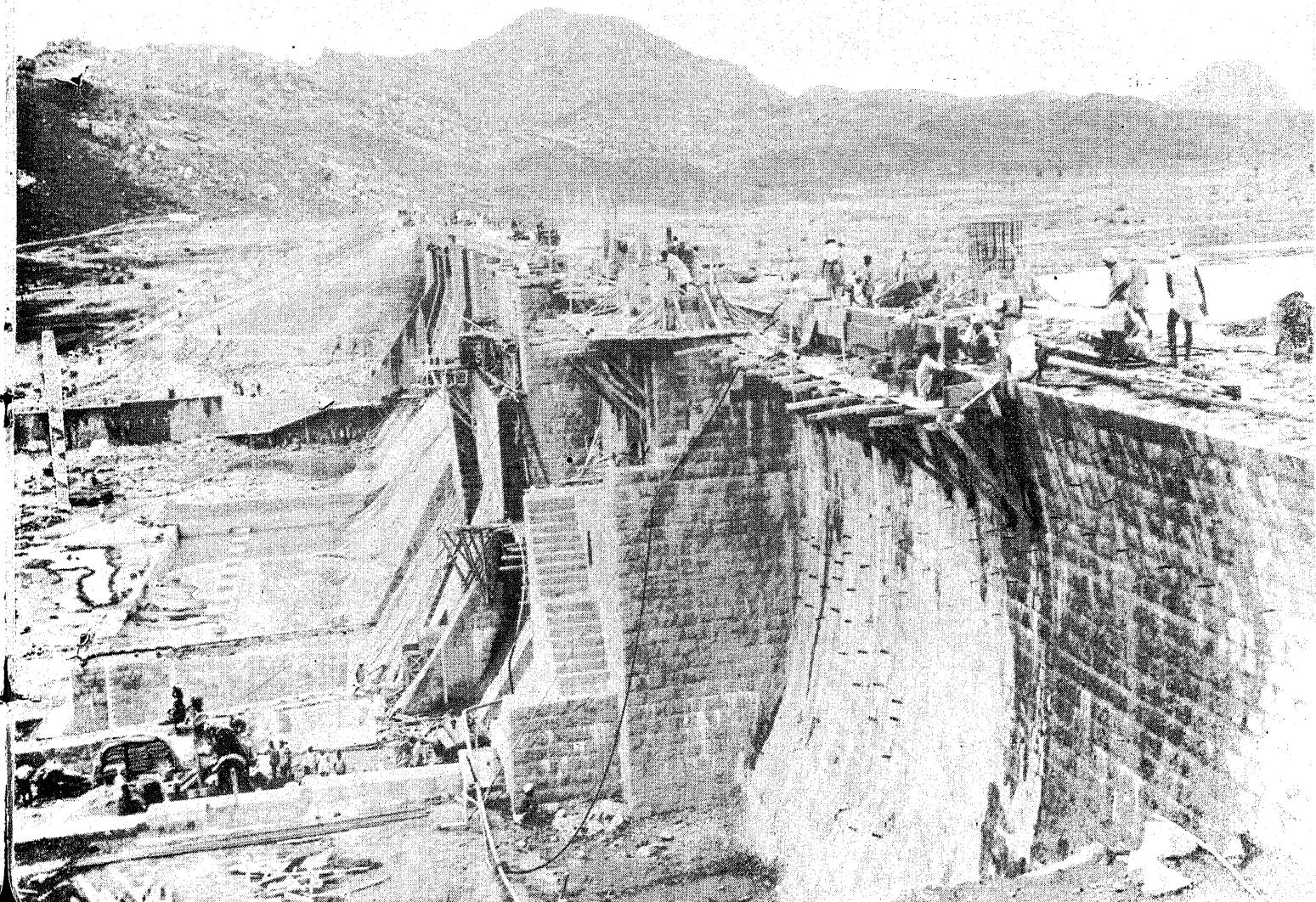
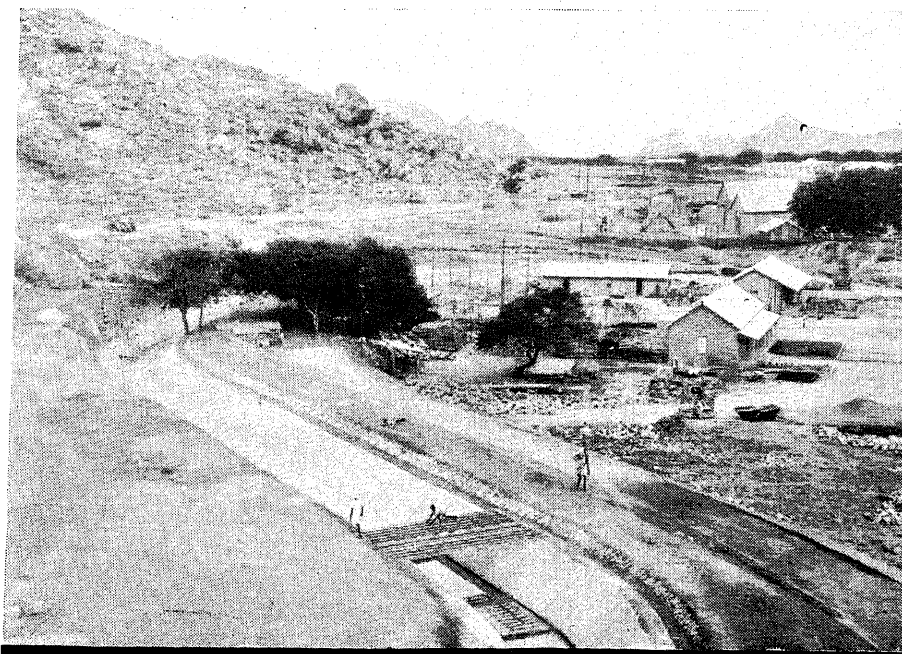
The site of the proposed reservoir is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Krishnagiri and about 2 mile west of miles $163\frac{1}{4}$ of the Madras-Kozhikode Trunk road in the village limits of Periamuthur of Krishnagiri taluk. The reservoir will be formed by a dam partly of solid masonry and partly of earth. The portion of the masonry dam in the river crossing will have a spillway section 390 feet long to discharge a maximum flood of 1,47,400 cusecs. The total length of the dam including the earth dam will be 3,250 feet.

The reservoir will hold 2,410 m.cft. with 20 feet gates fixed over the crest of the overflow section. The scheme will benefit an area of 7,500 acres all in Krishnagiri taluk, of which, the left main channel 9 miles long will irrigate 3,440 acres and the right main channel 8 miles long will irrigate 4,060 acres.

The estimated cost of the project is 2.02 crores. The additional food grains expected from the project will be 3,500

(Continued on page 12)

About ninety per cent of the masonry and earthdam works of Krishnagiri Reservoir Project has been completed and waters impounded were let out for irrigation on August 15, 1957.



Pullambadi and New Kattalai Canal Schemes

Will Bring Prosperity to Tiruchi District

By Sri U. ANANDA RAO, Chief Engineer, Irrigation

The Pullambadi Canal will take off above the Upper Anicut from the river Cauvery on its left side and will run almost parallel to and at a short distance from the existing Peruvilai channel for a length of 25 miles down to the Nandiar river crossing and thereafter will continue its run for another 29 miles below the crossing, tailing into the Sukran Eri. The total area to be irrigated by this Channel is 22,114 acres of which 8,831 acres will be direct ayacut and 13,283 acres will be under tanks.

It is observed that every year considerable quantities of water in excess of the requirements of the delta irrigation is wasted into the sea. It is, therefore proposed to utilise this excess flow which is wasted, by diverting it through a canal to feed a number of tanks existing and to be formed, and irrigate lands commanded by them.

In the south east portion of Lalgudi and Udayarpalayam taluks of Tiruchirappalli district, lies a large alluvial

tract eminently suited for wet cultivation but lacking in irrigation facilities. Only a portion of this extent is being irrigated by the rainfed tanks. These large tracts of land can be brought under irrigation of the surplus waters of the Cauvery are utilised. There has been representation from the people for a long time to utilise the waters of this Cauvery for irrigating this extent. The Peruvilai Channel taking off from above Upper Anicut stops short of the above area and also its present size and length do not admit of any extension of irrigation under it. Therefore it was decided to excavate a new canal to supply the surplus from Cauvery to this area.

People's wish fulfilled.

The people of these taluks have been agitating for the provision of better irrigation facilities to their lands for a long time. In order to comply with the demands of the local people, several alternative schemes were considered.

The first proposal was to carry out the improvements to the existing Peruvilai channel and its banks so as to carry some extra supply for irrigating an additional area. It was found that even by carrying out improvements to the Peruvilai channel, no appreciable extension of irrigation would be feasible. Another suggestion was to widen the channel and extend it beyond the Nandiyar river crossing in order to afford irrigation facilities to the area under reference. This was also investigated and found not feasible. Other alternative schemes were also considered but were dropped after investigation due to their ineffectiveness for one reason or other. It was in 1945 that the scheme, more or less in its present shape, was taken up for investigation.

At first, investigation of a 45-mile canal taking off from above the Upper Anicut for irrigating directly an area of 14,000 acres were taken up. But during the course of investigation it was found that, by extending the



Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, inaugurated Pullambadi and New Kattalai Canal Schemes in the third week of August in Tiruchirappalli district. Sri P. Kakkan, Minister for Works, presided. Sri U. Ananda Rao, Chief Engineer for Irrigation, is in the extreme left.

canal by 9 miles, tailing into the Sukran Eri, a large rainfed tank in the Udayarpalayam taluk, the ayacut could be increased to about 22,000 acres by extending irrigation under the tank. The total irrigable area under this scheme comes to 22,114 acres out of which about 8,831 acres are direct ayacut and the rest indirect ayacut under tanks.

Wet cultivation.

The area commanded by the proposed canal lying south of Pullambadi, Kamarasavalli village and east of Nadiar is a compact block of almost deltaic nature with a number of spurs and drainage course running north to south. The soil of the land is well suited for wet cultivation though due to lack of irrigation very little area is wet at present. Most of the area is under dry cultivation, the principal crops being cholam, ragi, groundnut, gingelly, etc. By the execution of the proposed scheme the entire area will be brought under wet cultivation.

The head sluice for this canal will be located in the left bank of the Ayyar River about 500 feet above the head sluice of the existing Peruvilai Channel. There will be a leading channel in front of the sluice up to the deep bed of the river. The head sluice will have 5 vents of 13' x 5½' each capable of discharging 1,073 cusecs with

a head of 0.25'. The proposed canal will have practically no irrigation down to Nandiar river (i.e.) for 25 miles of the canal and the irrigation will start only below the Nandiar river.

29 tanks will receive supply.

There are as many as 29 tanks which will receive the supply of the Cauvery water through this new canal. Besides it is also proposed to form 8 new tanks and to effect necessary improvements to the existing tanks. The capacity of all these tanks is 688 m.c. Ft. and the total ayacut under them including the existing ayacut is 13,283 acres. The area under direct irrigation is 8,831 acres. The right bank of the Canal will carry a road way with a top width of 10 feet while the left bank will be only 6 feet wide at top. Several drainage courses cross this new Canal and none of these drainages will be absorbed in the Canal. In certain reaches of the canal deep cutting is necessary and the maximum depth of cutting will be 22 feet and the maximum length of this deep cutting will be 2,600 feet. The canal in the reach 8/7 to 10-2-38 runs through the built-up areas of Ulundungudi, Manachanallur and Melasidavimangalam villages. In the last two villages some pucca houses and parts of backyards of others have to be acquired and some alternative to avoid this was considered

but the alignment through these villages was only found to be the best one. However to reduce the width of lands to be acquired in the backyard of houses in Manachanallur village as also to minimise dampness due to the close proximity of the Canal to the house, the reach 9/3-33 to 9/4-27 in this village is proposed to be "flumed". In the reach below Nandiar crossing, it is proposed to construct a bridge since the Railway line from Tiruchirappalli to Villupuram crosses the Canal alignment. The Canal will in addition to the headsluice have 34 Cross drainage works in the first section (up to 25 miles) and 37 in the second section of the new Canal. There will be 36 road bridges in all and two foot bridges besides the distributaries and field bothies.

Rs. 142 lakh scheme.

The total cost of the Scheme works out to Rs. 126.3 lakhs for works or Rs. 142.43 lakhs inclusive of direct and indirect charges. This scheme is the second work included in the Second Five-Year Plan and by its execution there will be additional yield due to stabilising supply to the old indirect ayacut and new production on the new ayacut to a total extent of 9,547 tons of rice costing about 28.6 lakhs of rupees. Besides the water table in the area will rise and facilitate improved supply of water for lift irrigation from wells adjoining the canal.

New Kattalai High Level Canal Scheme

New Kattalai High Level Canal Scheme which is the first of its kind to be taken up under the Second Five-Year Plan is purely a Canal Project. The Canal takes off from Akhanda Cauvery just above the Kattalai Bed Regulator on its right side to utilise the surplus waters of the Cauvery that now go to waste to the sea. It is not the intention to draw any supplies from Mettur Reservoir but to utilise only unimpoundable floods that occur in the delta below Mettur Dam. The New Kattalai High Level Canal will be about 86 miles long and ultimately tails into Mudulamathuwari in Tanjore district.

Before deciding the final alignment of the Canal, certain alternative schemes were considered. One alternative was to take off a channel at 1½ miles above

the Kattalai bed regulator and run it on a higher contour than the existing High Level channel for a length of 40 miles down to Ariyar and 25 miles beyond it with a reservoir constructed across Ariyar. The second alternative was to remodel the full length of 38½ miles of the existing High level channel to carry the increased discharge required for the additional area besides its own existing ayacut under the tanks and extend the channel for 25 miles beyond Ariyar and also construct smaller reservoirs across Korayar and Kattar. Similarly certain other alternatives were also considered and all of them were dropped since all these alternatives contemplated only direct irrigation. As it was not desirable to encroach on Mettur for such direct irrigation, the scheme was converted into the final

scheme, as now sanctioned for utilising the surplus waters through the existing tanks in the area, which will be repaired and improved to receive larger supplies.

The Project comprises of the following:—

(1) One head sluice just to the right of the off-take of the leading channel of the South Bank Canal above Kattalai Bed Regulator across the Cauvery. The head sluice will have 5 vents of 9 feet by 6 feet which will discharge about 1,048 cusecs.

(2) A right side canal 86 miles long taking off from the head sluice for irrigating a total ayacut of 20,622 acres of which 12,000 acres will be under tanks and 8,622 acres will be

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 8)

tons of rice annually in 25 years out of a cycle of 30 years. The living conditions of the people in Krishnagiri taluk will be considerably improved.

The scheme was sanctioned in November 1954 and the work was inaugurated in January 1955 by the Chief Minister. About 90 per cent of masonry and the earthdam works has been completed and the works on canals are also in full swing.

Being the first major project in the dry district of Salem, great interest has been evinced by the local population. Water will be impounded in the Reservoir during the north-east monsoon of 1957-58, to enable it to be put into commission thereafter. Both the right and left side canals will be completed in all respects and will be ready to benefit 9,000 acres at the rate of 4,500 acres under each of them. The Project was opened for irrigation on August 15, 1957.

(Continued from previous page)

under direct irrigation. The canal is designed to carry the required discharge of about 1,048 cusecs.

(3) Utilising the existing 119 tanks (57 in Tiruchirappalli and 62 in Tanjore taluks) with a total capacity of 881 m.c. ft. to serve an ayacut of 12,000 acres.

The canal in its first reach of 40 miles will have no irrigation. Irrigation both direct and indirect is contemplated only in the second and third reaches below the 40th miles. The existing and proposed ayacuts will be 5,086 acres and 11,055 acres in Tiruchirappalli taluk and 3,637 acres and 844 acres in Tanjore taluk respectively.

In the first reach of the canal, there are as many as 60 cross drainage works consisting of canal syphons, syphon aqueducts, inlets, outlets, etc., besides 33 road bridges and 15-foot bridges. In the second reach, the canal crosses the Tiruchirappalli-Madurai and the Tiruchirappalli-Manamadurai Railway lines and also the Tiruchirappalli-Pudukottah Trunk road, and it is proposed to have bridges at the sites of these crossings. The following works are contemplated in this reach :—

- (1) Regulator at 15-1-260.
- (2) Railway bridge 2 Nos.
- (3) Road bridge at the site of crossing of the Tiruchirappalli-Pudukottah Trunk road.
- (4) Masonry aqueduct for carrying the drainages of Kattar river which crosses the new Canal. The Ventway for the stream will consist of 25 spans of 12 feet each.

Besides there are 34 cross masonry works and 12 road bridges in this reach :

The third section of the Canal which will Commence below the off-take of 20th distributory will have 29 cross masonry works besides 13 road bridges and one foot bridge.

The entire area under this Project is now mainly under dry cultivation, the crops raised being cholam, ragi, kambu, chillies, goundnut, etc., only in a part of this area comprising of about 8,723 acres, paddy is grown with the supply available from the tanks which are all rainfed ones. By the execution of this scheme, the entire area can be brought under wet cultivation besides giving assured supply to the existing ayacut under the tanks.

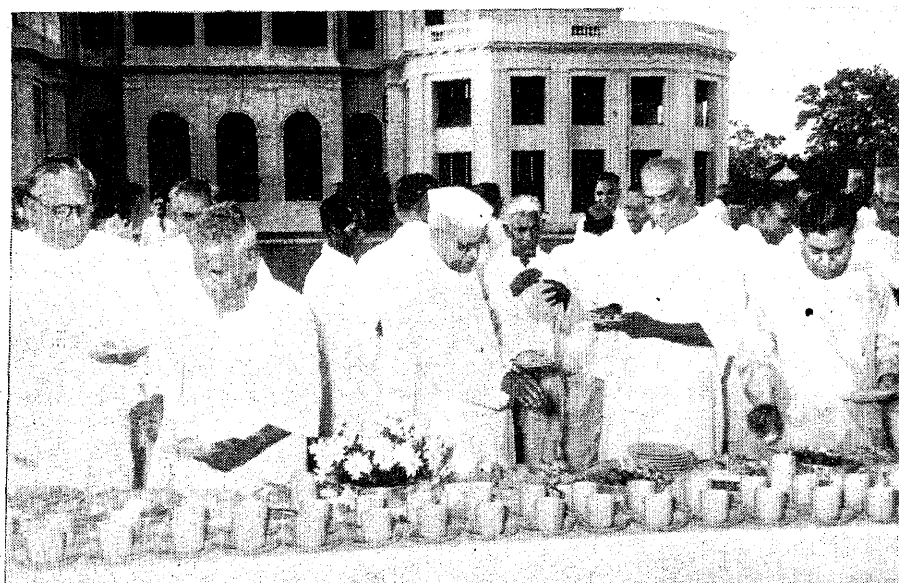
The total cost of the Project, including direct and indirect charges, is 156.65 lakhs and it is anticipated that there will be an additional yield of 7,468 tons of rice costing nearly 22.5 lakhs of rupees due to the execution of this Project which will also improve the living condition of the inhabitants of this area.

Irrigation Works at Rs. 8 lakhs in Kanyakumari

The Government have issued orders for the execution of 170 Special Minor Irrigation Works and de-silting-cum-reclamation of tanks in the Kanyakumari district at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 lakhs in 1957-58. This is part of the State's Special Minor Irrigation Programme, under which works which are capable of yielding quick additional food production are taken up for execution. These works are investigated by the Agriculture Department and executed through their own special staff and through the regular Public Works Department staff. The programme of work for the Kanyakumari district for the year 1957-58 will bring in an additional extent of 6,936 acres under the plough and the extra yield is expected to be of the order of 3,636 tons a year.

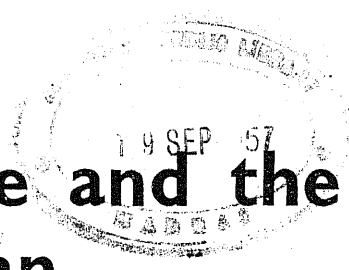
PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES, 1957-58.

The Government have issued orders for the location of four of the 28 Primary Health Centres sanctioned to be opened during the year, at Mandakolathur, Mahendramangalam, Satyamangalam and Zamin Endathur in Chetput, Thottiam, Gingee and Madurantakam N. E. S. blocks, respectively.



A tea party was given to the members of the Madras Legislature by Governor Sri A. J. John at Rajbhavan in the last week of July at the conclusion of the Budget Session.

Our Tax Structure and the Second Plan



By DR. P. S. LOKANATHAN

The Second Five-Year Plan is encountering rough weather. We all knew that if the high targets of the plan were to be fulfilled, more than normal efforts were needed to mobilise domestic resources, and good fortune in the securing of adequate foreign exchange resources.

But what we did not anticipate was that our food and agricultural production would fail to keep pace with population growth and increasing consumer demands rising from growing investments and larger money incomes. Nor did we anticipate that the whole world would be subject to inflationary pressures with the result that the costs of imports, of machinery and materials required for our development purposes would increase appreciably.

The Planning Commission did expect or should have expected that there would be a strain on our domestic and foreign exchange resources with the rising tempo of development, but neither the big spurt in food prices nor the heavy imports in the first 18 months of the plan which have brought us a near foreign exchange crisis were quite foreseen. We are in a period of real strain and difficulty. In some quarters, there is a cry that the plan targets should be drastically cut; others say the period of the plan should be extended to six or seven years.

Plan targets not over ambitious.

The Second Five-Year Plan represents a crucial stage in India's economic growth. It is by no means excessive or over ambitious goal as some Indians and many foreigners contend. Other countries in Asia have set even higher targets in their current development programmes as for example, Japan, China and the Philippines. Limiting ourselves only to a

consideration of the basic needs of our population, the programme is not too big.

In the words of the Union Finance Minister: "To those who regard the plan as too ambitious, I would respectfully submit that they should take a good look at the living conditions of the bulk of our people. If they would only do this, I am sure they will, along with me, be able to see the several directions in which the Plan is inadequate. The housing conditions and environmental hygiene in urban and rural areas of the low income groups are deplorable; the slums in our cities are a disgrace to any society which claims to be considered civilised."

In terms of needs, therefore, the plan is fully justified. It is also justified in terms of the progress we

have made in several directions. In the first plan, the tempo of investment was very slow in the first three years, mainly because the technical, administrative and organisational arrangements did not quite match financial availabilities. Now the technical and administrative bottle-necks have been removed. Secondly, the success achieved and experience gained in the first plan have justified a much larger investment programme. Thirdly, unless an appreciable increase in the standards of living of the masses of the population was planned for, there would be a serious disappointment and discontent among the people.

People made their choice.

In adopting the Second Five-Year Plan, the country has made its choice. There is a danger that if, at the first touch of stress and strain, we should permit a substantial cut in the targets



Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, addressed the first meeting of the State Industries Development Committee held at the Secretariat in the last week of July. Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries, presided.

or prolong the period of fulfilment unduly, India's sustained economic growth would become dubious. In the development of many countries, we can identify a period of time when the take-off in sustained growth can be said to have begun. We are now in the stage of Take-off in India's economic development; and if the country allows itself to become pusillanimous or weak-hearted, progress would be seriously arrested.

It is widely recognised that economic progress is largely a function of investment and capital formation. Countries have become prosperous to the extent to which they had built up their capital formation. Advanced industrial countries have reached their present position after having invested and continuing to invest year after year something like 10 to 12 per cent of their net national income on capital formation.

In the Second Five-Year Plan, we plan to invest about 10 per cent of our national income. This investment can be effective only if it is matched by savings in terms of real resources. A part of these resources must, however, come from outside; since our new and expanding industries depend to a considerable extent upon imported materials and machinery for their operations; because our normal exports do not yield the resources with which to buy the essential imports, the availability of foreign exchange is a severe limiting factor.

Speedily to augment the supply of foreign exchange and foreign capital is the most immediate problem. No matter what the Government's intentions are, the targets will have to be lowered and a rephrasing of the plan will become an absolute "must", unless more foreign exchange resources become available. Even to save the so-called hard core of the plan, that is to say, to ensure the fulfilment of our production goals in respect of steel, coal, transport, power, etc., much more external finance has to be secured.

Food remains the basic problem.

In so far as investment outlay depends solely upon domestic resources, however, it is our willingness to save that is the determining factor. Public investment including development outlays has grown from Rs. 260 crores in 1951-52 to Rs. 900 crores in 1957-58. Private investment has also increased

Strategic Sands of Kanyakumari

The beach sands at Colachel in Kanyakumari District contain rich minerals like Ilmenite, Monozite, etc. The then Travancore-Cochin Government set up a factory at Manavalakurichi to separate the ilmenite and monozite from the beach sands. Ilmenite is being exported to United Kingdom, Japan and other foreign countries. The monozite separated is being sent to Indian Rare Earths, Alwaye. From 1st November 1956 after the reorganization of States, the above concern was taken over by the Government of Madras and being run as departmental commercial concern. The capacity of the plant of the above concern is above 40 tons of ilmenite per day of two shifts. If the monozite alone is separated then the capacity would be about 70 tons per day of two shifts. Other minerals that can be separated from the beach sands are Garnet, Zircon and Rutile. Experiments in regard to the utilization of the richest mineral, viz., Rutile for being used in Aircrafts in place of Aluminium are being conducted in western countries and at present Rutile is not separated.

The monozite cannot be exported out of this country as this is an important mineral. Even for the export of ilmenite, certificate from the Atomic Energy Commission for the titanium oxide content in ilmenite and the monozite content is to be obtained before export is made. There are above 64 monthly paid workers and 130 daily paid casual workers working in the factory. After the Madras Government took over the concern in November 1956 a quantity of about 3,000 tons of ilmenite was sold to Messrs. Volkart Bros., Cochin, at a rate of 85 sh. 6 d. per ton N.A.W. and 21 sh. per ton F.A.S. Recently another order for 10,000 tons of ilmenite from Messrs. British Titan Products, Limited, York-England at the same rate was booked and the first consignment of 4,000 tons of ilmenite was loaded on the 28th of April 1957 and the second consignment of 4,000 tons will be loaded on the 10th of May 1957. The third consignment of 3,000 tons will be loaded on the 25th of May 1957.

Government of India have set up a private corporation known as Travancore Mineral Concerns (Private), Limited, and registered the same under the Companies Act on the 26th of October 1956, prior to reorganization of States. The object of setting up of this concern is to take over the mineral concerns run by the present Kerala Government and the Madras Government at Chavara and Manavalakurichi in the first instance and later on take over the private concern viz., Messrs. Hopkin and Williams Company at Chavara and at Manavalakurichi and run all these concerns for the separation of minerals from the beach sands of Kerala and Madras Governments. It has been decided that in the Board of Directors of the newly formed Company there will be three representatives of Government of India and three representatives of the present Kerala Government. As this Company was formed prior to 1st November 1956 no representative of Madras Government was included in the Board of Management. The Madras Government have informed the Atomic Energy Commission that they would participate in this concern and that Madras Government must have a share in the management. The Atomic Energy Commission's reply is awaited.

appreciably. But neither public savings nor private savings have increased at rates corresponding to rates of public and private investment. While private investment has been financed partly by private savings (both individual and corporate), a good portion has been financed by

bank credits and banks have not succeeded in attracting deposits from the public.

A not inconsiderable part of public investment has been made possible only by deficit financing. But it has serious limits. The failure of savings

All Must Save and Limit Consumption

to match with investment is at the root of the present strain on our resources. In addition, the resources themselves have not been increasing at the expected rate. As I said earlier, this is mainly true of food and agricultural production.

We were under the illusion that our food problem had been solved. That surely is not the case. Even if production increases, the food problem still remains the basic problem. The proportion that comes into the market for sale does not increase to the same extent.

In this context of a growing strain upon our economy, austerity and restraint of consumption has an urgency which is imperative. The only way by which savings can increase is by restraining private consumption and restricting all Government expenditure which is non-developmental. There is no room for unnecessary and unproductive private or public expenditure.

All must save and limit their consumption to the extent possible. The role of small savings in the fulfilment of the plan cannot be over-rated. The collection under small savings was smaller in 1956-57 than in 1955-56.

It was only 61 crores as against the target of 100 crores annually. To foster the savings habit and give further inducement to save, the recent budget has raised the rate of interest on small savings and provided different types of savings certificates including gift coupons. In addition to small savings, the need is apparent for savings on the part of the wealthier sections of the population by subscribing to public loans.

Taxation not excessive.

Even granting that the maximum saving effort is made, there is no doubt that much of the public saving for development expenditure must come from budget surpluses—in other words by the excess of tax resources over current expenditure. In all advanced industrial countries, taxation absorbs about 15 to 20 per cent of national income; in India it is still only about 8 per cent. The burden of taxation cannot be said to be excessive. It is against this background that one

must judge the tax proposals introduced in May last by the Finance Minister.

Their very bold and imaginative features have raised a storm of criticism; yet they are primarily designed both to meet present needs and to bring about a better and more satisfactory structure of taxation in the country. In spite of the previous increases in both direct and indirect taxes, and the introduction of estate duties and more recently a capital gains tax, the structure of our tax system had left something to be desired. It was not broad-based.

The number of persons, including companies, that are brought within the scope of income-taxation is surprisingly small—a matter of a few thousand in a population of 370 million. A lowering of exemption limits would increase considerably the number of assesseses.

Many large incomes have been altogether lain outside the scope of taxation and still are despite the new tax proposals. Despite the fact that more than a third of the national income arises from agriculture, our tax structure almost ignores that income. For a developing country, with its need to provide incentive to save and invest, the tax system has acted as a disincentive.

At high brackets of income, the tax imposed (including super-tax and surcharge) is almost expropriatory with the result that the tax has been accepted mainly because of the proved possibilities of evasion. As the Finance Minister has pointed out, these high rates tend to be applied to a corroded tax base. Taxes on companies have acted also as a deterrent to foreign investment.

Expenditure tax instead of income tax.

The system of taxation on income has to be supplemented by other taxes, if taxable capacity is to be more fully utilised. Further since high rates of income taxation act as a disincentive to saving and investment, a tax which would fall only on expenditure and not on income may be a useful supplement. In the present context of need for austerity, all round and restraint on consumption, it is essential that the masses of the population

should bear a tax on their articles of consumption. In any event, no amount of direct taxation by itself would be adequate to give the Government all it needs.

Let us review the tax measures in the light of what I have just said. The large increases in excise duties especially in respect of motor spirit, diesel oil, cement, steel, matches, tobacco, pepper and sugar, have undoubtedly a revenue aspect, but are prompted even more by the need to reduce the demand. The tax on railway fares and the additional charges on postal and telegraph rates cannot be said to be excessive. In any case, the need to reduce the pressure on available railway transport is a sufficient justification.

It is the two taxes on wealth and expenditure that have given rise to more serious (though by no means universal) criticism. Yet it is precisely these two taxes that have a more solid justification both from the short-term and long-term points of view. A wealth tax at a rate not too high can be both highly productive and conform to canons of justice and equality. But by excluding agricultural properties, it yields to the political pressures of the country. On the other hand, its application to companies cannot be defended. The expenditure tax is only on those persons whose incomes will be over Rs. 60,000.

In spite of exemptions and so on, its essential weakness is that it is an entirely new tax in the world and no other country in the world has ever imposed such a tax.

Modern budgets of countries with planned economies are so vastly different today that the budget secrecy which was an essential virtue in previous times is now a handicap. While the rates of taxes in any particular year must, of course, be a secret, a great deal more of public education is needed regarding the scope and magnitude of the sacrifices essential for the fulfilment of the Plan. The public should also have the assurance that the Government is striving its best to economise in all possible ways and that the sacrifices called for or imposed are not limited to any particular sections, but are to be borne by all.

(By courtesy, A.I.R.)



'Thiru Vi. Ka. Nagar' for Industrial Labour Housing Colony under State's Enterprise

By SRI V. BALASUNDARAM, Commissioner for Labour.

Labour occupies an important place in the life of a nation and no scheme for raising the standard of living can be successful without the active co-operation and help of labour. To keep labour contented and to enable them to put forth their best, it is necessary to ensure provision of adequate working and living conditions for them.

The provision of housing facilities is one of the many important welfare measures for industrial workers in which the State Government have been taking special interest since the advent of independence. Healthy housing conditions have far-reaching effects on community life, on levels of productivity and on the well-being of the general public. The housing problem has

assumed tremendous importance in recent years. The phenomenal increase of urban population has accentuated the gravity and vastness of the problem. Consequently it became necessary for the Government to prepare suitable schemes for the provision of housing for the benefit of industrial labour. As the resources of the State Governments were not sufficient to shoulder this responsibility exclusively by themselves, necessary financial assistance was offered to them by the Government of India as early as 1949 in the shape of loans and subsidies. This financial assistance was also offered to the housing boards, co-operative societies and private employees so as

'Thiru Vi. Ka. Nagar' was opened by Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj, on August 16, at a function attended by a large distinguished gathering including Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Home. Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Finance unveiled a bust size statue of Thiru V. Ka. on the occasion.

The Industrial Housing Colony built by the State Government with the assistance of the Centre has 486 houses, which are let to the labourers on a nominal rent of Rs. 10 per mensem.

to encourage them to undertake construction of houses for the benefit of their workers. Under the Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme sponsored by the Government of India, the State Governments and the statutory housing boards are granted 50 per cent of the approved ceiling cost of the land and building as loan and the remaining 50 per cent as subsidy. Similarly private employers are granted 37½ per cent as loan and 25 per cent as subsidy and the co-operative societies are granted 50 per cent of the cost as loan and 25 per cent as subsidy. Recently the Government of India have agreed to increase the extent of financial assistance to co-operative societies to 60 per cent loan and 30 per cent subsidy. Workers mainly covered by the Factories Act, 1948, are eligible to apply for these houses.

Housing Schemes by private employers.

Ten private employers have so far taken advantage of the scheme and they have been granted or promised financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 9,21,722 for construction of 552 houses to the industrial workers. The Government of India have made a provision of Rs. 55.10 lakhs for schemes for construction of houses for private industrial workers during the period of the Second Five-Year Plan. The State Government have decided to

utilize the provision under the plan for housing schemes to be undertaken departmentally on lands obtained from the employers free of cost. There has been a good response from the employers in the matter of donation of lands. So far as many as 47 employers have intimated their desire to donate lands to Government for this purpose, and it is a matter for gratification to note that the appeal made by the Chairman sometime ago in the State Labour Advisory Board has developed into a small Bhoodan movement. Lands readily in the possession of the managements and offered by them have been considered in the first instance for construction of houses. Lay-out plans and detailed proposals for the construction of 698 houses at a total estimated cost of Rs. 21,51,000 in the lands donated by the managements of (1) The Cauvery Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Vellanur, (2) The Coronation Litho Works, Sivakasi, (3) The Saroja Mills, Limited, Singanallur and (4) The South India Match Company, Sivakasi, have recently been submitted to Government. Proposals for the construction of houses on the other lands offered by the employers including the scheme for the construction of 66 additional tenements at Madras in the land adjoining this colony are also under consideration.

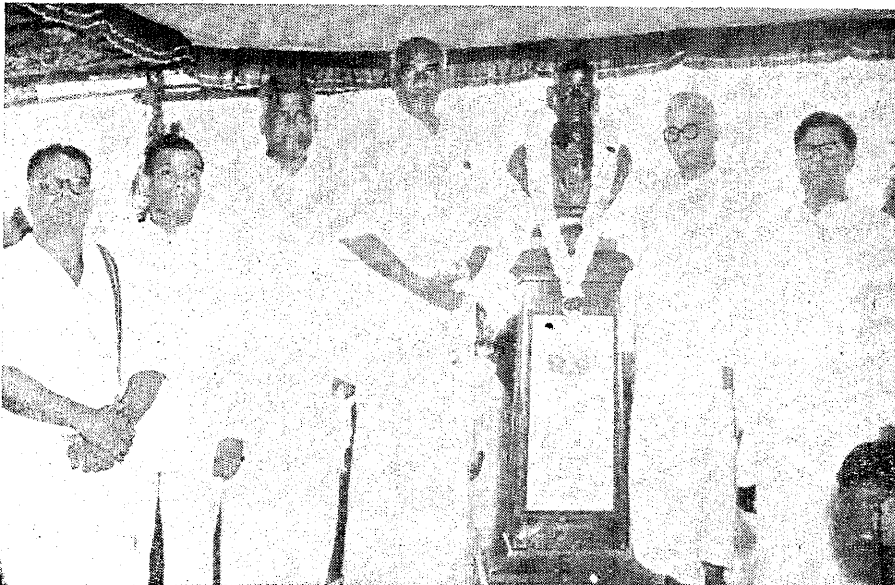
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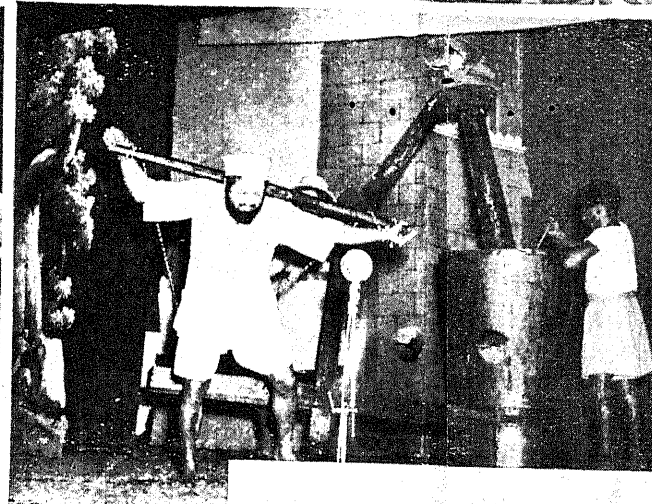
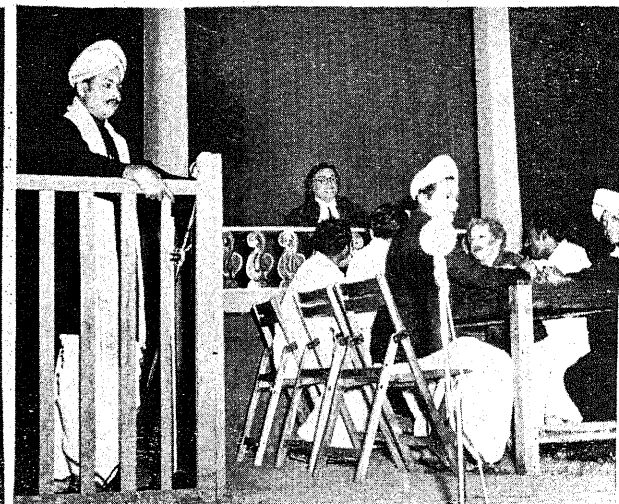
Thiru V. Kalyanasundaram, was one of the worthy sons of India. He was a great patriot, versatile writer and a powerful orator. He was one of the pioneers of the Trade Union Movement in India and was one of the founders of Madras Labour Union, the first important Trade Union organized in India.

Popularly acclaimed as one of the three leaders who spread the patriotic fervour among the masses, he was known in his days for holding large gatherings spell bound for hours by his speeches. He was chiefly responsible for shaping the evolution of a popular Tamil shorn of classical obscurantism. The words he coined to express Modern thoughts greatly helped the flowering of Tamil as a language of the masses.

A life-long fighter for the rights of labour and for the social upliftment of women, Thiru. Vi. Ka. wrote many books expounding Gandhian and Valluvan philosophies to the people of Tamilnad.



Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj, Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Sri C. Subramaniam, Sri P. Kakkam, Ministers, Sri V. Balasundaram, Commissioner for Labour and Sri K. Gurumurthi, who participated in the opening function of 'Thiru. Vi. Ka. Colony' at Sembium.



PEOPLE CELEBRATE FREEDOM

The Centenary of the First Freedom Struggle and the completion of First decade of India's Independence was celebrated on an unprecedented scale. People in many thousands participated in the five-day cultural festival organized by the State Information and Publicity Department.

Dramas and variety entertainments by popular artistes at the Corporation Stadium, film shows at the Open Air Theatre, Teynampet Congress Grounds and nathaswaram concerts by eminent vidwans at Triplicane Beach, were daily witnessed by huge gatherings including a large number of women.

The Film Festival at the Congress Grounds where a giant screen was specially erected began with the screening of "Avvniyar". Other outstanding films were also shown on all the five days.

The drams at the stadium included "Inbakkannavu" by M. G. Ramachandran and Party, "Naluveli Nilam" by S. V. Sahasranamam and Party and "Panchali Sabadam" and folk dances by Kalakshetra artistes. Members of the South Indian Artistes' Association presented a pageant of the Freedom Movement.

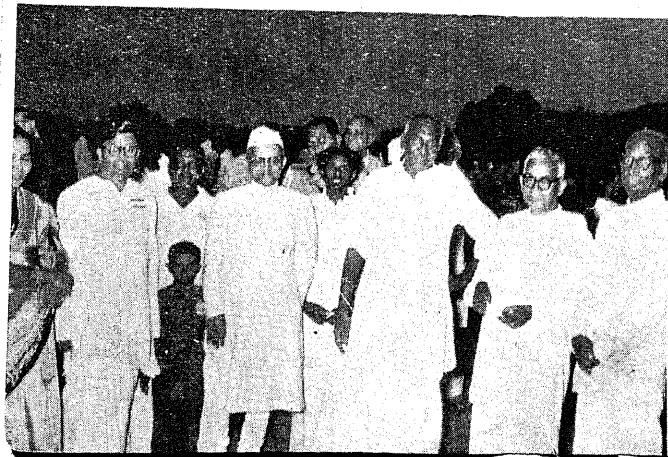


STRUGGLE CENTENARY

which included martyrdom of Tirupur Kumaran, services and sacrifices of V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, the heroic fight of the Panchalakurichi Chief, Kattabomman. Sivaji Ganesan, Musthafa, M. N. Rajam, G. Sakuntala portrayed the roles. A variety entertainment was presented by Director K. Subramaniam, which included leading play-back singers like Gantasala and Sirkali Govindarajan. There was also a dance performance by Raja Sulochana and a farce by Y. G. P. and Party.

Nathaswaram performances by Thiruvengadu Subramania Pillai, Kullikarai Pichaiyappa, Karukurichi Arunachalam and Veeruswami Pillai, Mugaveena by Mysore Narayanappa and Clarinet by A. K. G. Natarajan, were a great attraction. A children's festival was also arranged at the Corporation Stadium.

Governor Sri A. J. John held a reception at Rajbhavan in connection with the Centenary and Independence Day Celebrations.



Madras in the Struggle for Independence

This is the second and concluding part of the article 'Madras in the Struggle for Independence.' Return of Gandhiji from South Africa, the foreging of Civil Disobedience Movement by him to wrest freedom and the quick and spontaneous reaction of the people of the State in favour of the Movement are narrated in this article based on official records. Some of the incidents he quotes are still very green in our memory.

By Dr. B. S. BALIGA, Curator, Madras Record Office.

After having successfully carried on the campaign of passive resistance for improving the lot of Indians in South Africa, Gandhiji returned to India in 1915 and almost immediately started political propoganda. He took up the cause of the tenants of Bihar against the oppressions of the planters and organized passive resistance in the Kaira district of Bombay against the land revenue exactions of the Government. He then supported the extremist sections of the Indian National Congress and induced the Congress to join the Muslim League and the Muslim agitation against England and her allies when they endangered the suzerainty of the Khalifa, the Sultan of Turkey, and occupied the holy places of the Muslims in Asia Minor and Arabia. Nor was this all. He assailed the Government when they curtailed the liberty of the people by arming themselves by the Rowlatt Acts with powers of arrest and detention without trial of persons suspected of anti-Government activities, and condemned the Reforms of 1919 as being utterly inadequate to satisfy Indian aspirations. It is under these circumstances that he launched in February 1919 the Non-Co-operation and Khilafat agitation; and his sincerity, his spiritual insight and his political sagacity, made him at once a great leader, a "Mahatma", beloved and respected by both the Hindus and Muslims. This agitation

which is called the Satyagraha Campaign, or the Civil Disobedience Movement, stirred the hearts of millions all over India, and in pursuance of it, national leaders and political workers preached everywhere non-co-operation with the Government and passive resistance to the Government with unprecedented vigour.

Gandhiji in Madras.

In August 1920 Gandhiji himself came down on a propoganda tour to the south accompanied by the two notable Muslim leaders Sri Muhammad Ali and Sri Shaukat Ali and delivered a number of speeches in Madras City and in the districts. In these speeches he emphasized that civil disobedience signified the force of truth or the force of the soul, that its acceptance involved the rejection of all physical violence as well as the implementation of all policies laid down by the Congress such as the resignation of titles, the boycott of Legislative Councils and foreign goods, national education, temperance, labour unions, etc. He also emphasized that the Hindus and Muslims should unite together and fight for their common cause, Swaraj, for the redressal of Khilafat grievances, for the reparation of the Punjab atrocities and for the withdrawal of the Rowlatt Acts. Subsequently he came twice to Madras in 1921 to give a fillip to the movement.

It is not possible to describe here in any detail the results produced by the movement. All that can be said is that it resulted in many things of national significance. It resulted in hartals, processions and public meetings. It resulted in the resignation of titles and honours. It resulted in the boycott of schools, law courts, the Legislative Council and the local bodies. It resulted in the formation of labour unions and strikes. It resulted in the boycott of toddy shops and toddy shop sales and caused a considerable loss of revenue to the Government. It resulted in the encouragement of the Charka and the Khadi. It resulted in the formation of Youth Leagues and Congress organizations throughout the State. And, above all, it resulted in rousing a spirit of defiance against the authorities, and thus, in undermining in no small measure, the prestige of the Government. All these results were due to the ceaseless efforts of our political leaders like Sri Kasturiranga Ayyangar, Sri Srinivasa Ayyangar, Sri V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, Sri C. Vijayaraghavachariar S. Satyamurthi, Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, Sri Singaravelu Chetty, Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, Dr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu, Sri Yakub Husain and Sri C. Rajagopalachari. They were also due to the selfless devotion to the cause of patriotism shown by many of our political workers who went to jail in large numbers. They were likewise due to the persistent national propoganda carried on by the newspapers like *the Hindu*, *the Muhammadan*, *the Desabhaktan*, *the Tamil Nadu* and *the Swadesamitran*.

Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.

Meanwhile the awakening of the political consciousness of the country had led to the introduction of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919. By the Morley-Minto Reforms of

“Gandhiji returned to India in 1915 and almost immediately started political propaganda . . . his sincerity, his spiritual insight and political sagacity made him at once a great leader, beloved and respected by both Hindus and Muslims.”

1909 the Madras Legislative Council, which was then the Executive Council supplemented by additional members for making laws, had been enlarged, the number of its additional members having been raised from 20 to 42 of whom 19 were to be elected. The official majority in the Council had been surrendered and the members had been given the rights of moving resolutions on the budget as well as on matters of general public importance and of asking supplementary questions on reply to their interpellations. But nevertheless its resolutions had not been binding on the Executive Government, nor had it any control over any department of the Government. By the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, the Legislative Council ceased to be the Executive Council supplemented by additional members appointed or elected for the purpose of making laws. It became a separate body of which the members of the Executive Council became ex-officio members. Its members, including the proportion of elected members, were also increased; there were to be now 98 elected members and not more than 30 nominated members of whom only 15 might be officials. The Governor no longer presided over it, though he had a right to address it. Its powers too were enlarged. It had the powers of discussing and voting the budget, of moving resolutions on matters of general public importance, of interpellation, of putting supplementary questions and of moving the adjournment of business to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance. The constitution of the Executive Government was at the same time modified. A system of dyarchy was introduced. Provincial subjects were classified as “Reserved” or “Transferred” and while the former were administered by the Governor-in-Council, the latter were administered by the Governor acting with ministers appointed from, and responsible to, the Legislative Council.

Emergence of Justice Party.

When these reforms were on the anvil, a new party entered into the

political arena. This was the Non-Brahmin Party which came to be called the South Indian Liberal Federation or the *Justice Party*. It was by no means, as is sometimes supposed, a thoroughly reactionary party. It was not anti-nationalist in its outlook. It was only more moderate than the Congress Party and it sought to attain its goal of full responsible government through constitutional methods. It came into existence in this State towards the end of 1916 and gathered strength gradually during the Home Rule, the Non-Co-operation and the Khilafat Movements.

Its first pillars were Sri P. Theagaraya Chetty, President of the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, the oldest member of the Corporation of Madras, and an ex-member of the Legislative Council, and Dr. T. M. Nair, both of whom enjoyed the confidence of large sections of Non-Brahmins. In December 1916 Sri P. Theagaraya Chetty issued a manifesto attacking the Home Rule Movement in trenchant language, charging it with being a scheme devised by the Brahmins who were not content with having secured the practical monopoly of political power and high Government appointments, and calling upon all the Non-Brahmins to assert and press their claims against the domination of the Brahmins. The party thus ushered into this State was backed by a journal called *The Non-Brahmin* and, shortly afterwards, by a newspaper of its own called *The Justice* with Dr. T. M. Nair as editor and Sri Theagaraya Chetty as publisher. It lost no time in making propaganda. It held several public meetings in the City and the districts and urged that, in the coming reforms, communal representation by communal electorates as well as communal representation in public services, should be introduced. It also vehemently protested against the nomination of Sri V. S. Srinivasa Sastry on the Franchise Committee and urged, in his stead, the nomination of either Dr. T. M. Nair, or some other Non-Brahmin leader. Indeed, what gave the Justice Party its strength was the appeal which it made to the entire Non-Brahmin Community that the predominance of the

Brahmin leaders in the Home Rule and Congress movements and the over representation of the Brahmins in the services were matters demanding the serious notice of all Non-Brahmins. When the Reforms of 1919 were introduced, although they were not palatable to it, it accepted office and tried to work them. And during the Non-Co-operation and Khilafat agitations, it tried its best to counteract them, though in vain.

Amidst this agitation and counter-agitation, the Non-Co-operation and Khilafat movements suddenly came to an end. The Congress split over the question of Council entry and the Muslims beheld with dismay the abolition of the Khalifa by Kemal Pasha. But the agitation for swaraj, though abated, was continued, while Gandhiji took to constructive work, planning, as he said, to start the Civil Disobedience Movement at the proper opportunity.

During this time, till the advent of the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-31, interest in nationalism was kept up by the Congress in our State by continual propaganda. It was this propaganda that led to the launching of the no-tax campaign in Tanjore. It was this propaganda that led to the collection of Khadi purses and to the picketing of toddy shops and toddy shop sales in various districts. It was this propaganda that led to several strikes in textile mills in the State. It was this propaganda that led to the boycott of the Simon Commission when it arrived in Madras. And finally, it was this propaganda that led to the general strike in the South Indian Railway (1928).

Lahore Congress Resolution.

Close upon this came the Civil Disobedience Movement forged by Gandhiji and introduced at the Lahore Session of the Congress in 1929. The resolution on this movement framed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the rising leader of India, and issued on behalf of the Congress Working Committee, charged the British Government with having not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom but also “ruined

The Civil Disobedience Movement forged by Gandhiji and introduced at the Lahore Session of the Congress in 1929 . . . shook the whole State of Madras . . . Its special features consisted of Salt Satyagraha, labour strikes, anti-drink campaigns, agitations in local bodies and even mass risings.

India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually" and declared in emphatic terms that "India must" therefore, "sever the British connection and attain purna swaraj or complete independence". The way to swaraj, it further declared, was not through violence but through civil disobedience, including non-payment of taxes. A manifesto like this issued to the numerous Congress organizations throughout India and a movement like this led by no less a leader than Gandhiji could not but be expected to produce widespread political agitation. A wave of nationalism, the like of which had never been witnessed before, spread over the whole of India and the Congress

leaders and Congress workers came out everywhere and did their utmost to paralyse the activities of the Government. The Government for the first time realised the national significance of the movement and introduced a series of repressive laws to meet the extraordinary situation.

Mass risings in Madras.

The movement indeed, shook the whole State of Madras. Its ordinary features here consisted, as before, of processions, mass meetings, hartals, singing of national songs and so forth in defiance of prohibitory orders. Its special features which alone can be indicated here consisted of salt satyagraha, labour strikes, anti-drink campaigns, agitations in local bodies, publicity in the press and, in some places, even mass risings in resentment at the repressive measures taken by the Government. Such risings took place at Arcot, Vellore, Gudiyatham and Sholingur in North Arcot and at Tindivanam in South Arcot. But for these violent out-bursts occasioned by violent repression, the movement was characterised throughout by a sullen, persistent, non-violent agitation. In almost all districts, as well as in the City, the nationalist press, notably the newspaper *Hindu*, despite the rigorous enforcement of the Press Ordinance, carried on subtle national propaganda with success. In almost all districts the local bodies supported the agitation and wished it success. In almost all districts spathe cutting and picketing of toddy shops and toddy shop sales was conducted with great success. In almost all districts, including the City, labour strikes in mills and factories were organized with equal success. In almost all districts salt satyagraha was launched with even more success. And the greatest success in this satyagraha was achieved in Tanjore under the able guidance of Sri C. Rajagopalachari. As this was "the biggest organized effort" in support of the Civil Disobedience Movement in Tamil Nad, we may describe it in some detail.

Sri C. Rajagopalachari had by now come to the very fore-front in the politics in Madras. He had become Gandhiji's right hand man and risen to the position of the President of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee. He fixed Vedaranyam as the chief scene of operations for his salt satyagraha and the moment Gandhiji began his famous march to Dandi (12th March 1930) issued an appeal for funds and volunteers and toured through Tamil Nad addressing public meetings at various places to organize a march to Vedaranyam. The funds poured in and the volunteers flocked to his standard from all districts. He then sent an advanced guard to go along the route of the march from Tiruchirappalli to Vedaranyam, in order to arrange for accommodation and supplies at suitable halts and to rouse the sympathies of the people. In this and in all other work connected with the campaign he found able lieutenants in Dr. T. S. S. Rajan and Srimathi Lakshmipathi. As soon as the news of the campaign came to be known, the Tanjore district authorities became not a little perturbed especially since the Government had issued no instructions as to how to deal with the situation and had, on the other hand, ordered that Sri C. Rajagopalachari should not be arrested until he had actually broken the salt law. Mr. A. J. Thorne, the energetic District Magistrate, however, did all that he could to obstruct, if not to prevent, the march, by making it widely known that anybody who offered any assistance in the way of accommodation and supplies to the party would be prosecuted under section 157 of the Indian Penal Code. In spite of this however the march from Tiruchirappalli began on the scheduled date, 13th April 1930. When Sri C. Rajagopalachari with a picked party of 99 salt satyagrahis came to Koviladi, he found the famous local chattram barred and bolted against him, but he was not discomfited. He found some accommodation in a private house while the party made themselves comfortable on the river bed. This was the only place

Memorial to Tirupur Kumaran Stately Column Erected

In everlasting memory of the great martyr Tirupur Kumaran, who laid down his life twenty-five years ago in defending the honour of the tri-colour flag, a stately column was erected by the Government of Madras near Tirupur Railway Station.

The column which is twenty-five feet in height with a torch at the top, depicts the picture of a volunteer holding a tri-colour flag under which the people united to fight the foreigner by non-violent methods. The memorial column which cost rupees eight thousand is erected as part of the commemoration of the Centenary of India's First Struggle for Freedom.

Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, unveiled the memorial column on August 1st at a function presided over by Sri C. Subramaniam, Finance Minister.

“In the meantime the Government of India Act of 1935 was passed which gave a further instalment of reforms. So far as this State is concerned, it abolished dyarchy and with certain exceptions granted provincial autonomy.”

where Mr. Thorne's tactics succeeded. Thereafter Sri C. Rajagopalachari and his party met welcome at Tiruvaiyar, Tanjore and Kumbakonam and jubilant welcome from Kumbakonam onwards until they arrived at Vedaranyam on 28th March. The way in which this march was conducted extorted the admiration of Mr. Thorne. He reported that Sri C. Rajagopalachari maintained excellent discipline among his followers, exercised complete control over them and observed strict non-violence. He however arrested him as soon as he began to collect salt from the salt swamp. Other leaders like Sri K. Santanam, Sri Vedaratnam Pillai, Srimathi Lakshmipathi, Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, as well as a large number of volunteers at once came forward to carry on the campaign and gave a lot of trouble to the authorities; and it was only after several arrests that the situation could be brought under control.

Under all this agitation it is no wonder that the Government themselves recognized that the Civil Disobedience Movement reflected “real national spirit”, that it had “more staying power than the Non-Cooperation Movement”, that “it was better organized and definitely more prepared for a long struggle”, that it no longer “derived its inspiration” from any personalities, not even Gandhiji's personality, that “it had an independent basis of its own” and a potentiality which made it clear that “the cult of ‘Gandhiji’ had merged in the cult of nationalism”. Most of the present Congress leaders and political workers of this State took an active part in this movement and prepared the masses for further struggles for freedom that were to come in the near future.

Gandhiji visits Madras again.

Meanwhile, the Civil Disobedience Movement came to an end. By a settlement reached by Gandhiji on behalf of the Congress, with Lord Irwin the Viceroy, on behalf of the British

Government (March 1931), the Congress called off the movement and agreed to participate in the Round Table Conference held in England and the Government withdrew all repressive ordinances banning the Congress bodies, etc., and released all political prisoners. But this truce remained in force only for a time. The Civil Disobedience Movement was started again by the Congress early in January 1932 on account of the repressive ordinance passed by the Government to put down agitation in the North-West Frontier Province, in the United Provinces and in Bengal. The same weapons that were used before were used again throughout the State and when Gandhiji visited Madras and toured the districts early in 1934, huge crowds greeted him, venerated him, treated him “like a god” and contributed considerable sums to his Harijan Fund. A spirit of wrathful defiance against the authorities now filled the air, and the situation was not eased until the movement was finally called off by Gandhiji and the Congress in April-May 1934 and the Unlawful Associations Ordinances were cancelled by the Government.

Justice Party Politics.

During all this time from the end of the Non-Co-operation Movement to the end of the Civil Disobedience Movement, other parties in the State were not idle. The Justice Party, although it co-operated with the British in running the dyarchy under its leaders like the Raja of Panagal and Sri A. P. Patro, very soon began to lose all faith in dyarchy. It happened like this. In 1926 it was defeated in the General Elections by the Swaraj Party, the party of the Congress which believed in Council entry. But the Swaraj Party, though it had a majority, refused to form the Ministry, and, as a result, an independent Ministry under Dr. P. Subbarayan, having the support of the Swaraj Party, was formed. As soon as this Ministry was formed, the Justice Party started an agitation against it and against the British Government itself and attempted to undermine the

Congress. It convened a meeting of the Non-Brahman Federation at Coimbatore in July 1927 attended by its prominent leaders like the Raja of Panagal, Sri A. P. Patro, Sri R. K. Shanmugam Chetty, Sri A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Sri C. Thanikachalam Chetty and presided over by Sri S. Kumaraswami Reddiar and at this meeting passed three important resolutions. The first of these permitted the individual members of the Justice Party to enter the Congress with the object of swamping the Congress and working on the feelings of the Non-Brahmans inside the Congress. The second condemned dyarchy as being a system utterly unworkable and demanded full provincial autonomy from the British Government. The third advocated a vote of no-confidence in the Legislature to unseat the Ministry. Soon after this meeting several prominent members of the Justice Party joined the Congress. A vote of no-confidence was also brought in the Legislative

A fitting memorial will be raised for Sri V.O. Chidambaram Pillai at Ottapidaram, the village of his birth in Tirunelveli district. V.O.C. popularly known as “Kappalottia Thamizhan” was one of the earliest to start the struggle for Freedom in Tamilnad. He was the first Indian to start a national shipping company in defiance of the “Powers that were”.

He was a prosperous lawyer, but sacrificed his all in the cause of Freedom and suffered rigorous imprisonment, during which period he underwent such ordeals as pulling a chekkeru within the prison walls.

The ancestral home of V.O.C. at Ottapidaram was acquired by the Madras Government and the Foundation stone to erect a memorial was laid by Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, on August 7, 1957.

“ In 1939 elections . . . no leader attracted a larger audience and none produced a greater impression than Pandit Nehru who arrived in Madras . . . started on a whirl wind tour of Tamilnad. Wherever he went he was given an enthusiastic reception. The villagers gathered and cheered him on his arrival . . . ”

Council, but the motion was defeated by the members of the Swaraj Party. This did not upset the Justice Party, and at the General Elections of 1930, the Congress (both the Congress Party and the Swaraj Party) having refused to contest the elections, it easily obtained a majority and again formed a Ministry, this time headed by Sri B. Muniswami Naidu. This Ministry was succeeded in 1932 by the Ministry of the Raja of Bobbili. The Justice Party now felt itself quite safe and, finding from the elections that the Non-Brahmins had little to fear politically from the Brahmins, threw open its membership to the Brahmins so as to strengthen its organization. But its position actually was by no means safe. This was clearly shown by the General Elections of 1934. The Justice Party was now completely defeated by the Congress Party, the Congress having lifted the ban on Council entry. The Congress Party however did not accept office and accordingly a Justice Party Ministry was again formed under the Raja of Bobbili. But the sands of this party were running out fast. Thereafter dis-unity in its ranks, the lack of effective machinery and, above all, the want of a dynamic nationalist policy, ruined all its chances of success.

The Self-Respect and Communist Parties.

About the same time, two new parties, namely, the Self-Respect and the Communist parties, came into existence. Both opposed the Congress and both demanded radical social, economic and political reforms. The Self-Respect Party was started by Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker who had played indeed no inconspicuous part in Coimbatore during the Non-Co-operation and Khilafat agitation. After that agitation however he left the Congress believing that the only way to improve the condition of the people was to abolish all caste distinctions, to banish all religion and to introduce some sort of Communism. In 1933-34 he toured the Tamil Nad attacking all religions, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity alike,

denouncing the Brahmins for being the authors of caste distinctions, condemning all forms of private property and advocating the establishment of “the Russian form of Government” as being the best suited to the country. By his hatred of Brahmins he won the support of the Non-Brahmins and the Justice Party and by his love of the Soviet system he earned the sympathy of the Communist Party. Wherever he went he formed associations of Self-Respectors and his Self-Respect Party, because it promoted class hatred, caused some anxiety to the Government and, because it attacked the Congress, caused some annoyance to the Congress Party. It contributed a succession of intemperate articles in some Tamil newspapers, violently abused the Brahmins and the Congress and organized demonstrations, though with little success, even against Gandhiji when he came on the southern tour in 1934.

Banning of Communist Party.

But it was the Communist Party that caused real concern to the Congress and much anxiety to the Government. This party received a fillip by the visit of Sri Saklatwala, a prominent labour leader and a member of British Parliament, to Madras in 1927, and gave rise to several associations of workers. It refused to have anything to do with the Congress and denounced the Congress as “the stronghold of landlordism, capitalism and private ownership”. The Congress found it impossible to conciliate the Communists (or “Socialists” as they called themselves) who organized a spate of strikes in the city as well as in the districts. Indeed, they grew from strength to strength in all parts of India. That was the reason why in July 1934, the Government of India banned the Communist Party and its organizations on the ground that they constituted a danger to public peace. The Government of India stated that a close investigation of all Communist activities, and especially the Meerut Conspiracy case, had revealed to them that

the Party aimed at nothing less than the violent overthrow of the existing order of society. Its aims, they said, were hatred of God and all forms of religion, the destruction of private property, the enforcement of absolute social and racial equality, the annihilation of all forms of responsible Government including civil liberties such as freedom of speech and trial by jury, and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat by means of a world revolution. Its objects, they observed, were the achievement of complete independence of India by the violent overthrow of British rule, the cancellation of all national debts, the establishment of a Soviet Government, the abolition of the Indian States, the confiscation without compensation of all the lands, forests and other properties of the ruling princes, landlords, etc. And it sought to secure these objects, they remarked, by developing a general strike of workers culminating in a general political strike, and by developing a peasant movement for the non-payment of rents and taxes into an All-India agrarian revolution, and by organizing a nation-wide movement for political independence by attaching to it all the workers, peasants and petty bourgeois and by spreading revolutionary propaganda in the army and the police and inciting them to revolt against British rule.

As a result of this, in Madras, the Government declared unlawful the Young Workers' League (November 1934) which had for its avowed object the overthrow of British Imperialism and which was in no sense a bona fide trade union and was in touch with the Communist International. All this created a storm of protests in the left wing press and a great deal of uneasiness in the Self-Respect Party, which had, as has been seen, imbibed some of the Communist ideas. Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker lost no time in announcing that his party was not a Communist Party, that it was only a Socialist Party, that it worked always within the bounds of law, that violence had no place in it and that its aim was the

The Quit India Movement was launched . . . In Madras City, even in the face of strong military forces hartals and strikes frequently took place and acts of incendiarism were attempted . . . in the districts the situation often became worse.

establishment of the British System of administration and failing that alone "a Communist System of administration". His party however was not banned, nor were the other Socialist organizations in the State banned, although some of them, like the All-India Congress Socialist Organization, agitated for complete independence, non-compromise with British Imperialism, the elimination of the princes, landlords and other classes of exploiters and the redistribution of lands to the peasants. The banning of the Communist Party did not by any means put a stop to the activities of the Communists in the State. They formed what was called the Labour Protection League and steadily spread Communist ideas among the workers as well as the kisans. As yet however they did not start any widespread agitation. They started that only after the Congress Government came to power in 1937.

1935 Government of India Act.

In the meantime the Government of India Act of 1935 was passed which gave a further instalment of reforms. So far as this State is concerned, it abolished dyarchy and, with certain exceptions, granted provincial autonomy. The State Government was given exclusive authority over provincial subjects and concurrent jurisdiction over certain other subjects. The Government of India was precluded from interfering in State administration save when the Governor-General proclaimed an emergency or considered interference necessary for ensuring the peace and tranquillity of India. The Governor, like the Governor-General, was also entrusted with certain discretionary powers and special responsibilities which he could discharge without consulting the Ministers. Thus under his discretionary powers, he could nominate certain members to the Legislative Council, appoint and dismiss Ministers and members of the Public Service Commission, summon, prorogue or dissolve the Legislature, stop the proceedings of a Bill which affected peace and tranquillity, return a Bill to the Legislature for reconsideration with suggestions for amendment,

veto a Bill or reserve it for the consideration of the Governor-General, pass an Act or promulgate an Ordinance when immediate action was necessary or assume to himself all the powers of the State Government and the Legislature in the event of a breakdown of the Constitution. Under his special responsibilities, he was authorised to prevent any grave menace to public peace to safeguard the legitimate interests of the minorities and the public servants, to administer the partially excluded areas, to protect the rights of the rulers of Indian States and to execute the orders or directions issued to him by the Governor-General. Subject to these restrictions, the Ministers were invested with full powers over all other subjects relating to State administration. The Governor was to appoint the leader of the party or the parties commanding a majority in the Legislature as the Chief Minister and also the other Ministers chosen by the Chief Minister generally from among the members of the Legislature. If a Minister chosen was not a member of the Legislature he had to become one within six months or resign. All the Ministers were to be responsible to the Legislature and were to resign if the Legislature passed a vote of no-confidence. The Governor was to preside over the Council of Ministers. The Legislature was to consist of a Legislative Council and a Legislative Assembly. The Council was to consist of 45 members of whom a certain proportion was to be elected and a certain proportion to be nominated by the Governor. It was to be a permanent body, one-third of whose members were to retire every three years. The Assembly was to consist of 215 members elected by voters arranged in separate electorates. It was to sit for five years unless sooner dissolved by the Governor. The Council was to have no power to vote on demands for grants or to sanction expenditure; it could only discuss the budget. Such powers were to be exercised by the Legislative Assembly in which all money Bills were to be first introduced. In case of difference of opinion

between the two Houses, the Governor was to summon a joint sitting to decide the disputed measure.

Elections under 1935 Act.

This Act came into force on 1st April 1937, but long before that date strenuous efforts were made both by the Congress and the Justice Parties throughout the State to increase their strength and to carry on an effective propaganda for the forthcoming elections. On the Congress Party's side, the propaganda was carried on by local leaders like Sri S. Satyamurthy and Sri C. Rajagopalachari and outside leaders like Sri Vallabhai Patel and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In this election campaign, no leader attracted a larger audience and none produced a greater impression than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who arrived in Madras on 5th October 1936 and immediately afterwards started on a whirlwind tour of the Tamil Nad. Wherever he went, he was given an enthusiastic reception. In almost every village on his route, the villagers gathered and cheered him on his arrival; in more important villages, welcome arches were erected, festoons were hung and Congress slogans were displayed. He was received with flowers, fruits and music and, sometimes, with "vedis" fired in his honour. In towns in which he halted, very large crowds assembled, consisting of both townsmen and villagers of the surrounding areas. They minded not any inconvenience; they waited for hours to have his "darsan"; and they brushed aside the feeble hostile demonstrations carried on in some places by the members of the Self-Respect Party. They presented him addresses of welcome and purses and thanked him for his campaign against poverty and unemployment. Indeed, he literally achieved mass contact and became exceedingly popular by frequently stopping his car while passing through the villages, by talking freely with all who came to see him, by mixing freely with them, by showing extreme solicitude for their welfare and, by distributing the flowers and fruits presented to him, to the women

“ The formation of the Labour Government in Britain, the end of Japanese War . . . the arrival first of the Parliamentary Delegation and then of the Cabinet Mission . . . led to a succession of political changes.”

and children. And everywhere he delivered speeches laying emphasis on the prevailing poverty and unemployment in India and attributing them largely to the policies followed under British Imperialism. He remarked that, so long as British Imperialism remained, the masses could not hope to better their condition and that, therefore, it must be brought to an end. He pointed out that to achieve this object all classes should strengthen the hands of the Congress which was the only powerful, organized and disciplined body in India. He asked the people to vote for the Congress and he invariably wound up by saying that the Congress was working for independence and that, once independence was gained, the problem of poverty and unemployment could be solved by introducing Socialism in the country.

Effects of Sri Nehru's Tour of Tamil Nad.

Pandit Nehru's tour strengthened not a little the electioneering campaign of the Congress Party. The Justice Party's campaign lost all vigour, but by then, new parties having come into existence, such as the Peoples' Party, and the Provincial Branch of the Muslim League having been revived, the opponents of the Congress fondly hoped to undermine its strength. In the General Elections held in 1937, however, the Congress Party won a decisive victory over the other parties. The fact that the anti-Congress vote was split made little or no difference, and the Congress Party secured 159 out of the 215 seats in the Legislative Assembly and 26 out of the 46 seats in the Legislative Council. The Congress Party, however, having refused to accept office without securing assurances against the interference in the day-to-day administration by the use of the Governor's discretionary and special powers under the new Constitution, an Interim Ministry was formed under Sri K. V. Reddy. But in the first half of July, the Congress Party being satisfied with the assurances given by the Viceroy accepted office and formed a Ministry under Sri C. Rajagopalachari.

Of all the measures introduced by Sri C. Rajagopalachari's Ministry none came in for so much opposition from his political opponents on the introduction of Hindustani (Hindi) compulsorily in certain schools as an experiment. The opposition to this measure came mostly from the Self-Respect Party led by Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, but it was backed alike by the Justice Party, the Muslim League and the Scheduled Caste Federation. Meetings were held by the Self-Respect Party in the whole of Tamil Nad at which speeches were made attacking the Brahmans and alleging that the introduction of Hindi was an attempt to impose Aryan influence on Dravidian culture to propagate Brahman domination. Black flag demonstrations were made by this party during the visits of Ministers and, above all, picketing by successive batches of volunteers was conducted by this party before the Premier's residence and before certain schools. More than a thousand arrests were made in the City and most of the picketers were convicted. Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker himself was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to one year's imprisonment. But still the agitation went on. It ended only when the Congress Ministry laid down office in 1939 and the succeeding Government abolished the teaching of Hindi and released all Anti-Hindi prisoners. Meanwhile, in December 1938, Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker was elected as the President of the Justice Party, although he was then in jail.

It was not, however, so much the open agitation of the Self-Respect Party or the Justice Party, as the underground agitation of the Communist Party which was rapidly becoming powerful, that caused much concern to the Congress Government. It was at this time that many of the Communists under the guise of Socialists formed unions "embracing all branches of industry and husbandry." It was at this time that they organized a large number of strikes in mills and factories in which the strikers

employed violence, put forth unreasonable demands and spurned every attempt made by the Government to settle their grievances. It was also at this time that they began to foment kisan troubles in some districts

The War breaks out.

But the times were fast changing. In September 1939, the Second World War broke out and opened a new chapter in the history of the struggle for independence. The Congress having decided not to participate in the war, Sri C. Rajagopalachari's Ministry resigned in October and the Government was carried on by the Governor with the aid of Civilian Advisers. As soon as this took place and individual satyagraha was permitted by the Congress, the whole State became a scene of agitation. Everywhere Congress Committees were formed, satyagraha pledges were taken, anti-war speeches were made, anti-war slogans shouted, anti-war pamphlets were issued and anti-war posters were displayed; and all this anti-war propaganda led to a very large number of arrests. As the movement gained momentum, more and more people courted imprisonment, with the result that the Government were eventually compelled to ignore all but the leaders and to arrest only such as wielded any influence. It was not until the Satyagraha movement was withdrawn by the Tamil Nad Congress Committee in January 1942, that things quietened down.

Quit India Movement.

This was, however, only the calm before the storm. For, very soon events moved to a crisis. The interminable waiting for the fulfilment of the pledges by the British, the failure of the Cripps's Mission, the danger of the conversion of India into a theatre of war by Britain and her Allies, all these, induced Gandhi and the Congress to make an all-out effort to get rid of British rule. The nation having waited in vain could wait no longer for independence. The Civil Disobedience Movement, or the Quit India Movement as it was called, was fashioned by Gandhiji in May-June 1942, was put

into shape by the Working Committee by the Wardha Resolution in July and was launched by the All-India Congress Committee by its Bombay Resolution on 8th August. This Resolution which was a long one, demanded, in short, the immediate withdrawal of Britain from India, the setting up of a Provisional Government representing all the parties, the pooling of all resources for fighting the struggle for freedom against the aggression of Nazism, Fascism and Imperialism and thereby strengthening the cause of the United Nations and, after the war was over, the establishment of a World Federation of free nations. And, in order to secure the preliminary step, the immediate withdrawal of Britain, it sanctioned a nation-wide non-violent mass movement under the leadership of Gandhiji.

This clarion call was no sooner made, than Gandhiji and a large number of prominent Congress leaders were arrested and imprisoned and all the Congress Organization throughout India were banned. This was a signal for the outbreak of a national uprising throughout India, in which violence was freely used with non-violence to paralyse the activities of the Government. The British Government held the Congress responsible for the violent outbreaks stating that the Congress must have known that the incitement to mass action on such a wide scale was bound to lead to violence, but the Congress held the Government responsible stating that it was the arrest of the leaders and the repressive policy of the Government that was responsible for violence. So far as Madras was concerned, Sri C. Rajagopalachari having by this time resigned from the Congress on the issue of Pakistan before the passing of the Bombay Resolution, and the other leaders having been imprisoned, the people were more or less left to themselves and their resentment in many places resulted in acts of violence.

Violent acts break out.

Indeed, any one who reads the records of this momentous period cannot fail to draw the inference that the policy of the Government was largely responsible for these acts of violence. For, the Government not only imprisoned all the leaders who could have exercised a restraining influence on the people but also banned all non-violent activities, such as hartals,

meetings, processions and demonstrations. The result was, as may be expected. Popular resentment broke out with a virulence hitherto unknown in the political annals of Madras. People lost patience, resorted to all sorts of acts, including sabotage and arson, and courted imprisonment in large numbers.

In Madras City, even in the face of strong military forces, hartals and strikes frequently took place and acts of incendiarism were attempted. Hundreds of students of schools and colleges, including the lady students of the Queen Mary's College, observed hartals, led out processions and shouted Quit India slogans until they were dispersed by the police. Hundreds of workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills and the Public Works Workshops struck work. Hundreds of labourers of the Madras Port Trust, Madras Electric Tramway and Madras Corporation carried on labour agitation. Picketing of toddy shops was conducted in some places and toddy shops in Choolai were set on fire. Several post boxes were burnt and some attempts at incendiarism were made in the High Court buildings and a bomb was thrown in the Muthialpet police station.

In the districts.

In the districts, the situation often became worse. In North Arcot, besides hartals and demonstrations, telephone and telegraph wires were cut, post boxes were removed, the Public Works Inspection bungalow at Panapakkam and police huts at Vellore were burnt, Forest rest-houses near Vellore and the village chavadis in Panapakkam and Timiri were set on fire and a goods train was derailed, badly damaging many wagons, between Tandarai and Adichanur railway stations. Collective fines were imposed on some villages in this district, amounting to Rs. 6,535. In South Arcot, the students of the Annamalai University took a prominent part, organizing strikes, taking out processions, hoisting national flags, etc. Here too telephone and telegraph wires were cut in a number of places and a motor car belonging to a police official was burnt. In Chingleput, the students of the Loyola College, the Christian College and the Engineering College took an equally prominent part; they staged strikes, obstructed electric trains, and encountered lathi charges, imprisonment and even whipping. Here also telephone and telegraph wires were cut in many places,

some toddy shops and some sheds belonging to the essential services were burnt and an attempt was made to set fire to the post office at Kalathi. A collective fine of Rs. 5,000 was imposed on some villages and the Chingleput District Board and the Damal Panchayat Board were superseded for six months for supporting the Quit India Movement and condemning the repressive policy of the Government. In Coimbatore, besides meetings, hartals, picketing of schools and colleges, and cutting of telephone and telegraph wires, large scale strikes were organized in a number of mills, some of which resulted in police interference. An ammunition train from Cochin consisting of two engines and forty-four wagons was derailed by sabotage between Podanur and Singanallur railway stations. Attempts were made to derail trains at Pollachi and Chavadipalayam. A village chavadi near Karnalur was attacked and damaged and several toddy shops were burnt at Singanallur, Parur and Kariyapalayam. All the sheds of the Sular Aerodrome were set on fire and 22 motor lorries kept in them were destroyed. Here, besides imposing collective fines on certain villages amounting to Rs. 35,410, the Coimbatore Municipal Council was suspended for six months for supporting the Quit India Movement and condemning the repressive policy of the Government. In Madurai similar acts of violence were resorted to. Madurai became "the storm centre of the movement" and called for frequent interference of the military and the police. In addition to public meetings, hartals, cutting of telephone and telegraph wires, the roads were here barricaded and Government servants were assaulted. A mass meeting convened here in defiance of the prohibitory orders led to police firing and the killing and injuring of several persons. Another mass meeting led to the damaging of a municipal fire engine and the A.R.P. equipment and to the burning of a police bus, some post offices and a Sanitary Inspector's Office, and eventually to police firing and the killing and injuring of some persons. The Madurai Municipal Council, the Dindigul Municipal Council, the Palani Municipal Council and the Madurai District Board were superseded for six months for passing resolutions strongly condemning the repressive policy of the Government.

In the Nilgiris, mostly processions, demonstrations and students' strikes were organized.

✱ *Police shoot to kill.*

In Ramanathapuram, serious disturbances took place at Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai and Poolankuruchi and a large number of persons were killed in police firing. There were here also many cases of arson and incendiarism. The civil court building at Devakottai was burnt, the Sub-Treasury, the Sub-Registrar's Office, the Deputy Tahsildar's Office and some other Government buildings at Tiruvadanai were set on fire, and attacked and destroyed; the Natarajapuram railway station and the Municipal Elementary School at Karaikudi were also burnt; the post office at Poolankuruchi was burgled, and a mail bus was waylaid and the mail bags in it were reduced to ashes. Interference with the telegraph, telephone and the railway were here very common; so also were very common the defiance of authority and the intimidation of officials. No less than Rs. 2,93,428 were levied here as collective fines on villages, and the Ramanathapuram District Board and the Virudhunagar Municipal Council were superseded for six months for passing Quit India resolutions. In Salem, on the other hand, the movement, on the whole was peaceful, but, at times, some acts of violence were committed. The village chavadi at Papparapatti was burnt, post boxes were removed, the telephone and the telegraph were dislocated and in some places, fish plates were removed from the railway line. In Tanjore, non-violent as well as violent measures were equally employed. Meetings were held, hartals were observed, anti-government propaganda was carried on and students' demonstrations were organized. But in some places like Tiruvaiyar, Tanjore, Mannargudi and Kumbakonam people showed violence. At Tiruvaiyar, hundreds of people marched through the bazaar forcing the shop-keepers to close their shops, preventing students from attending schools, cutting telegraph and telephone wires, blocking up roads with stones, stopping buses and attacking public offices. At Tanjore, a public meeting held in defiance of prohibitory orders ended in lathi charges and several arrests. At Mannargudi about 1,000 people armed with sticks, knives and swords cut telephone and telegraph wires, set

fire to the railway station, stopped buses from plying, and burnt two public offices. At Kumbakonam, about 10,000 people gathered at Gandhi Park, defied the prohibitory order, cut off telegraph communications, barricaded the streets, surrounded the police and the District Magistrate and became threatening until at last they were fired upon and dispersed by lathi charges. At Nachiarkoil an attempt was made to blow up a bridge and at Tiruturaipundi an attempt was made to derail a train. Mannargudi and Tiruvaiyar were fined collectively Rs. 38,718 and Rs. 1,903 respectively. In Tirunelveli, the students' strikes that first began soon gave place to grave disturbances. The Salt Factory at Kulasekharapatnam was attacked by a large crowd carrying sticks, aruvals and battle axes and, in the struggle that ensued, the Assistant Salt Inspector was killed. At Kadalai, a police party was attacked, at Kurumbur the railway station was set on fire, at Kadalgudi a police station was burnt, at Tuticorin some toddy shops were damaged, and near Sermadevi fish plates were removed from the railway line. Extensive damage was done here to telegraph and telephone communications. The Tirunelveli District Board and the Tirunelveli Municipality were suspended for a period of six months, for condemning the actions of the Government. In Tiruchirappalli, the students played an active part; they picketed schools and colleges, as well as courts, held meetings and organized hartals. Attempts were however made here also to tamper with communications. A passenger train was derailed between Pugalur and Noyyal railway stations, a goods train was derailed near Tiruchirappalli and fish plates were removed from the railway line between Lalgudi and Valadi stations.

The Quit India Movement remained active in Madras only for a few months, roughly from August to December 1942; thereafter it gradually died down. The political atmosphere in the whole country however continued to remain dark and sullen, what with the detention of the Congress leaders in jail and the unhelpful attitude shown by the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow and Lord Wavell, and Sri M. A. Jinnah, the implacable leader of the Muslim League. The Viceroy insisted on the solution of the communal and minority problems as a preliminary to the consideration of

the grant of any reforms, while Sri M. A. Jinnah insisted on Pakistan. Gandhiji having been released in May 1944, tried his best to solve the tangle, but in vain. From 1945, however, the sky began to clear. The formation of the Labour Government in Britain, the end of the Japanese War, Lord Wavell's visit to England for consultation with the Labour Government, the arrival first of the Parliamentary Delegation and then of the Cabinet Mission to hammer out a new Constitution for India, all these, led to a succession of political changes. Then it was that the ban on the Congress was lifted, the Congress leaders were released and they resolved to accept the reforms offered in good faith by the British. This speedily led to the holding of general elections and the formation of the Interim Government at the Centre (consisting of leaders drawn from major political parties) and the Congress Government in Madras.

Attitude of other Parties.

During this whole period, from 1939 to 1946, when the Congress Party was fighting for freedom, the other parties in this State co-operated with the British Government and tried to strengthen their own position. Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, now the recognized leader of the Justice Party, offered "unconditional support of Tamilians in the prosecution of the war as a counterblast to the Congress attitude." He also courted the Muslim League, supported the scheme for Pakistan, inveighed against the Congress and continued to stir up anti-Brahman feelings in the Tamil Nad. His violent anti-Brahman attitude, however, sometimes annoyed the Government. For, he threatened to start another agitation for the removal of caste and social distinctions in temples, restaurants, railway refreshment rooms, etc. Nor was this all. He convened a Justice Party Conference at Kancheepuram for urging the establishment of Dravidanad and at this conference unveiled a map of Dravidanad "comprising the areas where Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam were spoken." But fortunately for the Government, his position in the Justice Party was soon challenged when he and his followers, among whom the most prominent was Sri C. N. Annadurai, began to insist on changing the name of the Justice

“The dawn of freedom was greeted in Madras with great rejoicings. Everywhere there was jubilation that the cherished goal had at last been reached and satisfaction that the British were departing as friends leaving no bitterness behind.”

Party into the “Dravidian Association” or the Dravida Kazhagam and calling upon all title holders to surrender their titles. The orthodox Justicites now promptly assailed him, repudiated his leadership and met and elected first Sri B. Ramachandra Reddy and then Sri P. T. Rajan as their leader. But he was not discomfited; he continued to canvass support for the Dravida Kazhagam, holding meetings in Tamil Nad.

Communists support War efforts.

During the same period, the Communist Party under its leaders like Sri Mohan Kumaramangalam, Sri P. Ramamoorthy, Sri M. R. Venkatraman and Sri Anandan Nambiar, cast its net wider and tried its best to secure a more permanent hold over the workers and the kisans. It found the time and circumstances eminently propitious for its propaganda. In July 1942 the ban on the Communists was removed and in August 1942, as we have seen, the ban on the Congress was imposed. This gave the Communists a free field to carry on their activities, and their activities bore abundant fruit amidst the economic distress caused by the war, amidst the rise in prices and the scarcity of foodstuffs. The ban on the Communists was removed by the British Government in the hope that they would fully co-operate with the war effort since Russia, the home of Communism, had, by then, become a firm ally of Britain. In this hope the Government were not disappointed. The Communists rendered wholehearted support to the British in their war effort. Thus, at a meeting held in July 1942 by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union, Perambur, Sri Mohan Kumaramangalam said that, though the attitude of Britain towards Communism had until recently been hostile, it was now the duty of Indians to co-operate actively in the war; that, if Japan conquered India, it was not British Imperialism but Indians that would suffer most, and that, therefore, the people should join the army in large numbers. This co-operation in war effort however did not prevent the

Communists from strengthening their hold upon the workers and others. They carried on extensive under-ground propaganda and tried to seduce the students, the mill and factory workers, as well as the kisans, from the Congress into the Communist fold. They formed “students' cells”, “matha sangams”, and workers and kisans unions. They instigated the workers to make all sorts of demands and organized a series of strikes in mills and factories throughout the State. They instigated the kisans also in some districts to make unreasonable demands and to stop all kinds of cultivation work, if their demands were not complied with by the landholders. In their struggle for getting control over the workers and kisans they often came into violent clashes with the Congressmen. All this compelled the Congress in 1945 to expel them from the Congress Party. The Congress Party in Madras now attempted to recover its lost ground and to consolidate its position by forming associations called “Samithis” for dealing with problems connected with the workers, kisans, students, food, etc., and by making intensive propaganda in all districts. But the Communists put up a stiff fight everywhere.

Sri Kamaraj's leadership.

Then came the general elections and Sri C. Rajagopalachari having, as we have already seen, left the Congress on account of his differences with the Congressmen over the Pakistan issue, the leadership in Tamil Nad passed into the hands of Sri Kamaraj Nadar, the President of the Tamil Nad Congress Committee. There is plenty of evidence to show that he wielded at this time the most powerful influence in Tamil Nad. He inaugurated a National Youth Federation in Madras for co-ordinating the activities of all youth organizations with the object of carrying on the constructive programme of the Congress. And, as soon as the Congress High Command decided to contest the elections, he and his followers conducted strenuous tours throughout Tamil Nad, addressing numerous meetings, explaining the Quit

India Resolution and creating enthusiasm everywhere for the Congress. The opposition parties now more or less disappeared from the field, save the Communist Party. During the election campaign the Communists kept the labour situation tense and restless both in the City and in the districts.

Sri Prakasam's Ministry.

The elections held in March 1946, brought an astounding success to the Congress. The Congress Party obtained an overwhelming majority, securing 164 seats out of the 215 seats in the Legislative Assembly and 32 seats out of the 52 seats in the Legislative Council. Sri T. Prakasam was now chosen as the leader of the Parliamentary Party and he formed his Ministry in April 1946. His Ministry, however, had no easy task before it. For, the whole country was then passing through severe ordeals. The times were out of joint. In the economic sphere, the after-effects of war, high prices, hoarding and blackmarketing were causing unusually hard times for the poor. In the political sphere, the agitation for Pakistan and communal squabbles were creating menacing movements like the Rashtria Seva Sangh (the R.S.S.) directed against the Muslims, the Razakars directed against the Hindus and the Dravida Kazhagam directed against the Brahmans. In both the spheres, the Communists taking advantage of the troubled times were becoming a real danger to the country. All over India they were organizing industrial and agrarian strikes, making anti-Congress speeches, disseminating inflammatory literature, terrorising their opponents and inciting the people to all sorts of violence. The economic distress produced by the war and the communal agitation created by the Dravida Kazhagam were more or less without much difficulty handled in Madras by the Congress Government. But it was not without great difficulty that they could tackle the political agitation created by the Communists.

The Communists vowed to discredit the Congress in Madras, to capture labour and to keep up a sustained

agitation against the Government, even before the results of general elections were announced. And, soon after Sri T. Prakasam formed his Ministry, they demanded nationalization of all industries, opened a "Parliamentary office" in Madras to collect statistics about the grievances of the workers and organized a general strike in the South Indian Railway. When this strike was scotched and killed, they openly accused the Government of being capitalistic, tried to capture labour in all fields, formed more and more labour unions in the City as well as in the districts, set up village food committees, came into frequent violent clashes with the Congressmen, fomented a large number of strikes in mills, factories, dock-yards and essential services and, what is more, incited agricultural labourers against the landholders, making it thereby difficult for the authorities to maintain law and order over large and dispersed areas. The anarchy let loose by the Communists compelled

the Government to take stringent measures to preserve public peace and safeguard public interests. Early in 1947 they issued the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance (Ordinance I of 1947) and followed it up by the Maintenance of Public Order Act (Act I of 1947). In this Act, in order to deal with subversive activities, they provided for preventive detention, imposition of collective fines and censorship, control of meetings, processions, camps, drills and parades, requisitioning of property and control of essential services. Under this Act they detained a number of active Communist agitators, but they did not show to them any undue harshness. Their action in most cases of detention was upheld by the advisory boards set up to review such cases. And yet they released all such detenus as gave an undertaking not to take part in subversive activities; they granted allowances to the families of many of the detenus and also released on parole a good number of detenus to attend on

their sick relations, to perform obligatory ceremonies and so on.

All this time, in the All-India sphere momentous events were in the making. The prolonged parleys between the Congress leaders on the one hand and Sri M. A. Jinnah and the British Government on the other, at last led to the convening of the Constituent Assembly the decision of the British to withdraw from India, the arrival of the new Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, the partition of India into India and Pakistan and finally, the declaration of Independence (July 1947 with effect from 15th August 1947).

The dawn of freedom was greeted in Madras with great rejoicings. Everywhere there was jubilation that the cherished goal had at last been reached, and satisfaction that the British were departing as friends leaving no bitterness behind. The Independence Day was celebrated with not a little enthusiasm alike in the City and in the districts.

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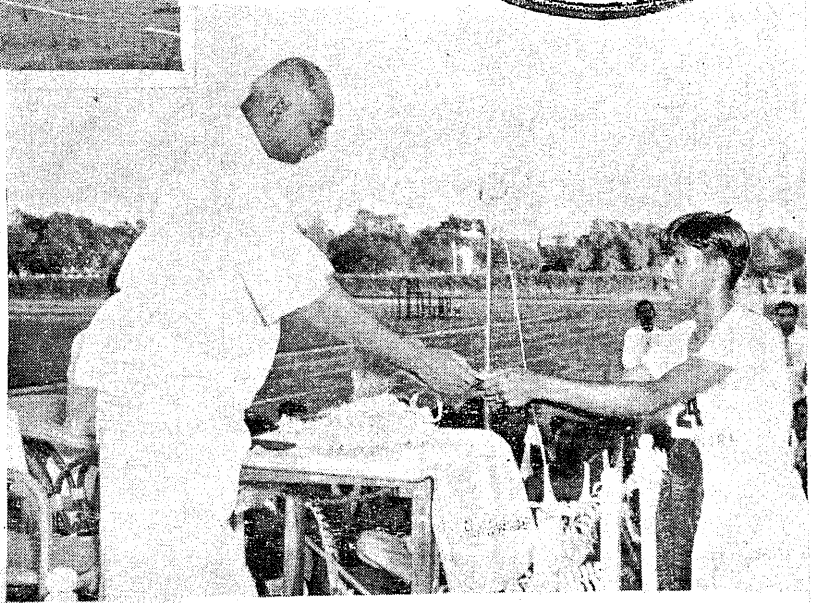
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SPORTS CELEBRATIONS IN CITY



Sports in schools and colleges were organised throughout Madras State in connection with the Centenary Celebrations of the First Freedom Struggle, and the finals for both boys and girls were held at Rajarathinam Stadium and Presidency College Grounds, respectively, in the second week of August 1957.



Sri K. Kamaraj, Chief Minister, presided over the sports for boys and distributed prizes.

Srimathi Cheriai distributed prizes to girl athletes. The girl students, besides showing keen interest in sports, made the occasion livelier by taking part in fancy dress competition.



Neill's Role in 'Rule Britannia'

This is the second and concluding part of the story of a man who was chiefly responsible for the failure of the First War of Independence a hundred years ago. The account shows how this man Neill by his courage bordering upon madness and inhuman ways won victory over victory before he fell to a bullet shot.

By Dr. A. AIYAPPAN, Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras.

James George Smith Neill (1810-1857), Colonel and Brigadier-General, eldest son of Colonel Neill of Burnwell and Sweendridge Muir, Ayrshire, was born in the neighbourhood of Ayr on 27th May 1810. He was educated at Ayr and at Glasgow University. He obtained an army cadetship in the East India Company's service, and arrived at Madras on 1st June 1827. Sir Thomas Munro, Governor of Madras Presidency, who had married a relative of Neill, took kindly notice of the boy, and he was posted on 5th June, with date as ensign of 5th December 1826, to the Madras first European regiment then quartered at Machlipatam. He was promoted lieutenant on 7th November 1828. He was appointed Fort Adjutant at Machlipatam on 15th September 1829, and held the office until the regiment marched to Kampti. On 1st May 1831 he was made quartermaster and interpreter to the right wing of his regiment at Kampti. On 7th March 1834 he was nominated Adjutant of his regiment, and was afterwards selected to command the escort of the Resident of Nagpur.

On 1st January 1837 he left Kolidokode on sick furlough to Europe. He returned to Madras on 25th July 1839, before the expiration of his furlough, in the hope of being employed in the operations in Afghanistan; but in this he was disappointed.

On 23rd March 1841 he was appointed to the general staff as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General in the ceded districts. While holding this appointment he wrote a short account of the history of his regiment, which was published in 1843 under the title of 'Historical

Record of the Madras European Regiment'. On 5th January 1842 he was promoted Brevet Captain, and on 25th June he was made Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Woulfe. Neill was promoted Captain (regimental) on 2nd January 1843 and Major on 25th March 1850.

When the second Burmese War broke out in 1852, Neill threw up his staff appointment and hastened to rejoin his regiment, which had been ordered to the seat of war. On his way he was met by the announcement that he had been appointed to the staff of Sir Scudemore Steele, commanding the Madras troops in Burmah, as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General. He did admirable work all through the campaign. On the conclusion of the war he was left at Rangoon in command of the Madras troops, and was actively employed under Sir John Cheape (q.v.) in suppressing insurrections near Thurygyeen, Bassein and elsewhere. Constant exposure and hard work in a bad climate brought on fever which nearly proved fatal; but he recovered and was sent to England arriving in June 1854. For his services in the Burmah War he was promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel on 9th December 1853.

Neill goes to Turkey.

When the war with Russia commenced, General (afterwards) Sir Robert Vivian, who had been Adjutant-General of the Madras army, was selected to command the Anglo-Turkish force, called the Turkish contingent, and Neill was appointed his second in command. He was given the rank of Colonel on staff, and went to Constantinople in April 1855. On his arrival

he was appointed to command a division stationed in camp at Buyukdere, on the Bosphorus, where he remained till July, bringing the force under his command into a state of efficiency and discipline. Owing to the excess of the Bashi-Bazoukhs, commanded by General Beatson, a military commission composed partly of British officers and partly of Turkish officials, was appointed, with Neill as President to inquire into the outrages. The commission was opened on 27th July at the embassy and full powers were given to it to try and to punish the offenders. Severe and immediate punishment for plunder was administered and soon produced good effects, while Neill reported that the excesses committed were due to lax discipline, and indicated what steps should be taken to amend it. Neill received the thanks of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, the Ambassador, who directed General Beatson either to adopt Neill's recommendations or adhere to the resolution he had announced of resigning his command.

Back in Madras as Colonel.

Neill displayed considerable ability in organizing and reforming the Turkish contingent. He was determined to have no officers that were not fit for the work, and got rid of no less than twelve officers, including a Brigadier-General, three Lieutenant-Colonels and three Majors. On the conclusion of the war Neill returned home, and after spending the remainder of his leave with his family, sailed for India again on 20th February 1857, arriving in Madras on 29th March. His regiment was away in the Persian Gulf, forming part of the expedition under Sir James Outram. He was preparing to start for Bushire to join it when on 6th April intelligence arrived that the war with Persia was over and on 20th April the Madras Fusiliers reached Madras. Colonel Stevenson, who was in command, left for England on sick leave on the 28th and Neill took over command of the regiment.

North India in a blaze.

On 16th May news came from Calcutta that the troops at Meerut and Delhi had mutinied, and Northern India was in a blaze. Neill embarked his regiment at once, fully equipped for service, in accordance with instructions received and arrived at Calcutta on 23rd May.

Neill arrived at Banaras on 3rd June 1857. The following day the 37th native infantry and a Sikh regiment mutinied. They were attacked and dispersed by the artillery, some of the 10th Foot and of the Madras fusiliers. Thrice the rebels charged the guns, and thrice were driven back with grape shot; then they wavered and fled. Never was rout so complete; Brigadier-General Ponsonby, who was in command, was incapacitated by sun-stroke, and Neill assumed the command. He was duly confirmed in the appointment as Brigadier-General to command the Haidarabad contingent. His attention was at once called to Allahabad, where the 6th native infantry mutinied on 5th June and massacred their officers. The fort still remained in our (English) hands, but was threatened from without by the mutineers who were preparing to invest the place, while the fidelity of the Sikh troops within was doubtful. Neill at once despatched fifty men of the Madras fusiliers to Allahabad by forced marches. They arrived the following day (6th), and found the bridge in the hands of the enemy, but got in by a steamer sent from the fort for them. Another detachment sent by Neill arrived on the 9th and on the 11th Neill himself, having made over the command at Banaras to Colonel Gordon, appeared with a further reinforcement of forty men. Neill experienced considerable difficulty in getting into Allahabad. He was nearly cut off en route from Banaras and when he got near Allahabad it was blazing forenoon. A boat was obtained by stealing it from the rebels and Neill and his men had to wade a mile through burning sand in the hot sun. Two of his men died in the boat of sun-stroke. Neill's energetic measures soon altered the position of affairs. The heat was terrific, but Neill on 12th June recovered the bridge and secured a safe passage for another detachment of a hundred men of the fusiliers from Banaras. On the 13th he opened fire on the enemy in the adjacent villages, and on the 14th, a further detachment of fusiliers having

arrived, the Sikh corps was moved outside the fort, and with it all immediate remaining danger.

On the evening of the 14th and during the 15th he continued to fire on the enemy in the villages adjoining. He also sent a steamer, with some gunners, a howitzer, and twenty picked shots of the fusiliers, up the Jamna. They did a great deal of execution. The Sikhs, supported by a party of the fusiliers, cleared the villages of Kaidganj and Natinganj. The insurgents were thoroughly beaten. The Moulavie fled, and the ring leaders dispersed. 'At Allahabad', wrote Lord Canning to the Chairman of the East India Company, 'the 6th regiment has mutinied, and fearful atrocities were committed by the people on Europeans outside the fort. But the fort has been saved. Colonel Neill, with nearly three hundred European fusiliers, is established in it, and that point, the most precious in India at this moment, and for many years the one most neglected, is safe, thank God. A column will collect there (with all the speed which the means of conveyance with allow of), which Brigadier Havelock, just returned from Persia, will command.' Before Havelock came, cholera suddenly appeared. It did not last long, but within three days carried off fifty men. Neill set to work energetically to equip a small force to push into Cawnpore to relieve Wheeler; he also collected guns and material for a large force to follow. For his services at Allahabad he was promoted Colonel in the army and appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Queen.

Injudicious instructions.

Havelock arrived on 30th June. The column which Neill had prepared for Cawnpore started under Major Renaud on 3rd July. News had just arrived from Lucknow of the terrible tragedy enacted at Cawnpore, but it was not fully believed; at any rate hopes were entertained that the story might be the invention of Nana Sahib. Captain Spurgin of the Madras fusiliers, with one hundred men and two guns also left Allahabad on 3rd July on board a river steamer to co-operate with Renaud. Havelock was delayed by want of bullocks for a few days, but finally left Allahabad on 7th July. Neill was left at Allahabad to reorganize another column. It was a great disappointment to Neill that, after his successes at Allahabad, he should be

superseded by a senior officer; but he was somewhat consoled on 15th July by a telegram from the Commander-in-Chief directing him to hand over the command at Allahabad to the next senior officer, and to join Havelock as second in command. Neill reached Cawnpore in five days. His instructions were, to say the least, injudicious. They led him to think, rightly or wrongly, that the authorities had misgivings as to Havelock, and had complete confidence in him, while it led Havelock to regard Neill with some suspicion. On Neill's arrival at Cawnpore he was at once met by Havelock, who desired that there might be a complete understanding between them. Neill was to have no power nor authority while he was there, and was not to issue a single order. When Havelock marched on Lucknow he left Neill in command at Cawnpore.

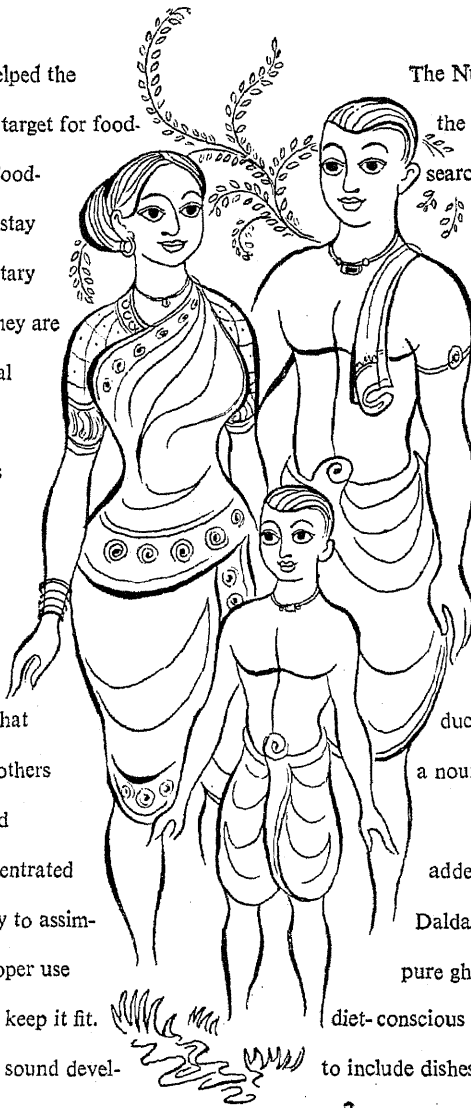
Neill had only three hundred infantry, half a battery of European artillery, and twelve veteran gunners with him in Cawnpore when Havelock endeavoured to advance to the relief of Lucknow. Neill's instructions were to endeavour to defend so much of the trunk road as was then in British possession in the neighbourhood of Cawnpore, to aid in maintaining Havelock's communications with Allahabad and with Cawnpore, to strengthen the defences on both sides of the river, to mount heavy guns in them, and to render the passage of the river secure by establishing, in co-operation with the two steamers, a boat communication from entrenchment to entrenchment. Havelock commenced the passage of the river on the 20th, but it took a week of labour and difficulty before the whole column was assembled on the Oudh bank. On the 29th Havelock advanced on Onao and routed the enemy. He gained another victory at Bashiratganj and then fell back on Mangalwar. On 31st July he informed Neill that he could not advance to Lucknow without further reinforcements, and desired Neill to furnish workmen to form a bridgehead on the Oudh bank, to collect rations for his troops, and get ready two 24-pounder to accompany his advance, and push across any British infantry so soon as they might arrive. Havelock no doubt was right to risk nothing in order to make sure of relieving Lucknow effectually, but his retrograde movement created bitter disappointment in Cawnpore, and Neill chafed so much

A plan for your health

The first Five Year Plan helped the farmers of India to exceed the target for food-grains by three million tons. Food-grains are, of course, the mainstay of our diet; but health and dietary experts point out that unless they are supplemented by other essential nutrients, our diet lacks the proper nourishment to keep us healthy. A *balanced diet* is a necessary part of any plan for the health of the nation.

Fats and vitamins are two of the five essential food factors that make up a balanced diet. The others are proteins, carbohydrates and minerals. Besides being a concentrated energy food, fats help the body to assimilate other foods and make proper use of them to build the body and keep it fit.

Vitamins are necessary for the sound development of bones, muscles, nerve and brain tissue. Each vitamin imparts its special benefit—Vitamin A prevents night blindness, resists colds, keeps the eyes and skin healthy; Vitamin D (the 'Sunshine' vitamin) prevents rickets and softening of the bones.



The Nutrition Advisory Committee of the Indian Council of Medical Research recommends at least 2 oz. of fat per day for adults, whereas the average consumption of fat per adult per day is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in this country. It is therefore heartening to note that Vanaspati manufacture has increased by about 1 lakh tons between 1950 and 1955—thus making a valuable contribution to the total production of fats. Dalda Vanaspati is a nourishing fat made from vegetable oils and has Vitamins A and D added to it; in fact, every ounce of Dalda is as rich in Vitamin A as pure ghee. That is why more and more diet-conscious people are planning their meals

to include dishes cooked with Dalda Vanaspati, because they know that it adds to the food value of every dish. Untouched by hand during manufacture, Dalda comes to you fresh in sealed tins — with the familiar palm tree emblem which is your guarantee of a nourishing fat.



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under his mortifications that he wrote a very insubordinate letter to Havelock, complaining bitterly of his action. He received a severe reply. Havelock again pushed forward, but once more, after further successes in the field, felt compelled to await reinforcements before he could make good his advance upon Lucknow.

Threat at Cawnpore.

While Havelock was thus advancing and waiting, Neill was threatened at Cawnpore by large bodies of insurgent sepoys. He sent the steamers up the river with a small force and two field guns and a mortar, and checked the rebels to some extent, but on 10th August they approached nearer. A part of Neill's small force was sick in hospital, and Neill sent word to Havelock that he could not keep open his communications, as his force was barely sufficient to enable him to hold on to Cawnpore, and that four thousand men and five guns were at Bithor, already threatening Cawnpore. So Havelock, having struck another blow at the enemy at Burhiya, returned, attacked the enemy at Bithor on 16th August, dispersed them, and established himself in Cawnpore. Then came cholera. The troops were not adequately provided with shelter during the rainy season, and Neill thought they were unnecessarily exposed. Neill, who was a friend of the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Patrick Grant, kept up a correspondence with him, in which he seems to have criticised Havelock's doings freely, and Grant, on relinquishing the Commander-in-Chief to Sir Colin Campbell (afterwards Lord Clyde) wrote a friendly letter to Neill, impressing upon him the necessity of loyally supporting his immediate superiors. Unfortunately Neill did not act upon this advice. He opened a correspondence with Outram, who was coming up with reinforcements to take command, and expressed his opinions as freely to him as he had done to Grant. Havelock and Neill were essentially unlike both in character and disposition, and neither sufficiently appreciated the other. But despite Neill's attitude of disloyalty to Havelock, which is the one blot upon Neill's fame, Havelock was magnanimous enough to take Neill with him in the advance to Lucknow, with the rank of Brigadier-General to command the right wing of the force. On the 15th, on Outram's arrival, the arrangement was confirmed, and orders issued, the

right wing consisting of the 5th and 84th foot, the Madras fusiliers, and Maude's battery of artillery.

Hair breadth escape.

The advance commenced on 19th September. On the 21st the enemy opened fire, but were driven off the field. Then it rained incessantly, but the column marched on until half-past three, when the troops were quartered in a small serai. It rained all night and all the 22nd when a similar march was made without any fighting, and on the arrival of the force at their bivouac the guns at Lucknow were distinctly heard. On the 23rd there was a bright sun, and the men felt the heat greatly. On approaching the Alambagh, where a considerable force of the enemy was posted, fire was opened by the British force advancing in line as soon as they came within range. While crossing a deep water course Neill's horse plunged and nearly fell, and as he did so a round shot grazed the horse's quarters, passing a few inches behind Neill. The line was exposed to a heavy fire, and many fell. Neill rode in front of the Madras fusiliers, and cheered on the men, waving his helmet. The enemy were driven back a mile beyond the Alambagh, and the force occupied the Alambagh for the night. The baggage had not come up, and a pouring rain for an hour caused discomfort to the force. Neill at once got permission for an extra dram for the men. On the morning of the 24th the enemy's fire was annoying, and the force was ordered to move a thousand yards to the rear, to be more out of range of the enemy's guns; but in executing the movement there was much confusion among the baggage animals and carts, and the rebel cavalry charged the rear-guard and baggage-guard, killing a good many men. Neill ordered up two guns and the volunteer cavalry. The rebel cavalry galloped off again, leaving fifteen of their number dead. Then Havelock's force rested, and arrangements were made for the attack. On the morning of the 25th Neill marched off at 8 a.m. with the first brigade in advance. The brigade consisted of Maude's field battery of artillery, the 5th fusiliers, a detachment of the 64th regiment, the 84th foot, and the Madras fusiliers. They had not advanced two hundred yards when they were met with a murderous cross-fire from the rebel guns, and also with a heavy musketry fire Neill pushed on, telling Maude to

do his best to silence the guns. Neill directed his infantry to clear the walled enclosures on each side of the road, whence came the enemy's musketry fire. On turning into a village they were met by two guns firing straight down the road. Neill, at the head of the Madras fusiliers, charged the guns.

Shot dead from house top.

Numbers of Neill's men were moved down, but the guns were captured. Neill then led his men round the outskirts of the city with very trifling opposition until they reached the road along the bank of the Gumti towards the residency. They halted once or twice to let the guns come up, and thought the worst was over. But as they approached the mess-house and the Kaiser Bagh a sharp musketry fire was opened upon them. The fire was returned, but for some two hundred yards the column was exposed to an incessant storm of bullets and grape shot. It was now nearly sunset. As they passed out of the lane into a court-yard, fire was opened from the tops of the houses on each side. Neill was on his horse giving orders, trying to prevent too hasty a rush through the archway at the end of the court, when he was shot dead from the top of a house. Spurgin of the Madras fusiliers save his body, and, putting it on a gun-carriage, carried it into Lucknow. As the church-yard was too exposed to the enemy's fire to admit of funerals in the daytime, he was buried on the evening of the 26th.

Lord Canning, in publishing the despatches on the relief of Lucknow, wrote Brigadier-General Neill, during his short but active career in Bengal, had won the respect and confidence of the Government of India; he had made himself conspicuous as an intelligent, prompt and self-reliant soldier, ready of resource and stout of heart.

The Gazette announced that, had Neill lived, he would have been made a K.C.B. and his widow was declared to enjoy the same title and precedence to which she would have been entitled had her husband survived and been invested with the insignia of a K.C.B. The East India Company gave a liberal pension to the widow. Memorials were erected in India in Neill's honour and a colossal statue by Nonle was erected in Wellington Square, in his native place.

A Legend About the Great Builder— Thirumal Naick of Madurai

By Sri S. VARADARAJULU NAIDU, the District and Sessions
Judge of Ramanathapuram at Madurai.

Every one who has known Madurai, the second largest City in the State of Madras, knows the Thirumal Naick Palace, which like the great temple in the same City dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi, is a thing of everlasting beauty. The Great Thirumal Naick, who ruled at Madurai between 1623 A.D. and 1659 A.D., was a great devotee of the Gods and the Goddesses of the Hindu Pantheon. There are several temples south of Madras, which had benefited materially in some measure or other, owing to his devotion to the deity of that temple.

In Srivilliputtur, a town 46 miles south-west of Madurai, famous in Vaishnavite religious lore, has the replica of the Madurai Thirumal Naick's Palace, though of a smaller dimensions, built by the same which now houses the Srivilliputtur Taluk Office and the Srivilliputtur District Munsif's Court. The Siva temple dedicated to Sri Vydhinathaswami is one of the two attractions of Srivilliputtur, the other being the temple dedicated to Sri Andal, sung by some of the Alwars. Great was the suffering of Thirumal Naick from stomach pain, when he happened to be at Srivilliputtur during one of his tours. As a mark of his thanksgiving to the Lord Vydhinathaswami (the Lord of the Healing Art) on his obtaining complete relief from his suffering after prayer at His Feet, Thirumal Naick constructed in granite stone, but inlaid with wood work, a mantapam, called "*Nataka (Drama) Mantapam*" at that shrine. This mantapam is a remarkable structure of exquisite workmanship, comparable only to the similar mantapam, called the "*Kalyana Mantapam*" constructed by the same Prince at the Meenakshi temple at Madurai. Even today Thirumal Naick in granite statue, along with his two consorts, stands prominently in the "*Nataka Mantapam*" at the Sri Vydhinathaswami temple.

There was never a day, when Thirumal Naick did not worship the Great Giver of his health, from under the "*Nataka Mantapam*," before partaking of his midday meal. But the duties of a monarch were not confined only to the worship of deities; and Thirumal Naick, who was obliged to be at Madurai, the seat of his Kingdom, hit upon a plan which by the uniqueness of conception is unparalleled in the history of man in his devotion to God. At every two miles from Srivilliputtur to Madurai, there rose up structures to house musicians, who played on the musical instrument called 'Nagars'. The musicians at the first post two miles away from Srivilliputtur on hearing the sound of the 'Nagars' from the precincts of Sri Vydhinathaswami temple played upon their own 'Nagars.' On hearing the sound of the music from their 'Nagars', the musicians at the second post played upon their respective 'Nagars'. In this fashion, the sound of the music, reverberating from the shrine of Sri Vydhinathaswami at Srivilliputtur, was passed on to the Palace of Thirumal Naick at Madurai. On hearing the sound of the music from the last post two miles away from Madurai, the musicians at the Palace played upon their own 'Nagars'. On hearing that music, Thirumal Naick felt as though he was in the presence of Lord Vydhinathaswami, worshipped Him from where he was, and then partook of his food.

It is not possible today to locate the several posts, said to have been constructed by Thirumal Naick at every two miles from Srivilliputtur to Madurai; and hence the Disbelieving Eyebrows may raise to view the story of the devotion of Thirumal Naick as an untrue legend. However, we should be proud that tradition has handed down this legend, which bears noble testimony to the Great *Bhakti*, which pervaded Thirumal Naick. And strange indeed is the course that his *Bhakti* took!

(Continued from page 17)

State Government Scheme.

The Madras Government also availed themselves of the financial assistance of the Government of India under the scheme and formulated proposals in 1955 for the construction of 936 houses in Sembiam and Erukancheri on the lands purchased from the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras. The Government of India agreed to sanction a loan of Rs. 12.46 lakhs being 50 per cent of the cost and development of the land and cost of construction of building and an equal amount as subsidy. The actual cost of the scheme is likely to exceed the standard cost on which assistance is granted by the Government of India and the difference in cost to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs will be met by the State Government.

The construction of these houses was started in July 1955 and has now almost been completed. This colony which was opened by the Chief Minister as 'Thiru Vi. Ka. Nagar' consists of 486 houses. The lay-out, designs and plans have been drawn up by the officers of the Public Works and the Town Planning departments. Each house contains a spacious living room and a kitchen with a separate bathroom and verandah. Each house has also been provided with electric lights. The provisions of other amenities in the colony such as school, shops, etc., is also under consideration. The lay-out of the colony provides for sufficient open space for this purpose. I am sure that with all these amenities, provided for a low nominal rent of Rs. 10 only, the workers who occupy the houses will be more comfortable than elsewhere. The maintenance of the houses in both these colonies has been entrusted to the Labour Department. A Managing Committee has been constituted for this purpose with two representatives each of the employers and employees and the Labour Officer, Madras, as the Chairman. This Committee is generally responsible for the allotment of houses according to the rules drawn up for the purpose by the Government and for the general maintenance of the colonies. One hundred and twenty one houses have so far been allotted by the Committee. The Government of India have recently agreed that 10 per cent of the houses in these two colonies can be allotted to the Government Transport workers.