

**TOWARDS
A
FULLER LIFE
IN
BOMBAY PROVINCE**

*A review of the work and
activities of the Government of
Bombay for the period from
October 1946 to March 1948*

Issued by

THE DIRECTORATE OF PUBLICITY, GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY

1948

First Published October 1948

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EDUCATION



ACCORDING to the election manifesto of the Congress, the Congress Governments are sworn to devise ways and means for the promotion of the education of the masses with a view to raising them intellectually, economically, culturally and morally and fitting them for the new forms of work and services which would open out before them. With the attainment of freedom by India, the tasks of popular ministries all over the Dominion have increased considerably and their responsibilities have become more onerous.

Seeing that the educational organisation set up by the bureaucratic Government merely served as a machinery for raising personnel for the ministerial ranks of the administration and that it had lost all touch with the people and the



Primary Education

country, the Bombay Government drew up a bold and comprehensive five-year plan of educational reform, the chief aim of which was the liquidation of mass illiteracy and spread of elementary primary education throughout the length and breadth of the Province.

SCHEME OF COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION

It is proposed to introduce free compulsory primary education in villages having a population of 1,000 and above as a preliminary step in the

implementation of the five-year programme commencing in June 1947. In the course of the second five-year programme beginning in the year 1952-53, the scheme will be extended to other smaller villages.

There are about 32 lakhs of children of school-going age, i.e., of age-groups 6-11 years. Of these, 16 lakhs are actually attending school. If the remaining 16 lakhs are to receive the benefits of elementary education, some sort of compulsion would have to be introduced and it would need an army of no less than 40,000 primary teachers and facilities to house schools in 22,000 villages of the Province. In view of the lack of adequate trained personnel and other difficulties, the Government has decided to introduce free and compulsory primary education for school-going children within a period of 10 to 12 years. It is proposed to tackle children in the age-groups of 6 and 8 years in the first year of the programme and then to go on to the other groups, so that in the fifth year, all children between 6 and 11 years of age would be at school throughout the Province.

ADMINISTRATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Primary education is administered at present by local authorities under the Bombay Primary Education Act, under the provisions of which the Government bears 50 per cent of the additional expenditure incurred on compulsory education. The District Local Boards have to bear one-third of the cost, too, but as the finances of most Boards are depleted, the Government has offered to bear the entire cost on this account. The Boards have, however, been asked to raise the local fund cess to three annas in the rupee of land revenue and to earmark 15 pies out of it for primary education.

For introducing the programme of compulsory primary education from June 1947, a census of children of school-going age in February 1947 was necessary to be made. To help the District Local Boards to prepare the scheme for the introduction of compulsory primary education and to expedite the programme, the Government paid grants amounting to Rs. 1,94,480 to these Boards during the last year. The additional recurring expenditure on this scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 4.17 crores and the Government has already made a provision of Rs. 44.5 lakhs for grants to local bodies in 1947-48 in this behalf.

Of the 20 District Local Boards in the Province, 14 have so far agreed to contribute their share towards the cost of this scheme by raising the local fund cess. They are those of the Bombay Suburban District, Thana, Ratnagiri, Nasik, West Khandesh, Satara, Dharwar, Belgaum, Ahmedabad, Kaira, Surat, Panch Mahals, East Khandesh and Poona. While the three District Local Boards of Sholapur, Kanara and Kolaba have refused to make the necessary contribution, the question of the other three districts, viz., Ahmednagar, Bijapur and Broach, is still hanging fire. The Ratnagiri District has been allowed to introduce compulsion, as a special case, as its present contribution exceeds its share under the 15-pie formula.

SCHOOLS FOR SCHOOLLESS VILLAGES

As the Province has many villages without schools, the Government proposes to start 17,000 schools in schoolless villages having a population of 400 or more throughout the Province. The



A Village School

local authorities will open schools in villages having 700 people or more, the Government providing all the cost thereof. In the case of smaller villages, increased grants-in-aid

will be given to voluntary organisations to open such schools. The total cost involved is estimated at Rs. 7,60,000 annually at the end of five years.

In order to ensure better supervision over schools, an inspecting officer of the Education Department will now inspect only 50 institutions

a year instead of 80 he was required to inspect in the past. He will now be able to pay more frequent visits to schools and provide better guidance to teachers in their day-to-day work. The necessary complement of staff has been sanctioned.

An idea of the increase in the number of primary schools and children attending them may be had from the following table.

| Year | Institutions | Scholars |
|------|--------------|-----------|
| 1940 | 19,115 | 15,00,456 |
| 1941 | 19,779 | 15,60,094 |
| 1942 | 19,981 | 15,64,620 |
| 1943 | 19,847 | 15,36,311 |
| 1944 | 19,437 | 15,46,191 |
| 1945 | 18,526 | 15,64,195 |
| 1946 | 18,263 | 16,08,238 |
| 1947 | 18,992 | 16,65,042 |

ADDITIONAL POSTS CREATED

Under the Post-war Reconstruction Programme, 220 additional posts of Assistant Deputy Educational Inspectors have been created—180 for men and 40 for women. During 1947-48, 60 of these posts in the proportion of 45 for men and 15 for women have been sanctioned and distributed in the different districts of the Province according to their requirements. In view of the difficulty of recruiting suitable trained graduates, grants of advance increments and relaxation of the prescribed age limit have been permitted. The total cost of the scheme comes to Rs. 13.6 lakhs (recurring) and Rs. 22,000 (non-recurring) per year.

TRAINING OF PRIMARY TEACHERS

Of the 47,000 primary teachers in the Province, about 50 per cent or 23,000 have had no training at all. The various training institutions turn out about 2,500 teachers annually as against the need for 25,000 additional teachers necessitated by the introduction of the compulsory primary education scheme.

The Government of Bombay proposes, therefore, to open 16 training colleges as part of its post-war reconstruction programme—10 for men and 6 for women. Three colleges for men are already functioning at Panvel in the Kolaba District, Wai in the Satara District and at Bijapur; seven more in this category were established

in June 1947: at Godhra and Nadiad for Gujarati teachers, at Jalgaon, Manmad and Sangamner for Marathi teachers, and at Dharwar for Kannada teachers. There is also a college for Urdu teachers.

LOCATION IN TALUKA TOWNS

The Government has decided that these colleges should, as far as possible, be located in taluka towns or other smaller centres and that they should be well-equipped and have practising schools attached to them. The total cost on this project during the next five years is estimated at Rs. 1.03 crore (i.e. Rs. 52 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 51 lakhs recurring).

Extra classes in existing Government Training Colleges can be opened only when additional class-room and hostel accommodation is available. The Government will provide such additional accommodation when the number of classes in a college is less than eight.

It must be added that private enterprise has admirably responded to the Government's call for co-operation in this respect and has opened since June 1947 no less than 12 new colleges for the training of primary teachers.

NEW SYLLABUS INTRODUCED

The introduction of Basic Education in primary schools has given rise to the necessity for a large number of teachers trained in crafts. The Government, has, therefore, included such crafts as spinning and weaving, agriculture and woodwork in the syllabus of its training colleges.

In order to have an army of teachers trained in craftwork in the shortest possible time, short-term courses of 2 months for new entrants and of 6 months for untrained primary teachers in service above 35 but below 45 years of age have been proposed to be opened shortly.

IMPROVEMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

With the expansion of primary education consequent upon the introduction of compulsory elementary education, facilities for secondary education will have to be increased. Side by side with this expansion, the quality of our secondary schools needs also to be improved.

Very few secondary schools in the Province are richly or even moderately endowed, so that they have to depend for their finance mainly on the fees collected from pupils and Government grants. As the increase in fees is limited, it is necessary that the rate of Government grant, which at present is much below that admissible under the grant-in-aid code, should be raised. It is, therefore, proposed to pay larger grants to non-Government secondary schools and to supplement the existing allotment of grants-in-aid of about Rs. 21 lakhs by some Rs. 70 lakhs during the period of 5 years from 1947-48. Unless such increased grants are paid, it is difficult to ensure suitable and reasonable conditions of service for secondary teachers. The Government has already appointed a committee consisting of Mr. V. D. Ghate, Deputy Director of Public Instruction and Mr. R. V. Parulekar, who has been connected with secondary education for a long time, to advise the Government in regard to the rate at which grants to non-Government secondary schools might be paid and the conditions on which to pay them. During the current year, an additional provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has already been made for this purpose.

OPENING OF LOKASHALAS

The Committee appointed by the Bombay Government in 1938 to report on the training of primary teachers had suggested that new institutions to be called Lokashalas should be opened in order to provide secondary education (without English) up to the Matriculation standard as well as to improve the educational qualifications of primary teachers. The Lokashala course extends over three years. Candidates passing the final Lokashala examination and wishing to join the teacher's profession will have to undergo training only for one year. Four Lokashalas for boys have already been opened with effect from 1946-47—at Dhulia for Marathi-knowing pupils, at Poona for Urdu-knowing pupils, at Nadiad for Gujarati-knowing pupils and at Bijapur for Kannada-knowing pupils. These Lokashalas have been attached to Government high schools in these places. The Government proposes to open 36 more Lokashalas during the five years commencing from 1947-48—4 each in 1947-48 and 1948-49, 6 in 1950-51 and 22 in 1951-52—so that there will be in all 40 Lokashalas at the end of this period. It is also proposed to encour-

age the opening of Lokashalas by private bodies by payment of grants-in-aid at 1/3rd rate. Of the four Lokashalas to be opened in 1947-48, one for Marathi boys has been opened at Manmad in the Nasik District and one for Marathi girls at Ahmednagar. Attempts are also being made to open two more Lokashalas in other parts of the Province. The whole Lokashala Scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 2,47,000 non-recurring for equipment and Rs. 22,35,000 recurring during the period of the first five years.

BUILDINGS FOR VILLAGE SCHOOLS

In view of the expansion of the scheme of compulsory primary education, which will bring more children to schools, it is proposed to construct new school buildings in villages (where accommodation on hire is not available) through District Building Committees which have been set up in all districts already.

To ensure uniformity and harmony of design, the Government has approved a type plan for school buildings for the guidance of these Committees and set down certain minimum standards. A class room should be 22 feet by 18 feet with a plinth 1½ foot high, a verandah and pucca floor. This type plan is designed to facilitate construction of the building by stages.

A FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN

About 6,000 school buildings of various sizes are proposed to be erected in the province in the course of 15 years. The estimated cost to Government during the first five years is Rs. 2.13 crores non-recurring and Rs. 5.4 lakhs recurring. A provision for paying Rs. 30 lakhs as grants-in-aid to the District Building Committees during 1947-48 has been made, 1½ lakhs of rupees having been paid as grant-in-aid to every committee already under the scheme. The villagers are, however, expected to raise funds to cover at least one-fourth of the cost of the buildings.

In order to promote healthy outdoor activities, it is proposed to acquire suitable sites for



A Playground For Children

during 1947-48.

buildings, playgrounds and school farms for as many schools as possible. It is proposed to earmark Rs. 30 lakhs for this purpose, Rs. 6 lakhs having been set aside for expenditure

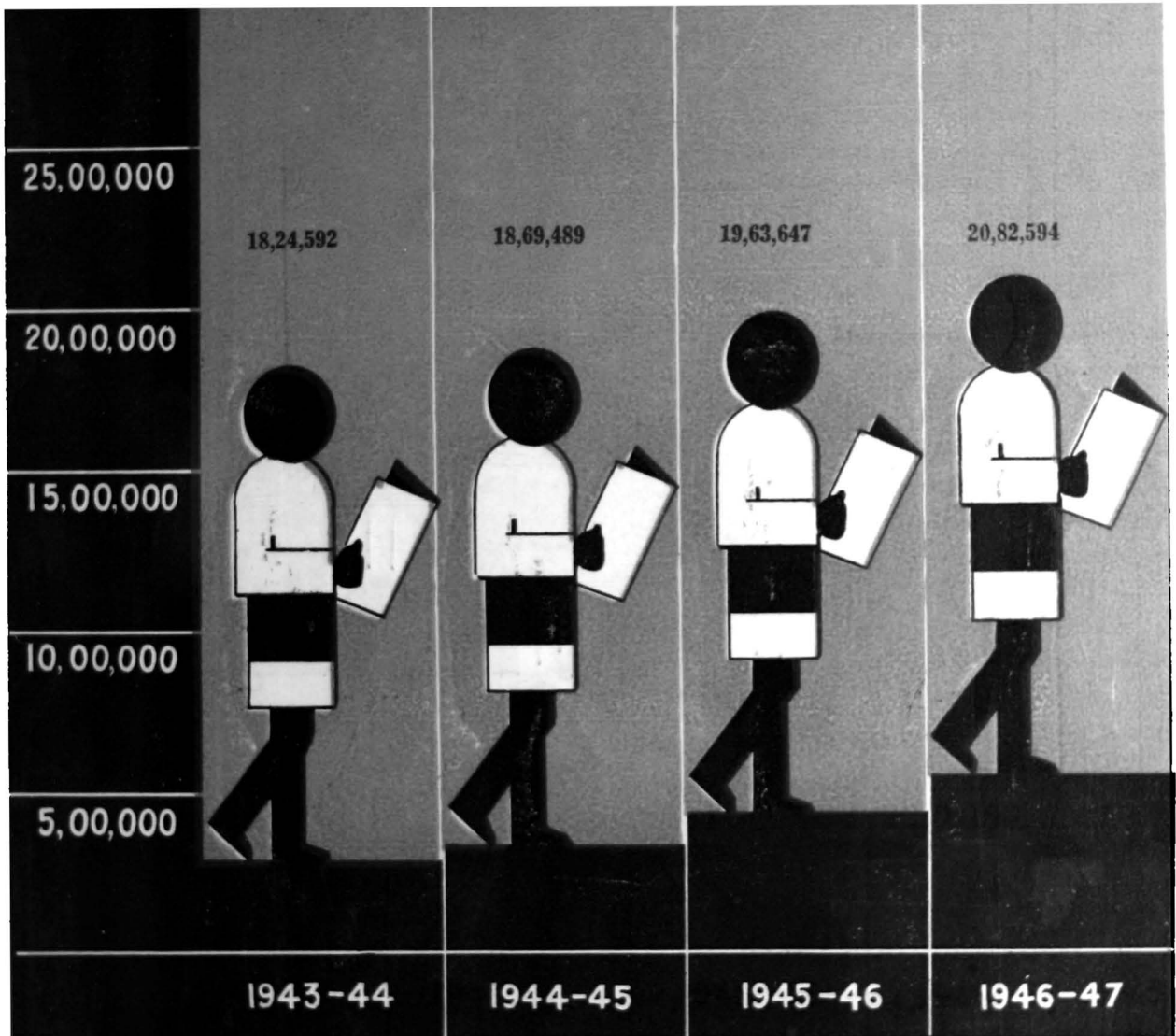
HOSTELS FOR GIRLS

By far the most pressing need of the Province is the education of girls after the elementary stage. To enable some of the promising girls coming from villages where there are no full-grade primary schools to carry on their education beyond the elementary stage, it is proposed to open 12 hostels for girls within a period of three years at the rate of four hostels a year with effect from 1947-48. To begin with, these hostels will be opened in rented buildings but suitable buildings for them will be put up as soon as conditions permit. Each hostel will provide accommodation for about 40 or 50 girls who will be in charge of an experienced trained woman primary teacher. For the benefit of those girls who are not in a position to bear the hostel charges, 20 stipends of the value of Rs. 12 per mensem will be paid to deserving girls staying in these hostels. Each hostel is estimated to cost Rs. 1,000 non-recurring and Rs. 5,600 recurring and the cost of 12 hostels during the first five years is estimated at Rs. 4,67,000, non-recurring for buildings and equipment and Rs. 2,53,200 recurring. During the current year, four hostels were intended to be opened at Bailhongal in the Belgaum District, at Karad in the Satara District, at Rahuri in the Ahmednagar District and at Kankanpur in the Panch Mahals District. Of these four places, it has been possible to open a hostel at Karad only when 20 girls have joined it. In the other places, the response from girls has not been encouraging and attempts are being made to open such hostels elsewhere.

CREATION OF A SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

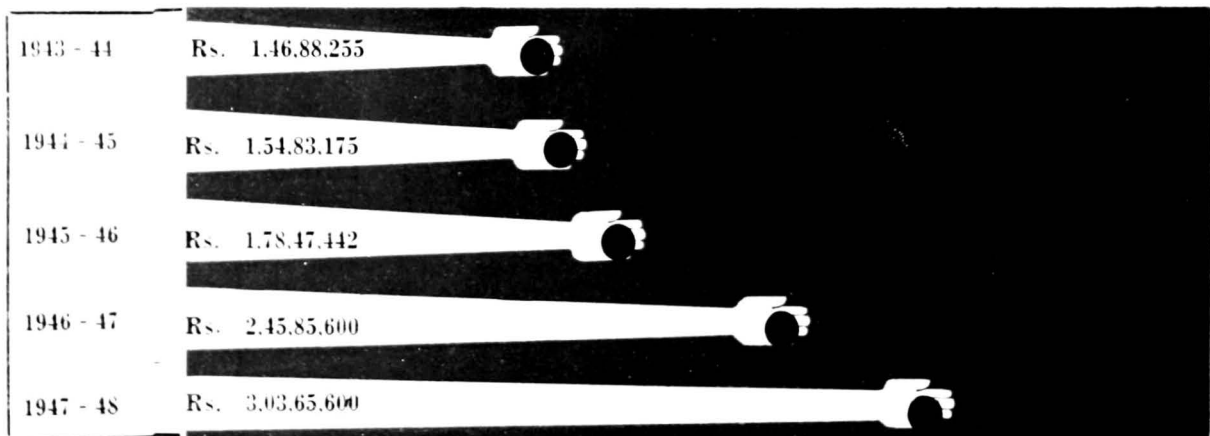
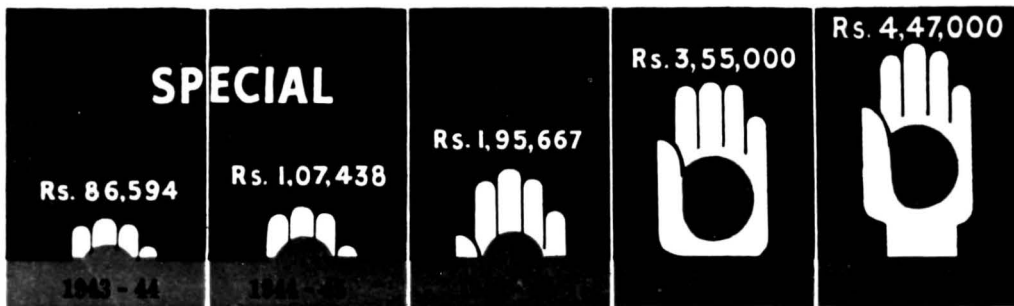
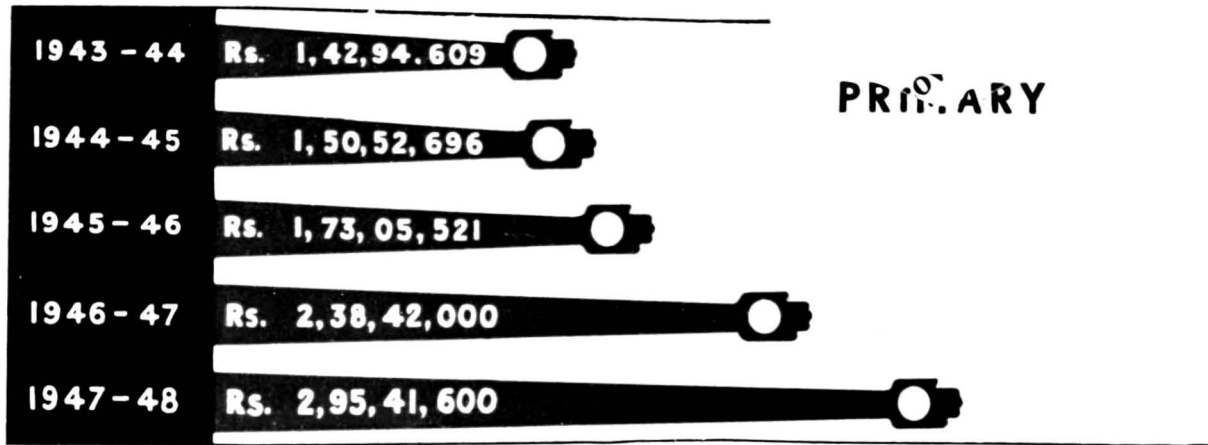
The health of school children is of fundamental importance to them as well as to the

**IN PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
IN BOMBAY PROVINCE**



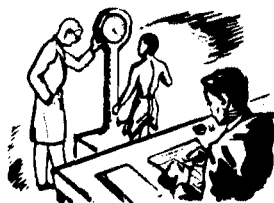
The above diagram shows graphically the progressive increase in the number of pupils receiving primary, secondary and collegiate education in the Province during the period 1943-47. The Bombay Government's liberal educational policy is responsible for this achievement no less than the growth of political consciousness among the masses during recent years. This latter factor has also contributed to the general thirst for light and knowledge, which are a necessary adjunct to Freedom and Democracy

GRANTS-IN-AID TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



The Bombay Government's keen interest in the rapid promotion of primary, secondary and higher education may be gathered from the increasing grants made to educational institutions including those providing for special education during the period 1943-48. Thus, the total grants increased from Rs. 1,46,88,255 in 1943-44 to Rs. 3,03,65,600 in 1947-48.

nation. Only those children who are in sound health can be expected to take full advantage of



School Health Service

the educational facilities offered. Thus, an efficient school health service is considered an essential part of the public system of education. Under the scheme adopted by the Govern-

ment, school children will be examined once on admission to a primary school at the age of 6 and again at the ages of 11, 14 and 17. Those found defective in any way will be re-examined every year till they are found to be fit. For medical inspection, there will be roughly one doctor for 8,000 children. The necessary medical and follow-up treatment is proposed to be given in local dispensaries or hospitals and for this purpose it is proposed to appoint a compounder in each taluka. In places where there are no dispensaries or hospitals, it is proposed to provide follow-up treatment for pupils found to be defective through local subsidised medical practitioners, whose work will be supervised and co-ordinated by a senior doctor in the Bombay Medical Service Class I in each district. The whole scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 56,03,800, recurring and Rs. 2,61,000 non-recurring. During 1947-48, it is proposed to appoint a Chief Medical Officer in the B. M. S. Class I (together with the necessary clerical and inferior staff) to make a general survey of the situation throughout the Province and to submit detailed proposals for the organisation of the scheme.

SUPPLY OF MID-DAY MEALS

As mere medical inspection and treatment will not improve the physique of school children, it is also proposed to make some provision for proper nutrition. For this purpose, it is proposed to supply, as an experimental measure, a light mid-day meal to every child attending school in



A Free Mid-day Meal For Children

the selected villages of 10 backward tracts of the Province with effect from the third year of the Post-war Reconstruction Programme, i.e., from 1949-50. It is intended that this meal should consist of parched rice or freshly roasted

grams 2 ozs., salted groundnut, 1 oz., cocoanut or onions 1 oz. and jaggery 1 oz., with a dash of shark liver oil for those who have no objection to taking it. Suitable variations will also be made wherever necessary and possible. The whole scheme is estimated to cost during the period of three years Rs. 50,000 non-recurring and Rs. 3,390,000 recurring.

TEACHING OF CRAFTS

Accepting the suggestion of the Provincial Board of Primary Education, the Government had reduced the duration of the elementary course in craft training from five to four years. The revised four-year course is to be introduced gradually in all primary schools beginning with 1947-48. The infant class has accordingly been abolished from June 1947 and the new syllabus introduced in standard 1.

This course in craft training includes such subjects as spinning, kitchen-gardening, weaving and agriculture and cardboard modelling leading to woodwork. The crafts to be taught are to be selected according to the regional needs of an area.

INTRODUCTION BY STAGES

In view of the general paucity of trained craft teachers, it is proposed to introduce the course by stages. In the first year, it will be introduced in standards III and V, in the second year, in standards III, V and VI and in the third year, in all standards from III to VII. The training will be introduced in schools by gradual degrees: in 2,000 schools in the first year, 4,000 schools in the second year, 7,000 schools in the third year and 15,000 in the fifth. Again, the first-grade schools will be covered in the first two years, leaving the larger second-grade, one-teacher, and approved aided schools to follow suit subsequently.

In co-operation with local authorities and private organisations specialising in training in various crafts, the Government has devised a scheme for imparting training to teachers in crafts, costing during the first three years, Rs. 1.30 crore non-recurring and Rs. 60.8 lakhs recurring. Training courses in spinning and weaving have so far been introduced in 18 districts of the Province. Training courses in agriculture and wood-

work have been started at Bijapur recently. The Government itself has opened a class at Belgaum to train inspectorial and other staff and 50 graduates will receive their training here.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

To satisfy the growing demand for high schools of a type other than that preparing candidates for the University Matriculation examination, the Government has converted since 1939 four of their high schools at Satara, Bijapur, Jalgaon and Godhra into agricultural high schools, the high schools at Bombay and Sholapur into technical high schools and the high school at Ahmedabad into a commercial high school. The course of studies in the vocational high schools is spread over four years (Standards IV to VII) as in ordinary secondary schools and consists of English, a regional language, elementary mathematics, science, geography and theoretical and practical training in the vocation taught in the school. At the end of the course, there is an examination known as the School Leaving Certificate Examination conducted by the Government. The holders of the certificate of this examination are eligible for entrance into Government service in the same manner as the holders of the Matriculation Certificate and are also given preference for appointments, for which knowledge of and skill in the particular vocation is considered desirable. Those who have passed the School Leaving Certificate Examination from agricultural or technical high schools are eligible for admission to the F. Y. Science course and those passing this examination from commercial high schools are eligible for admission to the F. Y. Commerce course, while those who, after passing the School Leaving Certificate Examination, wish to join the Arts course in a college are required to pass a test in a classical language or a modern European language of the Matriculation standard held by the Bombay University. Since 1939, private bodies have also opened a few commercial high schools. The Government High School

at Thana was also converted into a commercial high school with effect from June 1947.

Under the Post-War Reconstruction Programme, the Government intends to open four more agricultural high schools with hostels attached to them. Of these four new agricultural



high schools, one has already been opened with effect from 1946-47 by taking over under Government control a high school under private management at Abrama in the Surat District and converting it into an agricultural high school. The remaining three schools are proposed to be opened in suitable centres in each of the years, 1948, 1949 and 1950. The scheme of these four high schools is estimated to cost, during a period of five years from 1947-48, Rs. 9,71,900 non-recurring on buildings and equipment and Rs. 4,10,600 recurring.

It is also proposed to open 10 more technical high schools with hostels in addition to two technical high schools maintained by the Government at present at Bombay and Sholapur. Of the 10 new technical high schools, two are proposed to be opened in 1948, two in 1949, four in 1950 and two in 1951. The two technical high schools, to be opened in June 1948, are proposed to be located at Surat and Hubli. Steps have been taken to secure the necessary sites, including playgrounds, for these high schools during the current year and it is proposed to construct buildings for the schools and a hostel in each of these two places during the year 1947-48. During the five years from 1947-48, the cost on the opening of new technical high schools is estimated at Rs 50,00,000 for buildings, Rs. 6,62,000 for equipment and Rs. 8,18,000 recurring.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

In consonance with its policy of rapid industrialisation of the Province under its Post-War

Reconstruction Programme, the Government has already formulated an extensive plan of industrial and technical



Technical Education

and technical training. It is proposed under this scheme to extend existing facilities for technical training and to establish new centres in order to meet the demands of a large-scale industrial development plan in respect of efficient and well-equipped personnel.

During the period under review, the Government participated in the scheme of overseas technical training initiated by the Government of India and extended training facilities in textiles and other branches of industry at Bombay and Ahmedabad, in addition to setting up training centres in important district towns.

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

The Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, aims at turning out personnel needed for the Electric Grid Schemes formulated in the post-war development plans. A new batch of 26 students joined the Institute in July 1947, while those admitted during the two previous academic years are continuing their studies satisfactorily.

The reorganised scheme provides for a course leading to a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering. Fifty candidates were admitted to the first year course in 1947-48.

DEGREE IN TEXTILES

A course in textiles leading to the degree of Bachelor of Textiles was instituted last year and 10 students joined it in June 1947.

The Government is assisting the Institute by providing a grant-in-aid.

OVERSEAS TRAINING SCHEME

The Provincial Government participated in the Central Government's plan of overseas training in technical subjects and of the 20 candidates selected during the last year, 17 are undergoing training abroad at the moment. One student returned to India in June 1947 after completing his studies and another left for the United States

during the period under review, while one more is awaiting admission to an institute and passage facilities.

Of the 31 candidates selected for the year 1946-47, 12 sailed during this period. Eight more are undergoing training abroad and the remaining 11 are awaiting their turn to go.

The Government offered 30 scholarships during 1947-48 under this scheme and the number of candidates selected so far is 23. Seven of these have already left, while the rest will follow suit shortly.

THE R. C. TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, AHMEDABAD

Under the new scheme, the R. C. Technical Institute, Ahmedabad has been reorganised so as to provide for training in the following subjects leading to a diploma:

- (a) A combined course in mechanical and electrical engineering.
- (b) A combined course in cotton spinning and weaving.
- (c) A course in the bleaching, dyeing, finishing and printing of textiles.

In addition, a diploma course in civil engineering has also been instituted from the current academic year.

The duration of these various courses is four years, except that of civil engineering, which is three years.

The number of admissions to these courses is (a) 50, (b) 30 and (c) 15. The course in civil engineering has 50 students.

THE SCHOOL OF INDUSTRIES, SATARA

The control of this School was taken over by the Government from the District Local Board from the year 1946-47 with a view to reorganising it as a modern, high-grade technical school.

Under the new scheme, training is imparted in (a) mechanical apprenticeship, (b) carpentry,



A Smithy

(c) agricultural carpentry and smithy and (d) handloom weaving, the duration of the courses being 2, 3, 2 and 2 years, respectively. The number of students admitted to them are 20, 20, 10

and 10, respectively.

Free instruction is provided at this school and in addition 30 monthly scholarships of Rs. 10 each are awarded to deserving candidates. It prepares candidates for the Certificate Examination of the Board of Technical and Industrial Training, Bombay.

It is also proposed to organise industrial schools at Hubli and Bijapur which will conduct courses in mechanical apprenticeship, carpentry, agricultural carpentry and smithy.

EXTENSION OF APPRENTICE SCHEME

The existing Apprentice Scheme, run by the Department of Industries, will soon be extended to Sholapur, Poona, Surat and Hubli.

Under this scheme, educated young men are admitted into industrial establishments for training for a period of five years. They have to attend technical classes in the evening during this period. Thus, their practical and theoretical training proceeds simultaneously. The number of trainees to be taken up depends on the number that can be absorbed in industries at the end of the course.

THE TANNING INSTITUTE AND LEATHER WORKING SCHOOL BANDRA

At this Institute, training is imparted in advanced and artisans' courses to 10 and 20 students, respectively. It is proposed to increase the number of students to 20 and 30, respectively. A scheme to impart training in tanning and finishing of patent and embossed leather, to expand the present chemical laboratory and to establish a bark mill at the Institute is under the active consideration of the Government.

The Leather Working School also offers two similar courses wherein 10 and 20 students are receiving training at the moment.

MORE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS TAKEN OVER

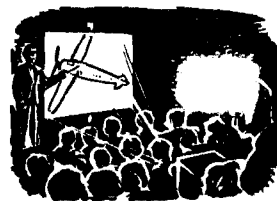
The Department of Industries of the Government has assumed control over the King George VII Technical School, Dhulia and the Municipal Technical School, Sholapur from July 1947, both of which prepare students for the Certificate Examination of the Board of Technical and Industrial Training.

At the former, the subjects taught are mechanical engineering, mechanical apprenticeship, electrical wireman's course, carpentry 'A' course, trained mistry's course and handloom weaving. Eighteen monthly scholarships of Rs. 5 each are offered here to deserving candidates. This school also runs the Government of India's scheme of technical training for demobilised personnel.

The latter offers courses of training in mechanical apprenticeship, electrical wireman's course, carpentry 'A' course, trained mistry's course and handloom weaving.

EXPANSION OF VISUAL EDUCATION

With a view to making increasing use of the motion picture film in imparting education in primary and secondary schools and in giving useful information to adults, a scheme of visual education has been framed. Under this scheme, it is contemplated to have a visual education centre working in each taluka ultimately. Each centre will be provided with a 16 mm. projector, if there is already an electric supply available, or with a



Visual Education

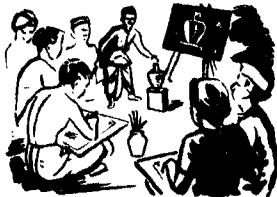
projector and an electricity generator if there is no electric supply. This equipment will be placed in charge of the Head of a Government or non-Government educational institution

and this institution will be expected to use this equipment for exhibiting to all primary and secondary school children in the locality and to as many adults as possible the films received in circulation from time to time. For this purpose, it is

proposed to purchase the projection equipment at a cost of Rs. 2 lakhs during the period of the first five years and also to purchase suitable foreign films and to provide commentaries in regional languages as well as to produce suitable sound films of local interest. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 2,40,000 during 1947-48 and 1948-49 and Rs. 2,60,000 in the subsequent three years. The whole scheme will be worked through a Special Officer for Visual Education in the Bombay Educational Service, Class I, who will shortly be appointed. The Government also proposes to appoint advisory committees to advise the Government in regard to the selection and purchase of projection equipment and foreign films, production of films of local interest and expansion of visual education generally.

ART EDUCATION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Recognising the vital importance of art in education and life generally, the Government of Bombay was anxious that everything possible should be done to cultivate the artistic and aesthetic temperament in children in primary and secondary schools. In furtherance of this idea, it appointed a Committee on Art Education to carry out a survey of the scope and possibilities of art education with special reference to (1) Syllabus of art courses in primary and secondary schools; (2) The Elementary and Intermediate Grade Drawing Examinations; (3) The course of training for drawing teachers and the desirability of including in them a study



Art Education

of the history of art in general; (4) The standards of admission, syllabus, period of training, etc. at the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay and the desirability of including in them a study of social history and the history of art; (5) The desirability of setting up an advisory board attached to the Sir J. J. School of Art; (6) The question of conducting higher art examinations, and (7) Co-ordination of crafts with the needs of industry.

The Committee's report, lately submitted, is under the Government's consideration and sanction has been accorded to the proposals in respect of additional staff. The other proposals are being examined at the moment.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO ART

In accordance with its policy of encouraging and assisting the promotion of art, music and other fine arts, the Government has made a budgetary provision of Rs. 1 lakh under this head this year.

The scheme proposed by the Director, Sir J. J. School of Art, in respect of mural decoration, itinerant art exhibitions and grants-in-aid to art institutes and societies is under consideration.

The Commercial Art Section of this School recently executed, for the Directorate of Publicity of the Government, a number of posters and other pictorial publicity material on subjects like the removal of the disabilities of Harijans, communal harmony, Home Guards, labour welfare activities, prohibition, health, nutrition, adult education and rural uplift. They won warm encomiums from the press and the public alike.

LIQUIDATION OF ADULT ILLITERACY

The number of illiterate adults between the ages of 15 and 50 in this Province is likely to be over 50 lakhs. As, in future, all democratic institutions will be constituted on the basis of adult franchise, it is necessary that every adult—man or woman—should at least be literate. Attempts have been made for the establishment of regular literacy classes and home literacy classes. So far as Bombay City is concerned, the Bombay City Adult Education Committee has prepared a ten-year plan for the complete eradication of illiteracy from the city. The plan provides for the education of 66,500 illiterates in the age-groups of 15 to 40 within a period of 10 years and, for this



Adult Education

purpose the Committee proposes to conduct 900 literacy classes in the first year as against 500 maintained at present and gradually to increase them in number, year by year, till the peak of 1,780 classes is reached in the tenth year of the plan. Similarly, beginning with 300 post-literacy classes in the first year, the Committee proposes to have 599 such classes in the tenth year of the plan. The Government has agreed to help the Committee with a grant equal to 50 per cent. of the cost of the scheme and has sanctioned the payment of an additional grant of Rs. 6,23,500

during a period of five years from 1947-48 under the P. W. R. Programme. During 1947-48 the Committee will be paid an additional grant of Rs. 65,500, while the total Government grant will be Rs. 1,43,500.

So far as the mofussil is concerned, the Government has already sanctioned, with effect from the year 1946-47, the opening of 21 additional centres in selected areas in addition to the five centres in compact areas sanctioned previously, as the work in these five centres produced encouraging results. It is now proposed to extend the scheme to 165 centres during the first five years, so that at the end of this period, there will be one centre working in each taluka of the Province. During 1947-48, 25 out of 165 additional centres have been sanctioned. Each centre is in charge of a Special Adult Education Officer, who is a social worker, or, if such a one is not available, an Assistant Deputy Educational Inspector. This officer is expected to supervise the work in the compact areas consisting of a group of some 10 to 15 villages and to see that at least 1,000 illiterate adults are made literate during a year. The adults made literate will be required to pass the first literacy test and will also be encouraged to pass the second literacy test. Adults passing this test will be given capitation grants at Rs. 4 per adult. The whole scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 48,46,000 during the period of five years from 1947-48, while the total cost during 1947-48 is estimated at Rs. 3,37,000.

OPENING OF LIBRARIES

In order to help the adults who have become literate to retain the literacy acquired, it is necessary to provide them with suitable reading material. For this purpose, some 3,000 village libraries have been opened and aided by the Government every year. In addition, it is proposed to open, during the first five years, public libraries in some 500 villages with a population ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 having full-grade primary schools at the rate of 100 libraries every year with effect from the year 1947-48. It is also proposed to open district and taluka libraries in accordance with the recommendations of the Library Development Committee.



A Reading Room

The whole scheme of taluka and village libraries

is estimated to cost of Rs. 75,000 non-recurring and Rs. 10,00,000 recurring during the period of five years.

EXPANSION OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education Committee appointed by the Government has made various recommendations for the expansion of Physical Education, including the establishment of a College of Physical Education. With a view to giving effect to some of the important recommendations of the Committee, the Government has issued orders for the improvement of the Training Institute for Physical Education at Kandivli by the provision of additional recurring and non-recurring grants for the library and the laboratory and by strengthening the staff of the Institute. The Government has also provided during 1947-48 the necessary funds amounting to Rs. 45,000 for holding short-term courses for secondary teachers. It is intended to make within a period of three years every class-room teacher in a secondary school physical education-minded and to hold for this purpose every year two short-term courses each for 250 teachers lasting for 2½ months, one in summer and the other in winter. The Government has directed that private associations and institutions should be recognised, subject to certain conditions, for conducting a certificate course in physical education and also short-term courses in physical education for secondary teachers and has agreed to pay to such private agencies grants at 50 per cent. of the actual expenditure incurred by them on such courses. Training for primary teachers is proposed to be provided in two stages. In the first stage, four teachers from each taluka selected for their educational qualifications, smartness and background of physical activities are to be sent up for training, covering a period of 2 months, either at the District Headquarters or some other suitable centre within each district and one of the Assistant Deputy Educational Inspectors for Physical Education of the district is to be responsible for the training of these teachers at each centre. It is estimated that at the end of the first stage, some 800 primary teachers will be trained in Physical Education in this manner. In the second stage, it is proposed that primary teachers, already trained in the first stage, should conduct classes in their respective talukas for 50 teachers from the taluka and that the classes should last

for two months during the summer vacation. In this way, it is estimated that some 20,000 primary teachers will be trained within a period of three years.

BIGGER GRANTS

In addition to these short-term courses for primary and secondary teachers, the Government also intends to provide larger grants for physical education to non-Government secondary schools and to local authorities for imparting physical education in primary schools. During the current year, the Government has sanctioned an additional grant of Rs. 60,000 for secondary schools and Rs. 50,000 for primary schools.

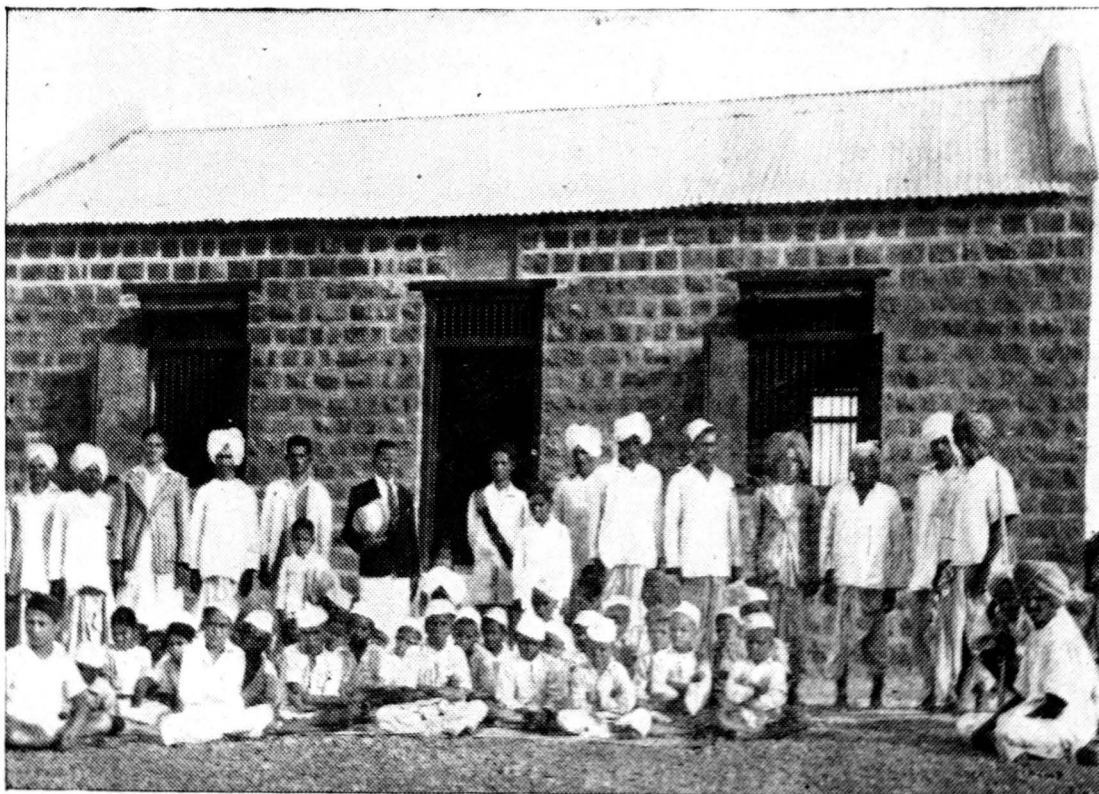
The Government has also decided to strengthen the inspecting staff for physical education by the creation of 32 additional posts of Assistant

Deputy Educational Inspectors for Physical Education during the period of first three years. Of these 32 additional posts, 12 posts of Assistant Deputy Educational Inspectors for Physical Education have already been sanctioned during 1947-48. With these 12 additional posts, it will be possible to have one Assistant Deputy Educational Inspector for Physical Education in each of the 20 Districts of the Province and two in Bombay City. The cost of the whole scheme of expansion of Physical Education is estimated at Rs. 3,19,000 non-recurring on buildings and equipment and Rs. 23,15,000 recurring during the five years from 1947-48.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSEUMS

Museums have a great educational value and the Government considers it desirable to have at least one museum in each of the linguistic

SELF-HELP IN EDUCATION



The villagers are becoming increasingly keen on education. This fine building, capable of accommodating about 60 children, was built by the residents of Jainakwadi in the Bhimthadi Taluka of the Poona District entirely through self-help. The real cost of this building is Rs. 7,500 but owing to the fact that the villagers have supplied free labour in all respects, the actual cost is only Rs. 3,300.

divisions of the Province, viz., Maharashtra, Gujarat and the Karnatak. The Lord Reay Industrial Museum at Poona, which is already in receipt of a grant-in-aid from the Government, is doing useful work. There is, however, no museum either in Gujarat or the Karnatak. The Government, therefore, proposes to provide a sum of Rs. 1 lakh recurring and Rs. 1½ lakhs non-recurring during a period of five years for grants-in-aid towards the development of the Museum in Poona and the establishment of two museums in the Karnatak and in Gujarat. During 1947-48, a sum of Rs. 10,000 recurring has been provided. The Government has also appointed a committee to advise the Government in regard to the use of the old Shanwar Wada at Poona for housing the Lord Reay Industrial Museum and the Regional Library there.

RECORD OFFICE REORGANISED

With the object of promoting and assisting historical research in ancient valuable records deposited in the Record Office at the Civil Secretariat, the Government has reorganised it and appointed a Director of Archives, who, assisted by an Archivist, will organise the upkeep and preservation of the Province's records, direct the publication programme and co-ordinate the activities of the various research institutes. The Directorate of Archives was established on June 10, 1947.

The first task to be tackled is that of weeding out the intrinsically unimportant records of Government business from the mass of important official records including those of significance to the archivist and research worker. This will be effected under the supervision of a scholar as soon as possible. The important work of classification of the records will be undertaken by a specialist staff which will also handlist and index them from the year 1821.

The preparation of catalogues of the records of the pre-1821 period, i.e. from 1630 to 1820, necessitating examination of about 3,000 volumes and their indexing present a task which will take considerable time to complete.

RESEARCH CENTRE

In accordance with the suggestions made by eminent institutions and research workers, it has been decided to throw open all the records in the Record Office to research workers in history, a step likely to throw valuable light on past events. The Directorate of Archives will constitute itself into a well-equipped, modern public record office, offering all facilities to students and workers engaged in historical research. The Directorate will, in addition, publish some of this material and contribute to contemporary historical thought and research.

AGRICULTURE



ONE of the major drawbacks of British rule has been the progressive ruralisation of the country. It has tended to throw the people on to the land and that has again led to excessive fragmentation, with the result that a large number of holdings have been rendered uneconomic. Their small size has precluded the application of modern methods of farming and the employment of the latest agricultural implements, to the great detriment of production, which has been falling in contradistinction to the growth of population by leaps and bounds. All this has given rise to a difficult food situation in the country and the Province and, therefore, the Bombay Ministry placed the problem of land in the forefront of their reconstruction programme.

It is a peculiar irony of the Indian situation that despite the fact that India is primarily an agricultural country, agriculture is not a "going" business. Although about three-quarters of our population toils in the fields, the yield has been far below the normal on account of a variety of factors—want of a progressive, go-ahead agricultural policy, small size of holdings, lack of improved implements, an indifferent irrigational policy, paucity of agricultural credit at cheap rates of interest, trained personnel, etc.

The Government of Bombay has embarked upon a bold and positive policy in respect of agricultural production by recourse to the development of irrigation, promotion of research, exploitation of forest wealth and reorganisation of animal husbandry on a scientific basis.

DEPARTMENTAL REORGANISATION

In view of the continuous shortage of food

production and the post-war reconstruction schemes of the Department, the work and activities of the Agricultural Department expanded so considerably that they could not be efficiently supervised by a single officer. It was also then considered necessary to amalgamate the work of the Veterinary Department with that of the Livestock and Dairy Development Sections of the Agricultural Department, so that the amalgamated Agricultural Department might work efficiently and with proper supervision. The original Agricultural Department was accordingly subdivided into the following four sub-departments, each under the control of a Director:—

1. Agriculture (Extension)
2. Agriculture (Research and Education)
3. Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science, and
4. Agricultural Engineering.

Having abolished the posts of Director of Agriculture and Director of Veterinary Sciences, the following posts were created and duties assigned as follows:

| Designation | Duties |
|--|---|
| 1. Agricultural Commissioner (Controlling Officer) | To co-ordinate and control the activities of the above-mentioned four sub-departments. |
| 2. Director of Agriculture (Extension) | In charge of expansion and propaganda work and organisation of seed and manure distribution and wells scheme. Responsible for the agricultural requirements and development of each tract in the Province and for de- |

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vising methods for adoption by cultivators of the successful results of research carried out in the various sections of the Department.

3. Director of Agriculture (Research & Education) In charge of research schemes, training centres, Agricultural colleges and schools. Responsible for the development, supervision and control of agricultural and crop research in the Province.

4. Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science In charge of the work of the Veterinary Department and the Livestock and Dairy Development Sections.

5. Director of Agricultural Engineering In charge of mechanical cultivation, minor irrigation, designing and introduction of new and improved implements, soil conservation measures, etc.

The charges of the Divisional Deputy Directors of Agriculture have recently been abolished and a District Agricultural Officer has been appointed for each district.

THE FOODCROPS ACT

The Growth of Foodcrops Act has been continued for 1947-48 also, but in view of the importance of cotton seed as cattle feed and in order to permit adequate scope for the rotation of crops, the application of the Act has been relaxed in the more important cotton-growing areas of the Province, viz., Broach, Surat and East Khandesh, where the proportion for scheduled foodcrops and non-foodcrops has been prescribed as 50 and 50 for this season. In other districts, too, the provisions of the Act have been slightly relaxed so as to allow more scope for the cultivation of groundnut.

The question of the continuance of the Act was placed before a special conference held on March 15, 1947. The conference unanimously agreed that it was necessary to continue the Act. The Provincial Rural Development Board and

the members of the Provincial Food Advisory Board also expressed the same view. The Government is accordingly considering the question of re-enacting the Act.

IMPROVED SEED DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

The five schemes for the multiplication and distribution of improved foodgrain seeds, which were started in 1944-45, are being continued, as also the scheme for the production of nucleus seeds of improved strains of important foodgrain crops.

The following three schemes, estimated to cost Rs. 13,27,000 spread over a period of five years and estimated to bring in 9,16,000 maunds of foodgrains, have been started this year:—

- (i) The scheme for the multiplication and distribution of Sameri Maize in the Panch Mahals District;
- (ii) The scheme for the multiplication and distribution of improved varieties of paddy in the Ratnagiri District; and
- (iii) The scheme for the multiplication and distribution of paddy in the up-ghat drilled paddy tract of the North Kanara District.

A supplementary nucleus seed scheme to be grafted on to these three schemes has also been sanctioned.

POTATO CULTIVATION

The schemes for the supply of potatoes and other vegetables, which were originally started for the convenience of the Defence Services, have been discontinued. A new scheme estimated to cost over three lakhs of rupees in the next five years has been embarked upon from August 1, 1947. The scheme will be in operation throughout the Province and will cater for civilian requirements.

A new scheme for the extension of potato cultivation for civilian consumption will also be launched from the same date. The scheme will operate mainly in the Poona, Satara, Ahmednagar, Belgaum and Nasik Districts and in certain areas in Gujarat. Seed potatoes, manure mixture and groundnut cake manure will be supplied at cost price to cultivators co-operating in the scheme. The establishment charges, which will amount



Terracing with a caterpillar D7, 80 H. P. tractor and a road grader.

to over a lakh of rupees in the next five years, will be borne by the Government. About 33,000 acres (average) are expected to be brought under potato cultivation under the scheme and the minimum yield expected is 16,00,000 Bengal maunds.

HOT WEATHER CROPS

The subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre offered to cultivators for producing hot weather irrigated crops was continued this year. The District Rural Development Boards were authorised to pay subsidies to cultivators producing matured hot weather food crops in well- and/or tank-irrigated lands, subject to the condition that they sell to the Government at the controlled rate a fixed quantity of the grain produced. Arrangements for the supply of seed and manure to cultivators

growing hot weather crops were made by the Agricultural Department.

SEED SUPPLIES FOR CULTIVATORS

In view of the partial failure of the kharif and rabi crops during 1946-47, it was necessary to ensure that there was an adequate supply of sound foodgrain seed to cultivators for sowing. The Collectors were asked in February 1947, to take immediate steps to estimate any additional quantities of seeds of various kharif and rabi foodcrops required to be stocked for the 1947-48 kharif and rabi sowings in their districts and to supplement the sowing seed ordinarily retained by cultivators on their own account and to take immediate action to procure adequate stocks of such sowing seed of various food crops by select-

ing the necessary quantity from stocks of local grain secured under Government levy. They were also authorised to arrange to secure local sowing seed from cultivators in exchange for similar quantities of imported grain or local grain by giving a premium upto 25% where necessary. The Agricultural Department was to make arrangements to import seed from other districts and from outside the Province wherever necessary.

Distribution of seed for the kharif season was started by the Collectors from May 15 and that for the rabi season from September 1. The seed is sold to cultivators at controlled rates in quantities limited to their individual requirements in deserving "bona fide" cases.

SWEET POTATOES

Primarily with a view to mitigating the food shortage, a scheme for the extension of the cultivation of sweet potatoes in Belgaum, Satara, Poona and Ahmednagar in the kharif season of 1947 has been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 2 lakhs. About 1,000 additional acres will be brought under sweet potato cultivation.

Under the scheme, two cart-loads of vines per acre will be supplied to cultivators at half cost. Manure mixture will also be supplied to them at the rate of three maunds per acre at half cost. The additional production expected is 5,000 tons approximately.

The question of extending the scheme to the Kolaba and East Khandesh Districts is under consideration.

DISTRIBUTION OF GROUNDNUT CAKE

The Government received numerous complaints about the shortcomings of the system for the distribution of groundnut cake. The system was, therefore, reorganised and it was decided that the District Rural Development Boards should undertake this work of distributing groundnut cake to cultivators and cattle-owners. The Boards scrutinize the applications received from the cultivators and cattle-owners and ascertain the genuine needs of each applicant. They then formulate programmes and forward them to the Government with an indent for their total requirements. The Government, after taking into consideration the stock position in the various

mills, releases groundnut cake in accordance with the needs of each district. The work of arranging transport and despatch has been entrusted to the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society and other co-operative societies appointed by it. The system is now working fairly well.

The Government has also sanctioned a scheme for the distribution of 4,000 tons of ammonium sulphate in the Kaira, Ahmedabad, Dharwar, Belgaum and Kanara Districts at a cost of Rs. 4,00,000. The scheme is expected to cover an area of 60,000 acres which are likely to bring in an additional yield of 1,80,000 maunds.

PROBLEM OF LAND IMPROVEMENT

The Land Improvement Inquiry Committee appointed by the Government submitted two interim reports with a view to consolidating the land improvement work accomplished so far. These reports were approved generally by the Government and, as a result, the Land Improvement Department was reorganised immediately and the surplus staff retrenched.

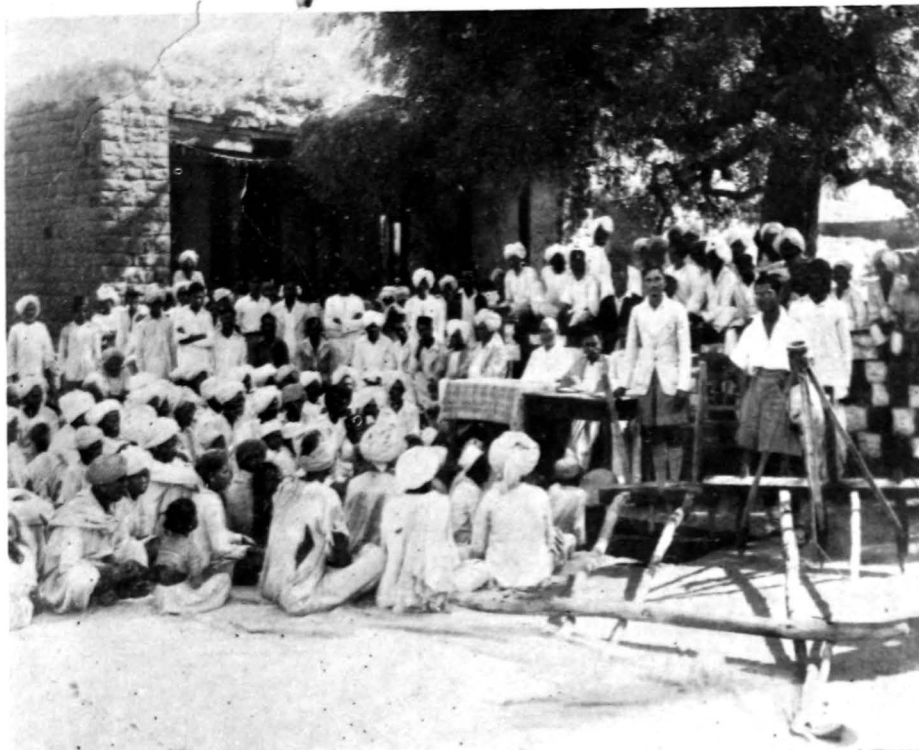
The new measures of consolidation recommended by the Committee were implemented by sanctioning an expenditure of Rs. 1,60,000 for temporary and permanent repairs to bunds with a view to bringing the work done in the past to a safe stage.

The final report of the Committee has since been submitted and is at present under the consideration of the Government.

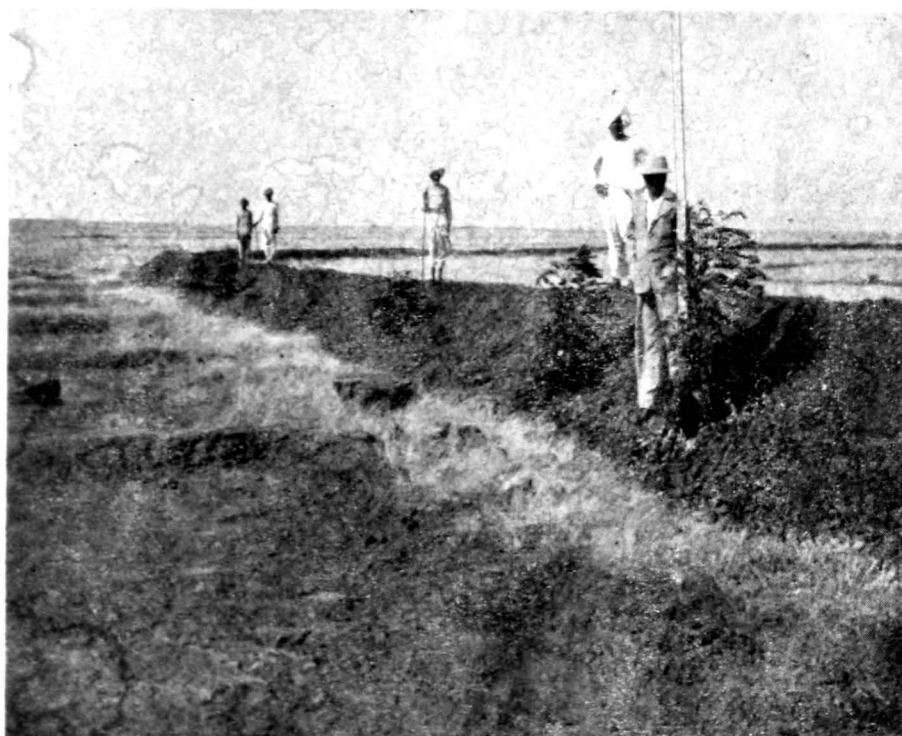
ENGINES AND ENGINEERING STORES SUPPLY SCHEME

Engines, pumps and belting were secured from different sources and distributed to the cultivators of the Province in furtherance of the Grow More Food Campaign. A table giving the details of the quantities received and distributed together with the cost is given below :

| Sr. No. : | Item | Received | Distributed |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. | Engines | 57 | 52 |
| 2. | Centrifugal pumps | 34 | 20 |
| 3. | Piping (of different sizes) | 9,429 ft. | 8,370 ft. |
| 4. | Belting (of different sizes) | 34,300 ft. | 32,712 ft. |



Villagers are being initiated in the modern methods of farming by departmental officials (Top). A tractor at work in a field (Bottom).



Trenching for afforestation at Kadegaon, Satara District (Top) and afforestation in progress at Hippargi, Bijapur District (Bottom)

The cultivators still find it extremely difficult to procure these articles. The Government has, therefore, placed an indent with the Government of India for the supply of engines and other engineering stores costing approximately Rs. 36,45,000.

BORING

Ten hand-boring machines and eight power-boring machines are operating in eleven districts of the Province. The number of bores taken in the eleven districts is 116, while the total depth bored was 4,195' 4".

Owing to the heavy demand for boring for irrigation purposes, the Boring Section will be greatly expanded in the near future. Already an order has been placed for the purchase of 12 power-boring machines of the latest type and it is proposed to build 24 Musto power-boring machines at the Agricultural Engineer's Workshop, Poona. By the end of this year, about 50 machines will be put into operation all over the Province. To supply the trained personnel necessary to operate the machines, a Training Class has been started from June 1, 1947.

The following rates have been fixed by the Government for boring wells :

| Type of Machine | Size of bore. | Charges per foot of boring | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------------|
| | | 10' : 51-100' | 101-150' | 151-200' | 200' and above |
| | | Rs. as. | Rs. as. | Rs. as. | Rs. as. |
| Hand-Machine | 3" | 1-8 | 2-0 | 2-8 | — |
| Musto Patent | | | | | |
| Power boring machine | 4" | 3-0 | 3-8 | 4-0 | 5-0 |
| Calyx Drill | | | | | |
| Power Machine | 6" | 4-0 | 4-8 | 5-0 | 6-0 |

The above rates are fixed at 50% of the total cost, the remaining 50% being borne by the Government. Besides, the cultivator has to pay for one-way transport of the machine, that is, taking the machine to his site of work within the district. The other way transport is borne by the Government. The cultivator has also to bear the charges for unskilled labour. In consideration of the charges levied by the Government, the cultivator is supplied with a boring machine, an operator with a mate and all stores required to

run and maintain the boring machine. The Government is thus actively helping the cultivators in boring wells for irrigation purposes.

WELL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

From January 1, 1947, the administrative control of the Scheme has been transferred to the District Rural Development Boards. The work done during the three months, i.e., from October 1 to December 31, 1947, is tabulated below:—

| Sr. No. | Item | Wells and Tanks | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | | New Repaired | |
| 1. | No. of applications received | 6,921 | 4,058 |
| 2. | No. of sites passed | 2,990 | 1,539 |
| 3. | No. of wells completed more than half | 346 | 576 |
| 4. | No. of wells completed fully | 898 | 882 |

The services of an expert, Mr. N. G. Apte, Honorary Underground Water Supply Consultant, have been secured by the Government for conducting training classes for Well Inspectors. One class was held during the first fortnight of April 1947. Forty Well Inspectors and 4 Well Supervisors were trained at this class.

WATER FINDING

In order that the cultivators may obtain expert advice regarding the location of wells, the Government has appointed two Agricultural officers in charge of water finding. They visit the fields of the cultivators, who requisition their services, and select sites for well-sinking. They have selected 115 sites during the period under review, using the Mansfield water finder.

SERVICE TO CULTIVATORS

The cultivators of the Province experience great difficulty in obtaining agricultural implements. The manufacture of winnowing fans was started and 26 such fans were manufactured at the Agricultural Engineer's Workshop at Poona, and supplied to different cultivators and Government farms.

An Oil Engine Class is being conducted by the Agricultural Engineer for imparting practical instruction in installing, running and repairing pumping plants, etc., to cultivators' sons. The tuition is given in Marathi and Hindi and no tuition

fees are charged. Each class is for a duration of three months only, the different sessions of the class commencing on the 1st of January, April, July and October every year.

The number of students admitted to the Oil Engine Class during the period under report was 22.

The following table gives details of the mechanical service rendered.

| S. No. | Item | |
|--------|--|-----|
| 1. | Number of sites surveyed for power pumping installations | 109 |
| 2. | Number of estimates prepared and submitted for the above | 99 |
| 3. | Number of power pumping plants inspected for giving advice to owners | 193 |
| 4. | Number of power pumping plants repaired | 24 |
| 5. | Number of power pumping plants built. | 92 |

MECHANICAL CULTIVATION SECTION

The Mechanical Cultivation Scheme has been given a high priority as it helps the Grow More Food Campaign, in view specially of the acute shortage of bullock power in the Province. The Government has already purchased tractors and implements will be secured during this year and the next, to cope with the increasing demand for ploughing.



Grow More Food Campaign

The tractors are mainly used for deep ploughing to bring waste land under cultivation or for removing weeds like 'hariali'. Shallow ploughing is also undertaken when deep ploughing is not possible. Consistently with this object, the District Rural Development Boards prepare programmes for tractor ploughing in their respective districts in consultation with the Mechanical Cultivation Engineer.

The rates charged for ploughing at present are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Deep ploughing | Rs. 22 per acre |
| Shallow ploughing | Rs. 14 " " |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Concessional rate for shallow ploughing | Rs. 8 per acre |
| Harrowing | Rs. 6 " " |

The concessional rate is allowed only to those who are either owner-cultivators or tenants and who possess lands measuring not more than 20 acres in the aggregate. With a view to giving the greatest possible encouragement to shallow ploughing, the Government of Bombay sanctioned 'tagai' advances, free of interest, to meet the cost of mechanical cultivation during 1946-47. In addition to this facility, the Government has sanctioned, in areas in which scarcity was declared and in those which are liable to the grasshopper pests, a concessional rate of Rs. 4-8 per acre or half the actual cost, whichever is less, on condition that the holder agrees to put the lands so ploughed under foodcrops only.

TRACTOR PLOUGHING

The tractor ploughing scheme has become so popular that the Government of Bombay has decided to increase the number of tractors and efforts are being made to obtain them from foreign countries through the Government of India. This scheme is being run by the Government for the benefit of agriculturists, as otherwise it would not have been possible for any individuals or even a private concern to undertake this venture. The receipts accrued by way of ploughing charges are very small, considering the capital invested and the expenditure the Government has to bear on establishment and other incidental charges.

The following table indicates the activities of the section from October 1946 to the end of June 1947.

SCHEME FOR THE SUPPLY OF IRON AND STEEL TO AGRICULTURISTS

The scheme was started by the Government in the month of June 1944, as it was found that it was impossible for an agriculturist to get in the normal way his requirements of iron and steel at any price.

Under the scheme, iron and steel are purchased by the Government direct from producers and stored in the Government godowns in Bombay and Hubli, Bombay supplying the northern part of the Province and Hubli the southern.

A sum of Rs. 25 lakhs has been set apart to finance the scheme.

The scheme is operated by the Assistant Agricultural Engineer to Government, i/c Iron Supply Scheme, B.P., who has his office in Bombay. He prepares indents for steel required in the Province during various quarters of the year and forwards them to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, for passing them on to the producers.

MODE OF DISTRIBUTION

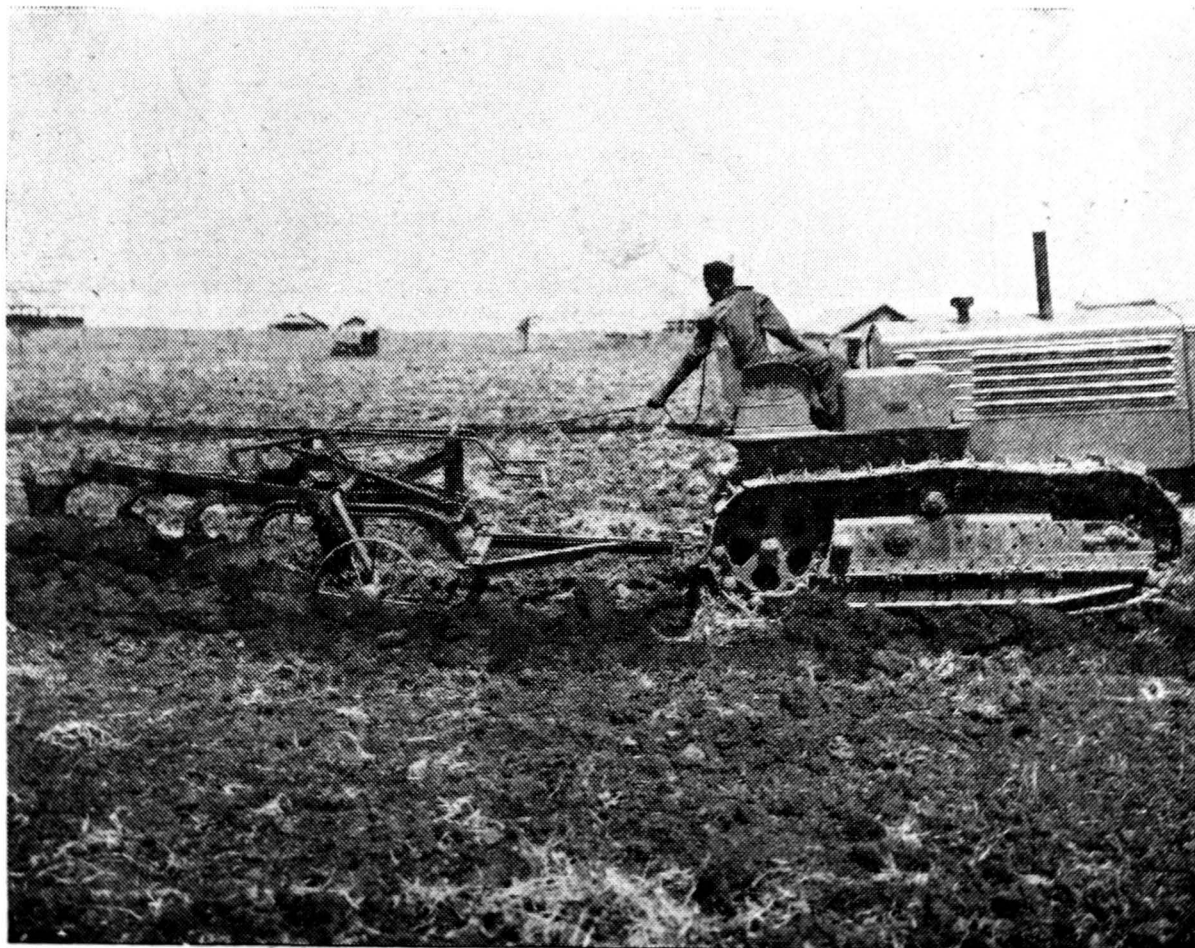
Retail distribution is effected through co-operative agencies like Taluka Development Associations, Purchase and Sale Unions, Multi-purpose Societies, etc., with at least one such agency in each Taluka. The quarterly indents of the requirements of iron and steel are prepared

by the taluka distributing agencies and forwarded to the Assistant Agricultural Engineer to Government through the District Rural Development Boards. There are at present about 200 distributing agencies catering to 190 talukas of the Province.

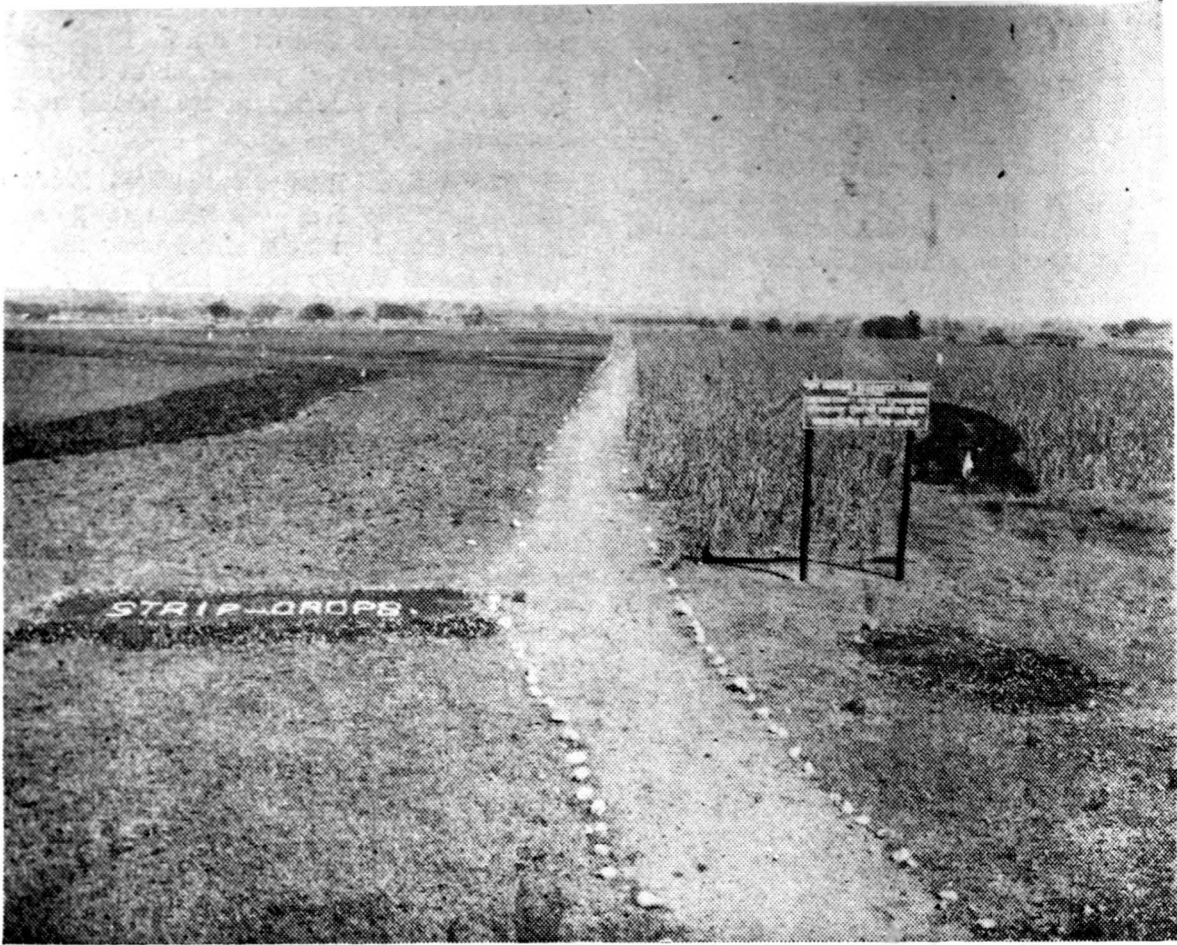
The District Rural Development Board of each district has been empowered (a) to select and recommend suitable distributing agencies, (b) to indent the correct quantity and sizes of materials for the district, (c) to supervise the distribution work, and (d) to fix quotas for allotment to cultivators according to their holdings.

DESPATCH OF QUOTAS

The materials are sent out to the different distributing centres from the Bombay and Hubli



Shallow ploughing upto 8" with an Eletrac DD and 4 furrow mould board plough L. G. 10 in progress.



Lands are often protected by strips of vegetation (strip cropping). On the left side of the road, strips of groundnut (erosion-resisting) sown in July alternating with strips of clean fallow land to be sown with Rabi-Jowar in September may be seen. On the right side are strips of groundnut alternating with Bajri Tur strips.

Depots according to the quotas for each taluka. The quota for each taluka is based on the rural population and the cultivated area, including the double-cropped areas.

The materials are sold at rates approved by the Assistant Agricultural Engineer to Government. The distributing agencies are allowed a reasonable margin of profit.

Eight thousand and six hundred tons of iron and steel, 5,817 powrahs, 3,918 pick-axes and 2,578 crowbars valued at approximately Rs. 25,30,000 have been distributed to the agriculturists of the Province during the period beginning from October 1946 to July 1947.

The distributing agencies also assisted in obtaining items over which there was no control, such as chains for ploughs and cattle, square nails, etc., by placing indirect contracts with the importers concerned.

The scheme has proved a boon to agriculturists as they are able to get most of their requirements of iron and steel from their taluka co-operative organisations at controlled prices.

SOIL CONSERVATION RESEARCH

Conservation of soil along with water constitutes one of the most vital problems of agriculture, particularly in the famine tracts, e.g., the

Districts of Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur and parts of Dharwar, Satara, Belgaum, Poona and the Gujarat, covering an area of about 13 million acres. The magnitude of the problem was not realised fully till the findings of the Dry Farming Research Station, Sholapur, which carried on an intensive investigation into it since 1933, and which resulted in evolving a technique capable of increasing the yield by 1.2 to 6.7 times in different years. As the research work done was of short duration, the long-term problem of maintaining fertility was not taken in hand. In recent years (around 1945) several new experiments have been conducted on statistical lines to increase the crop-yield still further and at the same time to evolve a suitable formula of crop-rotation to preserve soil fertility over long periods. Although these results will be available only after several years of experimentation, the preliminary studies into maximising crop production have already pointed to the possibilities of more than doubling the yield already obtained by the Bombay Dry Farming method.

CONTOUR STRIP CROPS

These investigations have mainly concentrated on cereal crops which are erosion-permitting and erosion-resisting crops like legumes have not been experimented upon. Recently, these legumes such as groundnuts, matki and hulga have been found to be very successful in controlling erosion and increasing crop-yield when grown in strips on contours below the erosion-permitting crops. This technique known as Contour Strip Cropping has now been taken up for practical tests and research in six centres in the six scarcity districts.

A new scheme of land improvement research has also been taken in hand since 1945 to study the nature and extent of erosion in order to recommend a suitable technique of anti-erosion measures. An erosion survey over an area of about 34,000 acres has revealed a serious situation in the Northern Circle, where nearly 85% of the area has been severely eroded, while in the Southern Circle the damage is estimated to be of the order of 50%.

Inter-connected with erosion problems is the problem of the 'Karl' soils of the Karnatak, where over 5 lakh acres of deep black soil have been

rendered infertile due to salinity; it has been shown that these soils are highly 'sodiumised' clays and are consequently liable to serious erosion. Two Reclamation Farms have started operating in the Dharwar District for bringing about amelioration by agronomic, chemical and drainage methods.

CROP-PLANNING SURVEY

For proper crop-planning, a soil survey on modern scientific lines is essential. In Bombay Province, such a survey and mapping have been in progress in several sugar factory estates of the Bombay-Deccan since 1940 on a contract basis. By the end of March 1948, about 54,000 acres will have been surveyed and maps showing soil types and other fertility factors completed. On their basis, varietal, manurial, and irrigational techniques for maximising sugar production within economic limits will be worked out. A scheme of land utilisation survey for crop-planning of the Province as part of soil conservation research is being proposed for the maximum exploitation of the country's resources for making the Province self-supporting in respect of food, fodder and clothing.

MINOR IRRIGATION

Precarious rainfall over a major portion of the Province necessitates the provision of alternate irrigation facilities, i.e., minor irrigation works, such as tanks, bandharas, canals, etc., for cultivation of lands otherwise remaining uncultivated. The Government is aware of the potentiality of such work and every attempt is being made to take up such works wherever feasible so as to ensure adequate irrigation facilities for all scarcity tracts.

This work was hitherto being executed by the Public Works Department. It was, however, noticed that due to preoccupation with major building works such as roads, canals, bridges, etc., the Department was not able to discharge its obligations in regard to minor irrigation works quite satisfactorily.

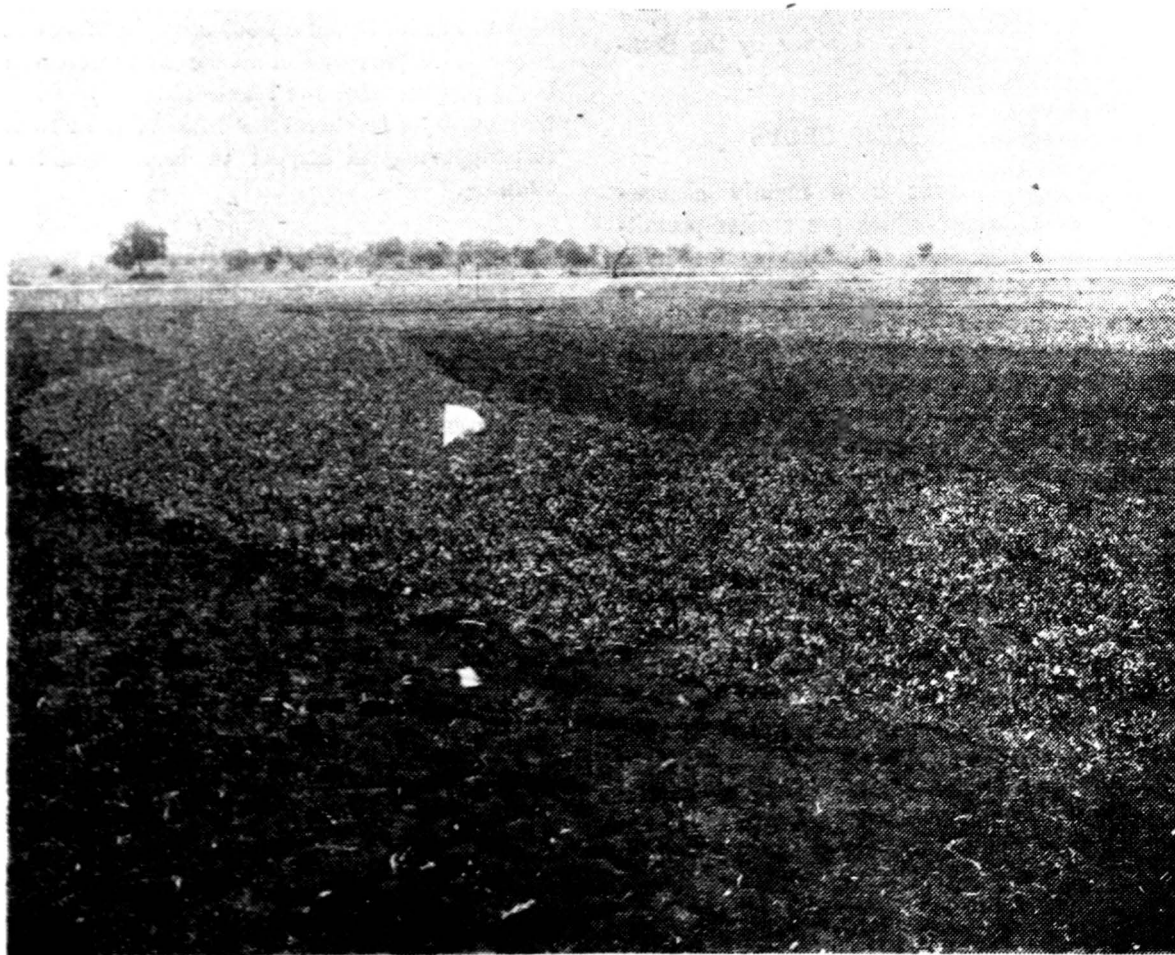
The Government has, therefore, organised a Minor Irrigation Section with an adequate staff under the Agricultural Department to undertake such works. This organisation will function distinctly from the P.W.D. organisation and the

annual expenditure on it is estimated at about Rs. 7,50,000. It will be responsible for undertaking original minor irrigation works which will be selected on the recommendations of the District Rural Development Boards. During the current year, it is proposed to spend an amount of Rs. 19,50,000 on such works, which form a part of the five-year post-war reconstruction scheme for minor irrigation works, for which a sum of Rs. 1 ½ crores has been allotted.

The organisation is being equipped with the requisite personnel and materials, and by the beginning of the fair season it is hoped that it will begin to function effectively, with good results in the offing.

THE STATISTICAL SECTION

Crop-cutting experiments on a province-wide scale were proposed to be undertaken on paddy, kharif jowar, bajri, cotton, wheat and rabi jowar and also groundnut, tobacco, maize, gram, ragi and kodra. It was also proposed to undertake crop-cutting experiments separately, for determining standard yields of irrigated foodcrops, viz., paddy, jowar, bajri, maize, wheat and gram. The existing Statistical Section under the Statistician to the Agricultural Department had already undertaken some work in this sphere. For efficient discharge of this work as well as for the additional work proposed to be undertaken, additional staff was required. The Government, therefore, decided not only to continue the existing Statis-



A close-up view of the dense vegetative cover-strip of groundnut alternated with clean fallow area to be sown with Rabi-Jowar.

tical Section but also sanctioned extra staff for its expansion.

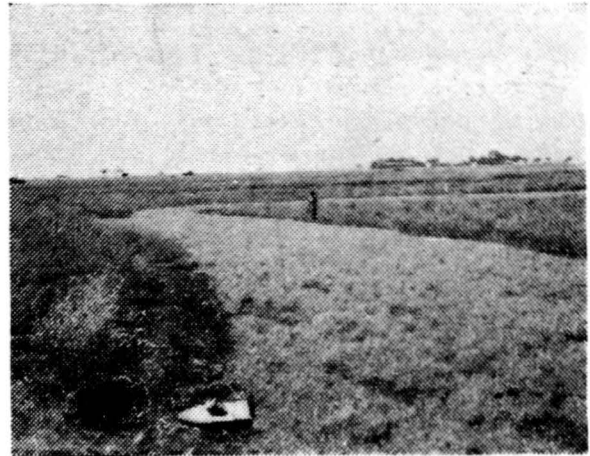
TALUKA DEMONSTRATION CENTRES

Taluka Demonstration Centres have been established practically in every taluka. These centres proved a useful medium of propaganda for the introduction of improved methods and supply of implements to neighbouring cultivators. A Kamgar is stationed at each centre whose duties are (i) to guide and assist the owners of land to adopt improved methods of agriculture and (ii) to carry on propaganda in surrounding villages, arranging and conducting demonstrations at the Centres at convenient intervals throughout the year. At present about 249 centres are functioning. But in view of the decision taken last year at the co-ordination committee meeting of Ministers and Secretaries, no new centres have been opened for the present.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Agricultural improvement occupies a prominent place in the Ministry's drive for the betterment of the countryside. It must, however, be noted that there is a dearth of trained personnel to do the necessary propaganda and extension work. Every attempt is being made to increase the source of recruitment of such personnel. The Government has sanctioned the establishment of two Agricultural Colleges, one at Dharwar in the Karnatak and the other at Anand in the Gujarat, with effect from the year 1947-48. The Agricultural College, Dharwar is estimated to cost Rs. 24,04,679 (Rs. 20,52,790 non-recurring and Rs. 3,51,889 recurring). The site at Narendra on the Poona-Bangalore Road has been selected for it. The First Year Science Agricultural Class has already been started from May 15, 1947. The class is accommodated at the Dharwar Agricultural Farm, pending the construction of buildings of the Agricultural College, Dharwar, which is expected to take at least a year. The cost on account of purchase of equipment and recurring items during 1947-48 is estimated at Rs. 4,07,617.

The Agricultural College at Anand forms part of the Institute of Agriculture, Anand. The Government has agreed to pay to the Governing Body of the Institute a sum of Rs. 4,00,000 as and by way of capital expenditure in 1946-47 out of



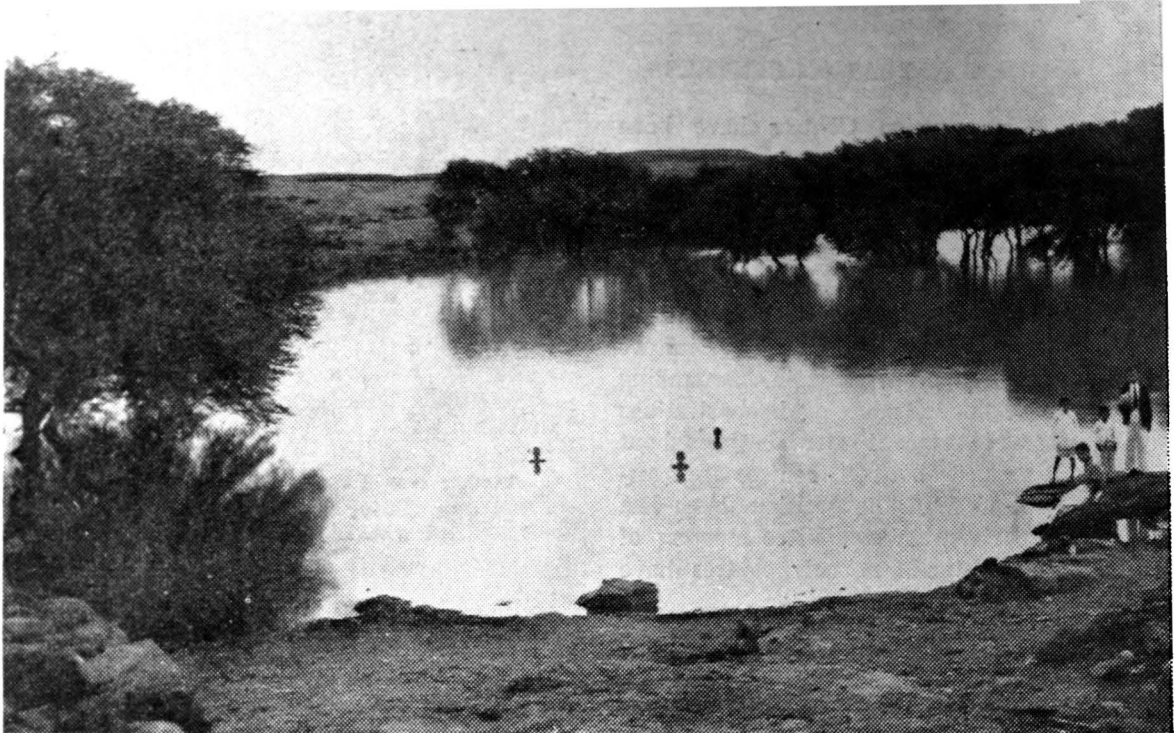
Another crop (Mutki) useful as an erosion-resisting crop. Strip showing the density of cover alternated with Bajri-Tur.

the donation of Rs. 5,00,000 given by Sheth Amritlal Hargovandas towards the building and equipment of the College and the balance of Rs. 1,00,000 and a further sum, limited to the actual expenditure but not exceeding Rs. 15,00,000 for 1947-48. The Government will also pay annually to the Institute a grant equal to the actual expenditure but not exceeding Rs. 2,40,000, incurred by the Institute for running the said College. The College will for the present be affiliated to the Bombay University and later to a University of Gujarat if and when such University is established.

In addition, the Government has sanctioned the establishment of agricultural schools at various centres in this Province and nine such schools have already been set up. In course of time, it is proposed to establish at least one agricultural school in each district.

TRAINING AGRICULTURISTS' SONS

These agricultural schools are under the control of the Agricultural Department and conduct courses for training the sons of cultivators in the Province who desire to improve their lands by better methods of farming. The course of studies occupies two years and deals with the practice of agriculture and rural development. Candidates who apply for admission to an agricultural school must possess a certificate of having passed the III Standard Examination in



A charming view of the Percolation Tank at Jainakwadi in the Poona District.

English or the VII Standard Examination in a regional language. They should ordinarily be between 16 and 30 years of age.

The school has attached to it a hostel, of which every student is required to be a member. No rent is charged for rooms or furniture. Meals are provided free of cost in the mess run under the supervision of the school authorities. Arrangements have been made for medical attendance and there is a small dispensary at the school in charge of a compounder.

Every student will be required to do hand spinning for one hour daily in his spare time. The yarn prepared by each student will be taken over by the school authorities, and the difference between the sale price of the yarn and the cost of the raw material will be returned to the student as pocket money.

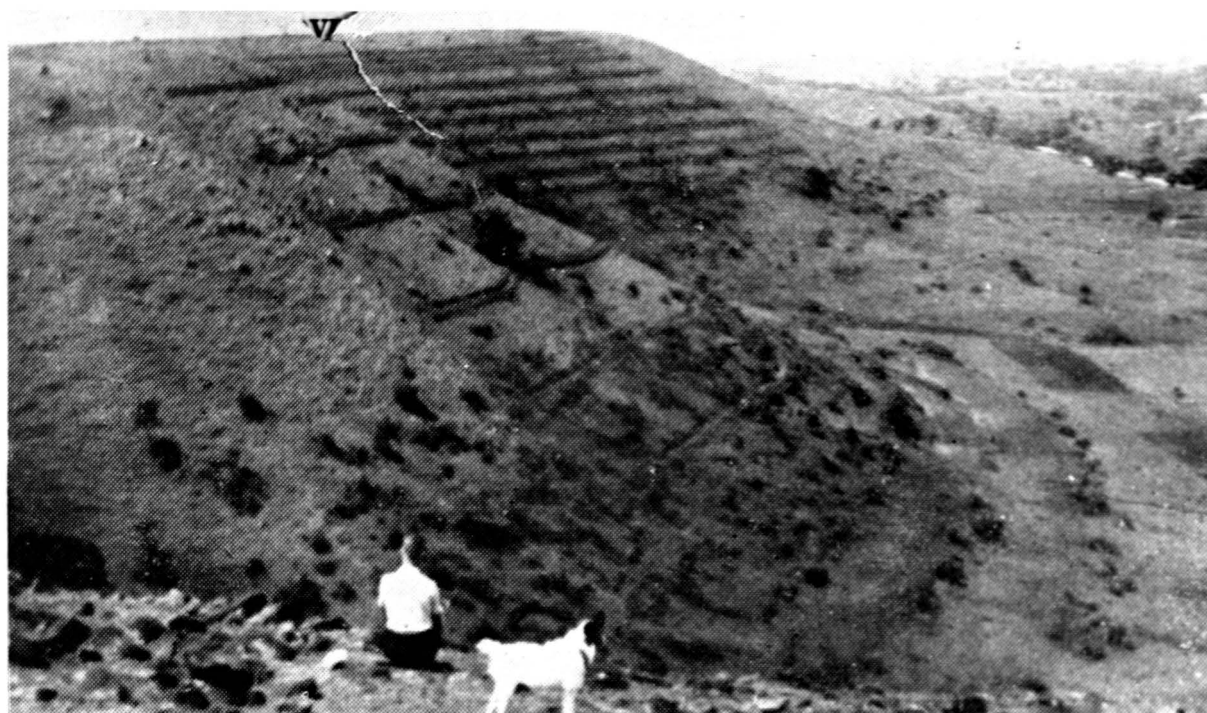
SCOPE FOR EMPLOYMENT

The Government does not guarantee any appointments to successful students because the

primary aim of the school is to impart practical training in agriculture to sons of farmers in the Province. Some of the successful candidates, however, will be eligible for appointments as Agricultural Assistants or Field Kamgars in the Agricultural Department, or, after having received a special course of training in co-operation, as Village Guides.

OVERSEAS TRAINING SCHEME

To enable the working of the Department to be carried on efficiently, the Government has been deputing at its own cost men who are already in Government employ for practical training in agriculture and allied subjects at foreign educational institutions. Fifteen persons were selected for such training during 1945-46 out of which 14 could actually go abroad, one being left out as admission could not be secured for him at a suitable institution. Two of them have since returned and resumed their duties in the Department. Six more persons have been selected recently and admissions secured for them. They will be leaving shortly.



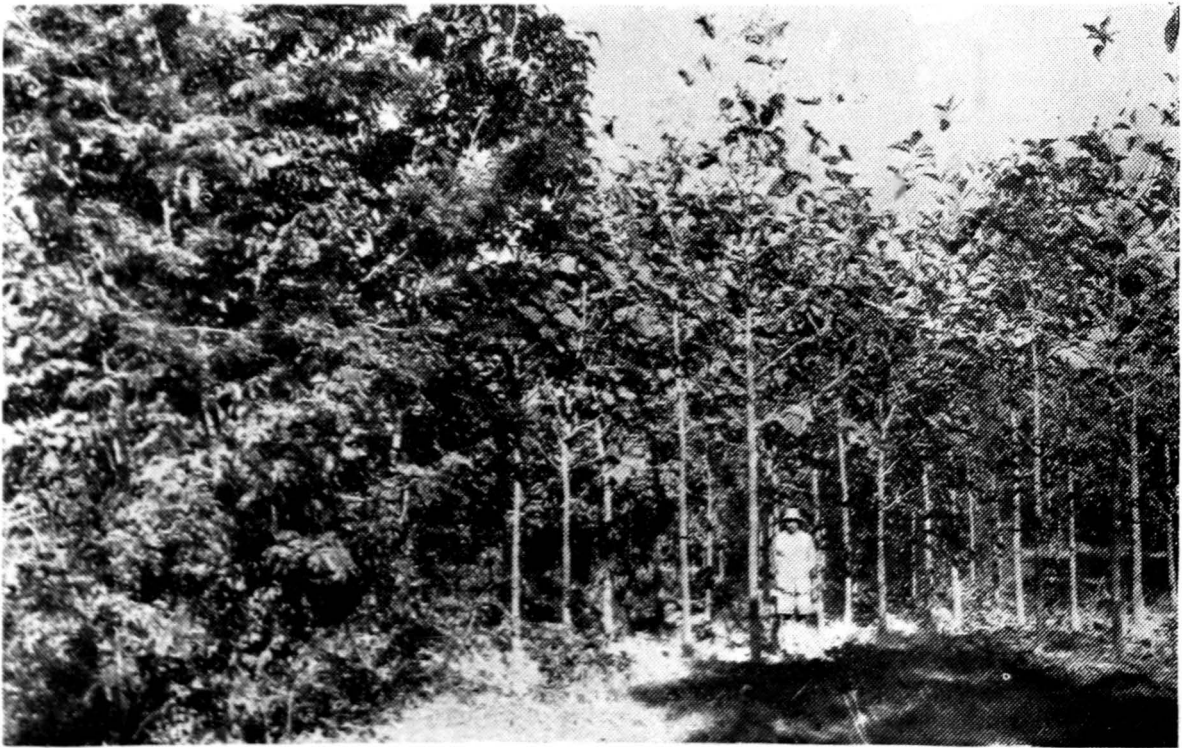
Contour trenching in the Khed-Poona District arid area afforestation work.



A view of the 1934 teak plantation, seven-year old, quality IV, with a height of 35 feet and a girth of 18 inches.



The Sheravati Valley looking east towards the Gersappa Falls in the Kanara District.



Rab regeneration of teak under the Haliyal Pole Working Plan (at right) showing the ten-year old coppices.

Animal Husbandry

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT

An important feature of livestock improvement is the continuance of the measures undertaken in the past to preserve the cattle wealth of the Province. One of these is the restriction imposed on the indiscriminate slaughter of useful and milch cattle. Quotas have been enforced in principal towns and cities laying down the maximum number of draught and milch cattle including buffaloes, sheep and goats that may be slaughtered in a week. It is also contemplated to undertake legislation with a view to stopping altogether the indiscriminate sacrifice of a large number of animals which is being carried on in the name of deities during fairs and other holidays and under the cloak of religion every year.

As improvement of livestock depends primarily on better breeding and feeding and also on a more extensive provision of veterinary aid to control the outbreak of diseases, the Government has issued orders amalgamating the Livestock and Dairy Development Sections of the Agricultural Department and the Veterinary Department into one Department to be known as the Animal Husbandry Department. The amalgamated Department has been placed under the unified control of an officer who has been designated Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science. Extension and improvement of livestock consist of (a) Cattle improvement, (b) Sheep improvement, and (c) Poultry improvement.

(a) **Cattle Improvement:**—This was given the first priority. With the co-operation of farmers, 33 supplementary cattle-breeding centres have been established so far in various parts of Bombay Province. The work under this scheme is essentially for the multiplication of pure-bred stock of cattle for further distribution and over 500 young bulls are being reared for this purpose. There was a very great demand from the villagers for extending the establishment of supplementary breeding centres. There are, however, limitations due to the paucity of stock of breeding bulls and breeding cows for supply as laid down in the scheme. If the Central Government were to use the authority for releasing cattle from the States,

MAHATMA GANDHI DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW



A view of the main gate with the national emblem built on the Agricultural show ground at Kopergaon in the Ahmednagar District in 1948.

e.g., Mysore for Amrit Mahal cattle and Barwani and Indore State for Nimar cattle, more centres could be established. Land for the establishment of three cattle-breeding farms, viz., two Dangi and one Gir, has been selected and it is being acquired.

(b) **Sheep Improvement:**—The work under his section envisages the establishment of sheep-rearing sub-stations for undertaking research in sheep-breeding for evolving new strains of woolly heep suited to the environmental conditions existing in the principal sheep-rearing districts of the Province. The work of distribution of better-woolled stud rams along with instruction in the organisation of shearing, wool-grading and wool utilisation is proposed to be undertaken. The initial plan is worked out for five years and,



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1. A heap of city refuse turned into useful compost. 2. Cart of city refuse being unloaded into the compost pit. 3. Cart of night soil also being similarly unloaded into the pit. 4. Compost pit is now fully filled up and is being covered with a layer of earth. 5. Now the compost is ready for delivery. It is being taken out in a cart for being put into the fields. 6. Compost is being spread into the fields. 7. A general view of the jowar crops obtained by giving compost to the field. 8. Big ears of the jowar crops obtained as a result of thus enriching the soil.

within two years of the commencement of the scheme, each sub-station would contribute from 40 to 50 stud rams for the sheep improvement drive in each district. The preliminary work of the selection of suitable sites, training of technical personnel, preparation of plans of buildings, etc., has already been undertaken and a start has been made in the districts of Khandesh and Dharwar.

(c) Poultry Improvement:—Lands for the location of the poultry farms have been selected and the Government has appointed a special Poultry Development Officer to intensify poultry improvement work.

Dairy Development:—The Government has appointed a special officer designated the Dairy Development Officer. He has been entrusted

with the work of surveys of suitable areas for dairy development in the Province and preparation of schemes for the expansion of the dairy industry.

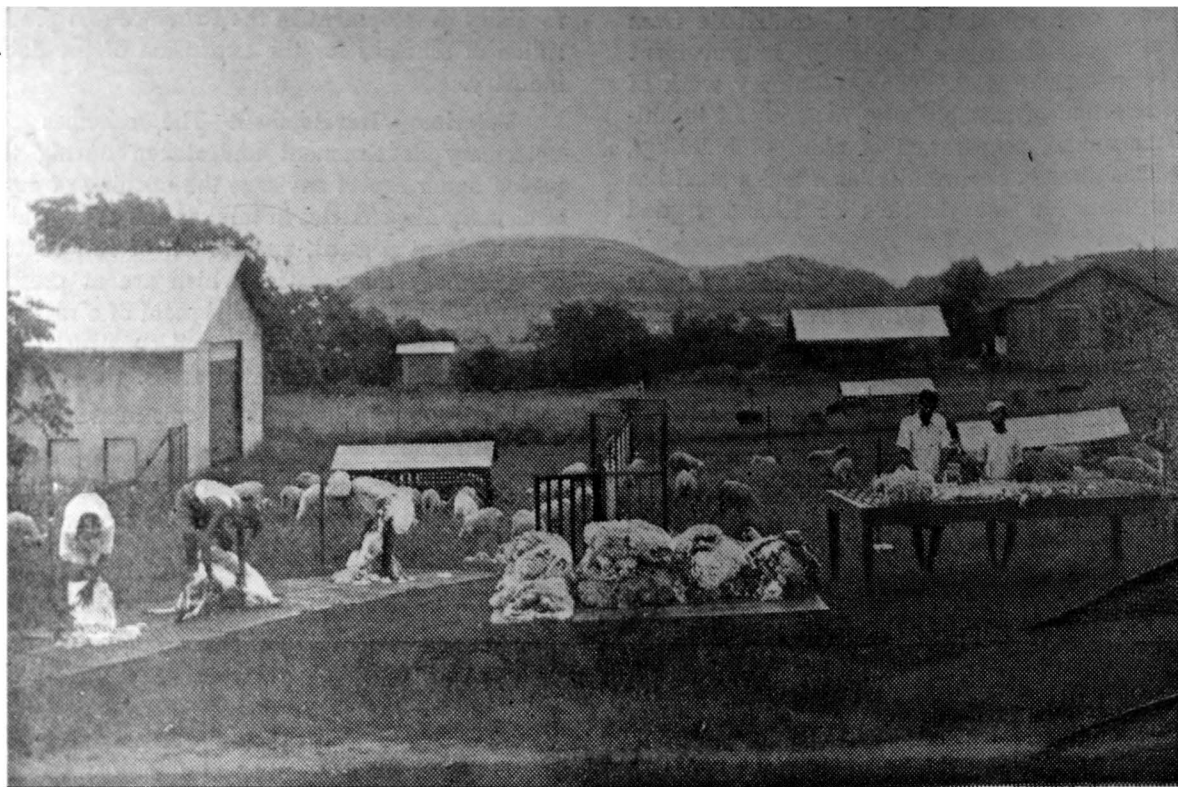
Veterinary Development—The schemes for veterinary development undertaken during the period under report envisage the opening of more veterinary dispensaries in talukas and petas which have none at present, assumption of full control of veterinary dispensaries which are at present under the local bodies, establishment of a research centre for animal husbandry and construction of dipping tanks in tick-infested areas.

The following important items of work have also been undertaken:—

1. The Bombay Veterinary College is being expanded and a number of suitable persons have



A flock of cross-bred sheep being grazed at the Sheep Breeding Farm, Poona.



Wool-shearing of sheep and classification of wool.

been recruited to the newly-created posts to strengthen the staff and to afford more efficient teaching facilities. The Government has also decided to shift the Bombay Veterinary College from its present site at Parel to Poona. The Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science has been asked to take steps to secure land for the location of the College there and also to submit proposals for disposing of the lands and buildings of the College at Parel.

2. A 12 months' course for training ex-soldiers as stockmen at the Bombay Veterinary College was completed and 40 candidates, who qualified during the year, have already been employed in the Department. In view of the acute shortage of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons, it has been proposed to train 100 stockmen every year. To provide increased facilities for training in the stockmen's course, it has been decided to open two more centres—one at Anand and the other at Dharwar.

3. In conformity with the policy laid down

by the Government, steps are being taken to take over all veterinary dispensaries in the Province under the direct control of the Government. Ten such veterinary dispensaries were taken over last year and control of 20 more dispensaries has been assumed from June 1, 1947. Three were set up in 1946-47 and 20 more will be opened during 1947-48.

4. Preliminary steps are being taken to secure a suitable piece of land for setting up the Animal Husbandry Research Station.

5. With a view to manufacturing sera and vaccines required for disease control in this Province, arrangements are being made to have a Sera and Vaccine Production Station at Poona. An officer designated Superintendent, Biological Products, has been appointed and this officer will proceed shortly to Izzatnagar for training in the manufacture of sera and vaccines. Efforts are also being made to secure a suitable site for the location of the Vaccine Station at Poona.

6. With a view to providing dipping tanks and spraying plants in areas where tick-infestation is

heavy, a number of tanks under ~~Sect~~ plants are to be constructed every for ~~pur~~ the next five years. A steel dipping tank has also been constructed at the Dapuri Workshop to see if this type would prove more durable and suitable. Suitable sites are being selected and acquired for the construction or location of dipping tanks.

Priority has been given to such important items as disease control, training of personnel and technical training. The Government is also providing funds liberally for measures in respect of protective vaccinations, reducing mortality of cattle and controlling various diseases.

AGRICULTURAL DEBT RELIEF

The Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act, 1939, which was extended to half of the Province in 1945, was extended on February 1, 1947 to the other half of the Province and 65 Civil Courts were constituted as Debt Adjustment Boards. The Act of 1939 has been repealed by the Act of 1947 which came into force throughout the Province with effect from May 27, 1947. Under the new Act, debt adjustment work is entrusted to Civil Courts. All the Boards established under the Act of 1939 have been dissolved and applications pending before them have been transferred to the Civil Courts concerned. The Rules under the new Act have also since been published. The question of establishing new Civil Courts in connection with debt adjustment work is under the consideration of the Government.



Spinning of wool with a Treadle Charkha at the Sheep Breeding Farm, Poona. (Carded wool may also be seen in the foreground).

The period prescribed for making applications to the Civil Courts entrusted with the administration of the Bombay Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act with effect from February 1 expires on July 31, 1947. The reports from District Judges showing the total number of applications received during this period are expected to be received shortly.

REGULATION OF MONEY-LENDERS

The Bill to regulate the transactions of moneylending which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in September 1946, has since been enacted.

Section 1(3) of the Act lays down that the Act shall come into force on such date as the Government may by notification in the official Gazette appoint in this behalf. The Government proposes to put this Act into operation as early as possible.

REGULATION OF LICENSED WAREHOUSES

With a view to encouraging the establishment of independent warehouses for the storage of agricultural produce and making provision for proper supervision and control, the Government proposes to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Assembly. Soon the proposed legislation, which is based on the lines recommended by the Reserve Bank of India, will enable the agriculturists to secure loans on the security of negotiable receipts issued by licensed warehousemen for their agricultural produce. This will give them the necessary 'staying power' and will obviate the present practice of selling produce even at unremunerative prices to secure ready cash instead of conserving the produce till better prices can be secured. The Reserve Bank will make the requisite finance available at cheap rates of interest to other banks for advancing loans on the security of such receipts.

RURAL CREDIT

The Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Government of India appointed in 1946 a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Prof. D. R. Gadgil for examining and reporting on the various questions relating to the provision of adequate finance for needy borrowers in the rural areas. This Sub-Committee

In its report, which was published in 1946, has recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Credit Corporation for providing short-term, intermediate and long-term finance to rural borrowers. On receipt of the report, the Government decided that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies should ascertain from the Co-operative Banks in the Province whether they were willing to participate in arrangements for the re-organisation of the system of agricultural credit on the lines recommended by the Gadgil Committee. The question was considered at a joint session of the Boards of Representatives (Central Financing Agencies and Urban Banks) of the Bombay Co-operative Banks' Association held on December 14, 1946. The Association represented to the Government that, in view of the development of co-operative banking in the Province, a separate organisation on the lines of the Agricultural Credit Corporation recommended by the Gadgil Committee was not necessary in this Province and that, with the same measure and type of assistance which would be required for an Agricultural Credit Corporation and some modification in their constitution, the co-operative banks in the Province would be able to meet the requirements of creditworthy agricultural borrowers.

The Government appointed a Committee in February last under the chairmanship of Sir Manilal Nanavati for examining the question and recommending the terms on which, and the extent to which, Government assistance should be provided to the co-operative banks in this Province, and also for suggesting amendments to and modifications in the existing constitution of the apex co-operatives Central financing agencies and the Land Mortgage Banks to enable the co-operative banks to provide agricultural credit on the lines envisaged by the Gadgil Committee. The Committee's report is expected to be received shortly and will be considered as expeditiously as possible.

WASTE LANDS

The Government cancelled all existing orders regulating the disposal of waste lands for cultivation and directed that in all districts, including the Partially Excluded Areas, a systematic attempt should be made to give out for cultivation all waste lands which can more

... be used for cultivation
... ng profitably cultivated
... applicable to lands leased
under . . . Food Campaign and to
forest lands, but not to lands required for assign-
ment for public purposes like village grazing,
cattle sheds and stands, manure pits, extension of
gaothans, provision of sites for schools, burial and
cremation grounds, etc.

The villagers will be given as full an opportunity as possible for expressing their wishes before the lands are given out. Where there is Panchayat, a village improvement society or any other similar body, it will be consulted.

PRIORITY TO BACKWARD CLASSES

While disposing of the waste lands, priority, as far as possible, is to be given to members of the Backward Classes, both in the Partially Excluded and the non-Partially Excluded Areas. In the Partially Excluded Areas, the Government has decided that in no case will the lands be disposed of by auction among the members of the Backward Classes. Similarly, land suitable and in demand for cultivation in the other areas is to be disposed of on a restricted tenure to the residents of the village, preference being given to members of the Backward Classes.

So far as lands in the Partially Excluded Areas are concerned, they will be disposed of in the following manner.

No land in the Partially Excluded Areas will be given out for cultivation without the previous sanction of the Government to anyone except a member of the Backward Classes including inferior village servants, who are essential and are under-remunerated.

No grant of such lands to members of the non-Backward Classes including persons with approved war service will be proposed for the Government's sanction, unless it is established that the members of the Backward Classes do not need the land or it is considered desirable in the general public interest, to allow individual non-Backward Class cultivators to hold particular plots, so that members of the Backward Classes may profit by their example, etc. or the land has to be disposed of to the advanced class owner of

the adjoining land either under Section 107 for grant under the Land Revenue Code, or for purposes of consolidation of agricultural holdings, etc.

All grants of such land will be made on the inalienable and impartible or the restricted tenure, except in cases where the Collector considers such outright grants to individual members of the Backward Classes inadvisable and would prefer to lease the lands on the 'Eksali' basis on payment of rent equal to one assessment for two or three years and then to grant the occupancy of the restricted tenure if the lessees prove satisfactory.

LANDS FOR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Compact blocks of cultivable waste or forest lands will, as far as possible, be given to co-operative societies for better farming, having a preponderance of the members of the Backward Classes.

Lands will be granted to the Backward Classes free of charge, if the occupancy price is likely to drive individual grantees to raise loans or to handicap their cultivation. In other cases, a light occupancy price, generally not exceeding three times the assessment of the land, payable in one to three instalments, without interest, will be charged.

In no case will lands be disposed of by auction among the members of the Backward Classes. Lands will, however, be given by selection of grantees made by officers of not below the rank of a Mahalkari on the spot and in the presence of villagers. Priority among claimants will be determined with reference to their needs and their general ability to cultivate efficiently.

The lands elsewhere than in the Partially Excluded Areas will be disposed of in the following manner.

These lands will be classified into the following three categories: (i) Land for which on account of its poorness or inaccessibility or obviously costly clearance of improvement, etc., there is no known demand; (ii) Land which is waste, because of its small size or awkward shape or situation, and (iii) Land suitable and in demand

for cultivation, including all lands leased and cultivated under the Grow More Food Campaign.

IMPROVING LANDS

Schemes will be prepared for improving the lands falling in category (i) and submitted to the Reconstruction Department for sanction, so that the lands could, after being improved by the Government, be classified under the category (iii) and then disposed of.

Land falling in category (ii) will be disposed of in accordance with Section 117-B, Land Revenue Code, if that section applies to it. In other cases also, as far as possible, it will be disposed of to the occupants of the adjoining land or lands. When it forms part of a survey number or is a small survey number which would more conveniently be amalgamated with the adjoining survey numbers, it will be offered at an economic price to the owner of the adjoining survey numbers, if the owner is one only and is a member of the non-Backward Classes. If the adjoining lands are owned by more than one person belonging to the non-Backward Classes, the survey number will be auctioned among the owners of the adjoining lands. The tenure on which the land will be disposed of will generally be the tenure on which the grantee holds his adjoining lands. If the grantees are members of the Backward Classes, they will be given the same concessions as are given to them in the Partially Excluded Areas in respect of the occupancy price.

All lands falling in category (iii) will be disposed of on a restricted tenure to the residents of the village containing the lands, the priority as between the grantees being determined as follows.

- (i) The members of the Backward Classes who may be holding the lands on lease provided they have cultivated the land satisfactorily.
- (ii) The other members of the Backward Classes who have insufficient land for their maintenance and are likely to prove good cultivators.
- (iii) The 'bona fide' cultivators belonging to the non-Backward Classes who may be holding the lands on lease, provided

they are poor and their holding not sufficient for their maintenance.

- (iv) The other 'bona fide' cultivators longing to the non-Backward Class who are poor and who have insufficient lands for their maintenance.
- (v) The well-to-do members of the non-Backward Classes who are 'bona fide' cultivators. Waste lands can, with the approval of the Government, be granted to ex-servicemen, without auction, on payment of the occupancy price up to a maximum of three times the assessment on new and impartible tenure subject to the other conditions laid down. In all cases, however, the claims of the Backward Classes to the lands will be preferred to those of the ex-servicemen of other classes.

DESERVING CASES

Grants to the members of the Backward Classes will be made in accordance with the orders applicable to them in respect of the Partially Excluded Areas. In deserving cases, these grants will be free of the occupancy price or on payment of an occupancy price not exceeding three times the assessment of the land payable in one to three instalments without interest. So also, grants to the poor members of the non-Backward Classes of lands involving expenditure on clearing and preparing the lands for cultivation, will be on the same terms. If, however, no expenditure on clearance, etc., is involved (e.g. where the lands were leased to a comparatively rich member of the non-Backward Classes who had cleared it), they should be auctioned among the claimants who have insufficient lands for their maintenance.

Grants to the comparatively rich members of the non-Backward Classes will always be by public auction. The above new orders do not apply to the bet and bhatha lands in the Northern Division whose disposal is regulated by orders separately issued.

The orders regarding the grant of compact blocks to co-operative societies having a preponderance of members of the Backward Classes in the Partially Excluded Areas will, so far as

apply to the grant of lands in the non-Excluded Areas also.

BET AND BHATA LANDS

The Government of Bombay has decided that 'bet' and 'bhata' lands in the Northern Division should, from June 1, 1947, be disposed of for cultivation on certain conditions. All previous orders issued in this connection have been cancelled.

'Bet' and 'bhata' lands which have been newly formed and about which in the Collector's opinion there are reasonable doubts that they may be wasted away during floods in the rivers concerned are to be leased on the 'Eksali' basis by public auction.

Lands other than those mentioned above will be considered to be practically permanent and will be disposed of on 10 years' leases at a time.

The leases are liable to be terminated without compensation if the lands are not cultivated or are damaged through negligence or are utilised for growing crops other than food crops and vegetables without the previous permission of the Collector.

A NOTE ON THE BOMBAY TENANCY ACT, 1939

The Bombay Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1946 was brought into force in the whole Province with effect from November 8, 1946. The Government has taken the following important measures to ensure the proper administration of the Act.

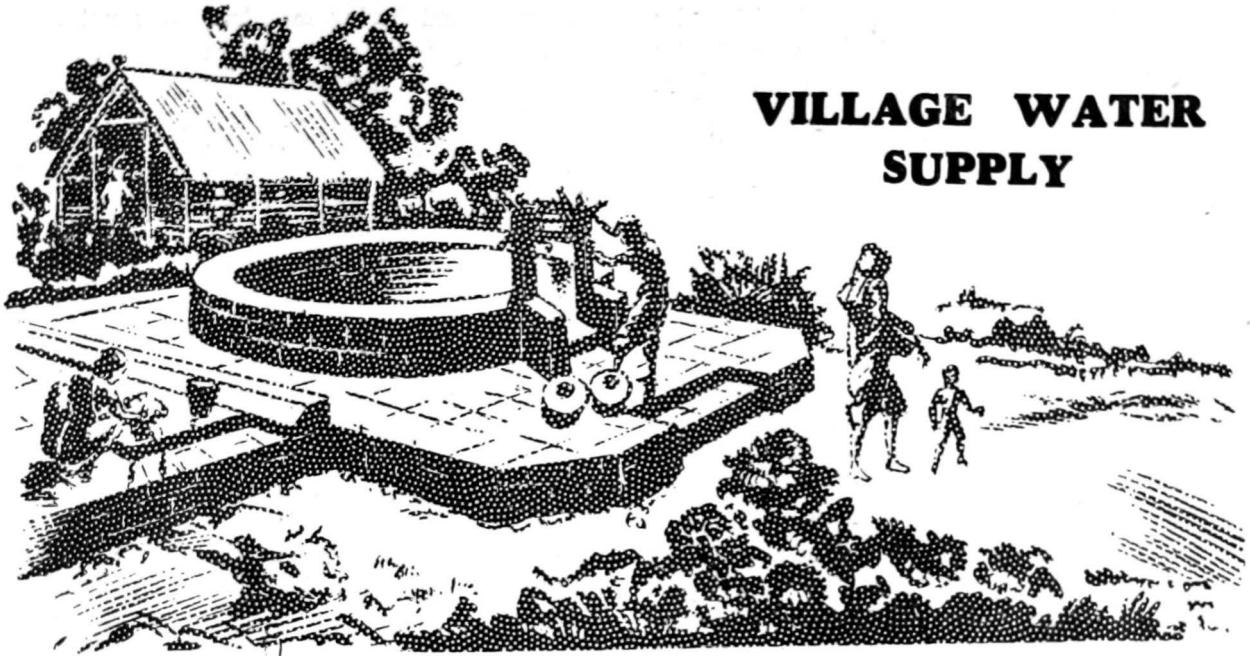
(a) The maximum rates of rents have been fixed in terms of the proviso to Section 15(1) of the Act.

(b) Awal Karkuns have been appointed in each taluka and mahal to deal with matters arising out of the administration of the Bombay Tenancy Act and the Awal Karkuns' work is scrupulously checked and supervised by Divisional Tenancy Officers appointed for the purpose.

(c) Orders have been issued for the grant of tagai loans and subsidies to protected tenants on the basis of collateral security or joint bonds and on consideration of their creditworthiness for the construction of wells for improvement of cultivation.

(d) Orders have also been issued for grant of legal aid to tenants according to rules.

(e) Tenants have been admonished to pay rents due to landlords regularly and in good time.



VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY

The Government has recognised that supply of pure potable water in adequate quantities to the entire population of the Province is a matter of the highest importance. In the villages, particularly in certain areas, the existing conditions of water supply have been found to be extremely unsatisfactory. As supply of pure water for drinking purposes for villagers and their animals constitutes a vital factor, having a direct bearing on the problem of control of disease in epidemic and other forms, the Government has always given the most serious consideration to its solution.

AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME

The problem of providing adequate facilities for the supply of potable water to the villages is not an easy one. There is an extensive area, where such facilities are either insufficient for local needs in all seasons or even, in some instances, totally non-existent. The result is that large sections of the local population of such places are exposed not merely to severe hardship involved in fetching water over long distances and at considerable expense but also to the danger of exposure to certain epidemic diseases.

Despite the magnitude of the task, the Gov-

ernment has decided to solve the problem as expeditiously as possible and has formulated a five-year scheme for the purpose. The scheme embraces a programme of construction of new wells, deepening of old wells, conversion of step-wells into draw-wells, construction of dug-out type tanks, bandharas and small storage reservoirs, percolation tanks, etc. as may be found suitable and economical under special local conditions which differ from place to place. All localities with a population of over 200 have been covered by the programme and, where the mode of the facilities described is not found suitable, provision of pipe water supply to groups of villages, if feasible, has been proposed.

PEOPLE'S CO-OPERATION

It has been estimated that the works that will have to be constructed under the scheme will cost in five years Rs. 246.18 lakhs. They number roughly 8,000 and have been suitably distributed amongst the Executive Engineers and Local Boards for purposes of investigation and distribution.

The Chief Engineer in the Public Works Department of the Government had earlier held meetings in all the districts of the Province and

explained the scheme in full detail to the officials, non-officials and the public interested in the question of improved water supply. The Minister in charge of Reconstruction also held lengthy discussions on the scheme during the district reconstruction conferences he held throughout the Province, and every effort is being made to create popular interest and enlist co-operation in the execution of the village water supply works.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS

As the scheme had to be launched in 1947-48, it became necessary to make preliminary arrangements and put through a considerable amount of spade work. As a general policy, works are taken up for execution in which plans and estimates have been drawn up and are ready, while surveys and investigation of new schemes are taken up, side by side, in new localities.

Reports show that at the end of September, 145 works were completed and 1,016 works were in progress. There were also 99 works of desilting of tanks. These figures certainly point to progress, especially when the difficulties in the way of the execution of the works and the

hurdles that had to be crossed are taken into consideration. The main difficulty was the scarcity of trained technical staff. Then, certain materials and boring machines were not available in sufficient quantities. In addition to this, there were the general transport difficulties.

For the successful operation of the water supply works, proper location of wells and geological surveys of difficult areas are essential. It is hoped that in the near future, the necessary staff, equipment and materials required would be available in sufficient quantities and that the works would be speeded up considerably.

ANNUAL COST 28 LAKHS

Out of a total of roughly Rs. 2½ crores sanctioned for the five-year scheme, Rs. 28 lakhs have been provided during the current year. All executive agencies have, at the same time, been given the assurance that this grant would be supplemented, as required, if greater progress of the works is maintained. No effort has, therefore, been spared to see that village water supply works are executed with the utmost expedition.

CO-OPERATION



A BILL to amend the Bombay Co-operative Act, 1925, is proposed to be introduced in the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

The Officer on Special Duty in the Revenue Department, appointed to make an exploratory survey and submit proposals for the organisation of co-operative joint farming societies, taking into consideration the existing tenures, the size of the holdings and the crop practices in the different areas, has since submitted his report to the Government. The report is at present under the consideration of the Government and orders regarding the recommendations contained therein will be issued shortly. The scheme aims at pooling fragmented and uneconomic holdings into economic blocks and cultivated as a joint co-operative farming enterprise.

The scheme for the organisation of a network of co-operative better farming societies, with the object of using the Co-operative Movement for extensive improvement in agriculture, is also being worked out, seven better farming societies having been registered so far.

Two joint farming societies at Padali and Bhattawadi in the Satara District have been sanctioned Government Grants-in-aid of Rs. 1,000 each, and the free services of one trained fieldman each, for a period of three years.

FARMING ON CO-OPERATIVE LINES

The Government has directed that the two colonization schemes which aim at cultivating

land on co-operative lines in Hillur village of the Ankola Taluka and Rampur village of the Mundgod Taluka in the Kanara District should be allotted the requisite land for one year and tagai loans on joint bonds under the Agriculturist Loans Act and also help from the grants at the disposal of the Collector.

The Government has also directed that the registration of the proposed Bhandgaon Co-operative Joint Farming Society should be urgently proceeded with.

The Government has sanctioned a special subsidy of Rs. 7,000 to the Vartak Sahakari Vikas Mandal, Ltd., Mehmedabad, on certain conditions.

It has, in addition, directed that the registration of the proposed co-operative joint farming society at Navri in the West Khandesh District should be proceeded with urgently and should be sanctioned a loan of Rs. 10,000 on certain conditions and a subsidy of Rs. 1,000 per annum for three years after registration.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES

It may also be mentioned that the Government has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 32,000 to the Akkur Co-operative Irrigation Society, Ltd., in the Karajgi Taluka of the Dharwar District, on certain conditions for the purchase of engines and other accessories, with the object of providing irrigation facilities to cultivators.

The recommendations of the Committee on Co-operative Education and Training in this Province are now in the process of implementation. Accordingly, a Co-operative College has been established at Poona and three regional schools,

one each at Poona, Surat and Dharwar, have been started and have commenced functioning.

Recently, as a result of the expansion of the Co-operative Department, owing to increased activity in the co-operative field, the designation of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been changed to that of Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Director of Agricultural Marketing and Rural Finance and the designation of the post of Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been changed to that of Additional Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

The Government is at present considering the recommendations contained in the report of the Co-operative Planning Committee appointed by the Government of India under the chairmanship of Mr. R. G. Saraiya, O.B.E., and action for expansion of the Co-operative Movement will be taken soon.

A post of Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies with the requisite staff has also been sanctioned for the expansion of the Co-operative Movement in the Konkan tract.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

In order to secure collective bargaining power for the purchase of raw materials and the sale of finished products and decentralisation of industrial production, the Government has already started from the last year a vigorous drive for forming co-operative industrial societies in the rural areas. These societies are being affiliated to the District Industrial Associations. These Associations were in the past mainly associations of weavers' societies and covered woollen and cotton textiles. It has been decided to expand the scope of these Associations to comprehend not only Weavers' Societies but also other primary Industrial Co-operative Societies, e.g., Tanners', Blacksmiths', Coir-makers', Bamboo and Cane-work makers', Lacquerware and Pottery, to mention only a few of the types. These Associations will supply the artisans of their primaries with (1) improved appliances on the hire-purchase system; (2) raw materials at cheap rates by bulk purchase; (3) advice regarding easily-marketable designs and patterns and (4) knowledge about subsidiary processes and facilities of conjoined accounts against partial payment for the marketing of their finished products at the

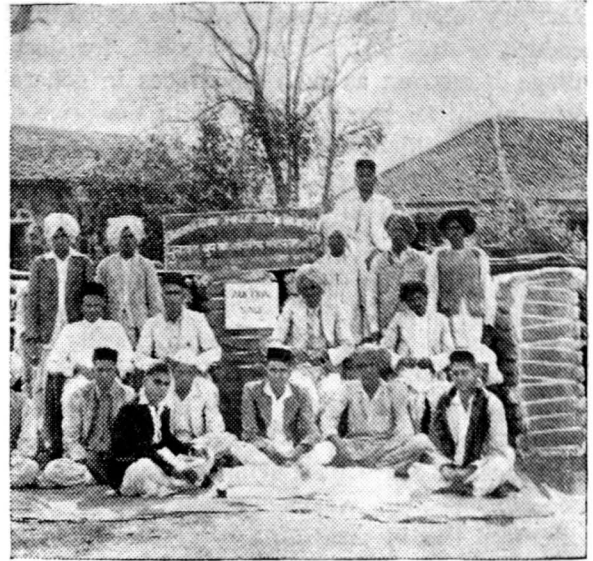
most profitable price. These Associations in their turn are being affiliated to the Provincial Industrial Co-operative Association, which was registered last year, as the apex body for the purpose of providing marketing intelligence, technical advice and supply of funds to the primary units through the District Industrial Associations. The Government will assist these Associations, where necessary, by giving them suitable grants towards staff (manager, salesman, accounts clerks, etc.), rent of the premises occupied by them and for equipment for the first five years. The four Associations started at Nadiad, Satara, Jalgaon and in North Kanara have each been provided annual grants of Rs. 3,340 (recurring) and Rs. 3,035 (non-recurring) for five years. A grant-in-aid of Rs. 42,480 was sanctioned to the Provincial Industrial Co-operative Association last year to cover the cost of training of the Secretaries of Industrial Co-operatives and for expenditure on propaganda and part of the office expenses. The Government has also decided to subscribe to the share capital of the Association up to a maximum of Rs. 50,000 or 20% of the paid-up share capital, whichever is less. The Association has been appointed as District Agents for the Ahmedabad and Nasik Districts for taking delivery of the yarn from the quota-holders for despatch to the districts. In view of the inadequacy of its capital and owned resources, the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, has agreed to advance loans to the Association up to 70% of the value of the yarn on pledge of goods and has shown its willingness to advance loans for the remaining 30% of the value of the yarn if the Government gives a guarantee to the Bank for this amount. The Government has, therefore, decided to give to the Bank a margin for an amount up to Rs. 5 lakhs or 20% of the value of the yarn, whichever is less, for the period ending March 31, 1948, in the first instance.

Last year, the Government appointed a committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Manu Subedar, to report what measures would be necessary for the promotion of rural handicrafts and industries, including different forms of State aid, and to consider what restrictions, if any, should be placed on the movement of raw materials for industries in the rural areas, from the point of view of utilising local resources for local consumption, processing or manufacture. The Committee has already submitted its report and

it is under the active consideration of the Government and some of its recommendations are being implemented.

The Village Industries Committee, consisting of non-officials, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gosiben Captain, which was formed last year, has been doing excellent work in formulating schemes for the promotion of rural industries. Last year, a number of 'ad hoc' schemes formulated by the Committee were sanctioned by the Government and an amount of Rs. 1,30,900 was sanctioned to the Committee for running these schemes. An amount of Rs. 3,17,907 has also been sanctioned this year in connection with the various schemes of the Committee.

A technical institute for training wool weavers in improved methods of wool weaving and spinning has also been started at Gadag in the Dharwar District. Twenty-seven peripatetic demonstration parties are proposed to be started for training cottage workers in various village industries in accordance with the recommendations of the Technical Experts Committee appointed by the Technical Staff Conference of the Co-operative Department, in addition to the 51 demonstration parties and schools which are existing at present. The Village Industries Committee and the Provincial Industrial Association have been asked to formulate concrete schemes for intensifying assistance to rural industries recommended by the Manu Subedar Committee in Chapter 3 of their report, viz. (1) supply of models and samples for being copied; (2) supply of better raw materials, colouring material and other ingredients; (3) holding of periodical exhibitions and granting of prizes for articles of superior quality; (4) outright purchase at remunerative prices for disposal in Government Sale Depots and (5) technical advice as to material and method of production through itinerant skilled Government staff. Their schemes are awaited and it is hoped that they will be received very soon. Thereafter, they can be implemented. The Manu Subedar Committee had suggested the starting of village industry centres, to be run as a State enterprise. The Joint Registrar for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries has already been asked to start 12 such village industry centres as an experimental measure—three each in the Bijapur, Sholapur and Ahmednagar Districts and one each in the Dharwar



Bhusaval Group Co-operative Cotton Sale Society, Ltd.

Belgaum and Satara Districts. These districts have been selected for the experimental stage because they are liable to famine and it is expected that there will be considerable response to the scheme due to availability of surplus unemployed labour, etc. If the scheme works satisfactorily in these districts, the Government will consider the question of its extension to the other districts, in due course. As regards the recommendations of the Manu Subedar Committee relating to restrictions on large-scale enterprise, the Government is agreed that aggressive capitalistic factory enterprise, where it acts adversely to the interests of rural cottage industries, needs to be suitably regulated. The question of the exact mode of these restrictions is a matter which is not entirely within the competence of the Provincial Government and the question will, therefore, have to be taken up with the Government of India.

The Government agrees with the Committee that agricultural produce should be processed locally in the area in which it is produced and that it is an economic waste to have to transport the produce to urban centres for processing and re-transport it to rural areas for ultimate consumption, because this involves avoidable transport costs which ultimately get incorporated in the retail price to the rural consumer, besides depriving him of his legitimate return which he should get by processing it himself. The Govern-

ment agrees with the Committee that it is not necessary to put export embargoes on agricultural produce which forms raw materials for local village industries, as such embargoes in general terms might lead to depreciation in the price of the produce which will adversely affect the interests of the rural producer and besides may not be found to be administratively workable due to loopholes for smuggling, etc. which may still remain in spite of active vigilance. It is at one with the Committee that villagers should, as far as possible, conserve raw materials locally produced for village industries, instead of allowing urban enterprise to usurp the field. This sort of voluntary conservation of raw materials is likely to be more effective than artificial export embargoes, etc. and the Government hopes the villagers will adopt this in their own interest. Should it, however, become necessary, in spite of such voluntary effort, to meet deficiencies in the supply of raw materials, the District Industrial Associations and the Provincial Industrial Association could secure the raw materials from areas where they are surplus and make them available in areas which are deficit in the supply thereof. The Government is prepared to give full assistance to the District Industrial Associations and the Provincial Industrial Association in coming to the help of the Primary Industrial Co-operatives in this respect.

Regarding the recommendations about rural production of cloth, the Village Industries Committee has formulated in the past small schemes for different areas and has very recently formulated workable schemes for a compact in the Ron, Gadag, Mundargi, Navalgund, Hubli and Dharwar Talukas of the Dharwar District.

The schemes deal with the training of villagers in the hand-spinning of yarn of durable quality and in sufficient quantity, which is to be woven into Khadi. The Government has sanctioned it as an experimental measure for one year, in the first instance, at a total cost of Rs. 1,13,650 (recurring Rs. 50,950 and non-recurring Rs. 62,700). Briefly, under the scheme, it is proposed to start three Khadi Production Centres in the Mundargi, Ron and Gadag Talukas of the Dharwar District. To start with, it is proposed to train about 2,000 spinners during the current year. In order to produce yarn of weavable quality, it is proposed to give training to spinning instructors, spinners,

carders and weavers. Implements will be supplied to spinners on an initial payment of Rs. 3 per set and the balance of Rs. 12 will be recovered in instalments at the rate of 1/7th of the value of the yarn brought by them for sale. The amount realised will be partly or fully utilised for manufacturing more wheels and implements for supply to spinners. The carders will be given a wage of 4 annas per day during the period of their training. The weavers will be given a subsidy of 3 annas per yard of hand-spun yarn woven by them into cloth. The subsidy will, however, be included in the price of the Khadi, which will be sold ultimately at Re. 1-5-0 a yard. Self-spinners will be given a discount of 4 annas per yard in the retail price of hand-spun cloth purchased by them if they spin enough yarn to supply their own requirements.

It is estimated that about 80,000 yards of cloth could be produced and a sum of Rs. 1,15,500 is likely to be realised out of the sale of Khadi. The Village Industries Committee will also be considering similar schemes for introduction in other suitable areas of the Province.

The Government has already set up a research section in the Co-operative Department to assist the Joint Registrar for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries. A research laboratory is also being set up at Poona which will be supervised by a non-official committee consisting of the representatives of the Village Industries Committee.

The Government did not consider that a Provincial Board and District Boards, as suggested by the Subedar Committee, were essential. Instead of these, a co-ordination committee has been set up consisting of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Joint Registrar for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries, the Chairman of the Village Industries Committee and the Provincial Industries Co-operative Association with powers to co-opt expert non-officials.

With a view to encouraging village industries on co-operative lines, the Government has recently increased the extent of State aid that will be made available to them in future. Each co-operative society having not less than 1/3rd of its members as 'bona fide' craftsmen or persons following subsidiary industries, will be entitled to a

sum of Rs. 5,000; 50% thereof will be treated as subsidy and 50% as loan, the loan to carry interest at 4% p.a. and to be repaid in equal six monthly instalments, the payment of the first instalment to commence after one year from the date of the disbursement of the loan. In addition, a co-operative society of craftsmen will be entitled to a loan of Rs. 5,000 as working capital. Provision has been made in the current year's budget to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh for loans and subsidies on this account. Primary Industrial Co-operatives, where they are not more than five years old, will moreover be entitled to a grant up to Rs. 600 for the cost of secretaries per annum for a period of three years, provided the dividend declared by the society in any year does not exceed 3½% and the Joint Registrar for Industrial Co-operatives and Village Industries is satisfied that the society is efficiently managed and has maintained a qualified staff, but is financially in deficit in spite of the maximum self-help it can practise.

The Government has also under consideration the proposal of the Cottage Industries Subcommittee of the Provincial Industries Committee for the establishment of an industrial co-operative bank to finance cottage industries. Its principal object would be that of providing finance primarily through District Industrial Associations but where necessary, directly to primary units also. It is under the consideration of the Government whether the Provincial Industrial Co-operative Association, which has already been registered and commenced functioning should not be the agency for the provision of finance to co-operative industrial societies and to individual cottage workers or whether a separate institution is necessary. After either of the two arrangements is finally accepted, it will not be necessary for the Government to give loans through the Co-operative Department and the requisite finance would be made available by the proposed bank or association.

INDUSTRIES



THE important factor imposing limitations on independent action by the Provincial Government in regard to industrial development is that, under conditions created by war-time economy, large-scale industries, for all practical purposes, fall within the purview of the Central Government, which also regulates industrial policy in respect of the issue of capital, imports of machinery and equipment, exports of machinery and equipment, exports of manufactured products and foreign exchange.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Despite this, the Government of Bombay has set up a Provincial Industries Committee on the lines of the Policy Committee for Industries set up by the Government of India. This Committee, in its turn, has established seven sub-committees which cover practically the whole field of the development of large-scale and small-scale industries in all parts of the Province.

The Committee, with its large number of experts and its sub-committees, has been asked to advise which of the existing industries in the Province should be further expanded and which should be started during the post-war period. It has also to suggest which industries can advantageously be organised on a large-scale, small-scale or cottage-industry basis. The Committee has also to deal with the question of the most suitable sites for the location of the various industries after taking into consideration the availability of labour, water supply, electric power, raw materials, markets and the desirability of pre-

venting congestion in thickly-populated areas and to advise, finally, whether the industries recommended should be promoted by the Government or through a private agency, and, in the latter case, how the Government should collaborate with, or extend any aid to, such an agency. The Government hopes to enunciate the broad outline of its industrial policy in the Province as soon as the Committee publishes its report. It is also considering the question of appointing a Special Officer to study the industrial potentialities of the different regions in the southern area of the Province.

In the meantime, however, the Government has been considering each proposal for industrial development on its own merits; and every possible encouragement is being given to the development of industries in the Province.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Under the Government of India's textile industry expansion plan, no new mills had been allotted to this Province, which was considered as surplus area. The Government of Bombay, however, pressed very strongly for the proposal to set apart 48,000 spindles out of the quota of 1,14,000 allotted to this Province for distribution among the existing mills in order to enable them to go finer and for the establishment of a few new spinning mills in the interior of the Province which could supply yarn to handloom and powerloom weavers.

NEW MILLS

The Government of India has agreed, as a special case, to the proposal made by this Government. Accordingly, four agencies representing

private enterprise which had been recommended to the Textile Commissioner have been allotted 12,000 spindles each for the establishment of spinning mills in each of the districts of Nasik, Ahmednagar, Satara and Bijapur. The condition imposed is that they are not to instal any power-looms to cover the spindles. These districts have been selected on the consideration that there is a necessity of having such mills in famine areas, such as Bijapur and Ahmednagar as well as in important handloom centres.

As regards the allocation of the remaining 66,000 spindles to be utilised for the purpose of going finer, the Government of Bombay appointed a committee consisting of the Director of Industries, the Provincial Textile Controller and a representative each of the Millowners' Associations of Bombay and Ahmedabad to report on the requirements of individual mills. The allotment of these 66,000 spindles to the various mills has been made on the basis of the Committee's report.

ARTIFICIAL SILK

The report of the Committee specially appointed to examine the possibilities of manufac-

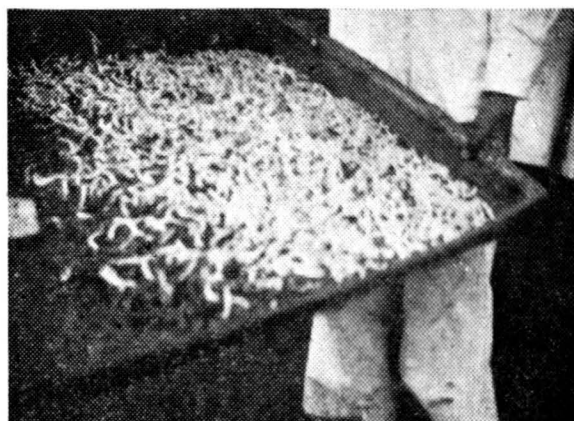


Chopping of the mulberry leaves, to the size of the silk worms to be fed.

ture of artificial silk in this Province is under the consideration of the Government. The question

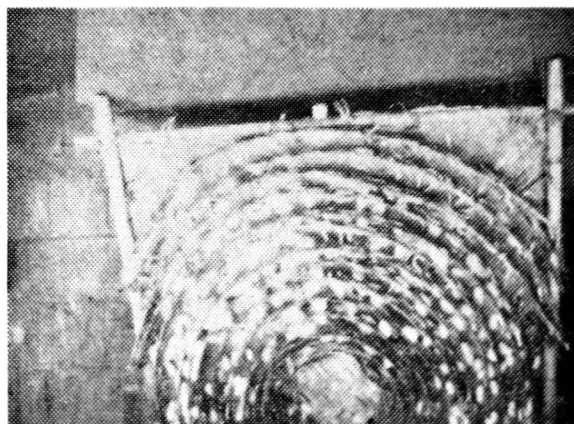
of starting pilot plant experiment is also being studied.

The Government of India, under its post-war plan for cement production, had originally intended to allot a quota of one lakh ton capacity per



Here silk worms are seen after the fourth moult; after which the silk worm is excited and starts moving to find a convenient place for spinning cocoons.

annum to this Province out of the total production quota of 1.15 million tons for distribution



Here the silk worms are seen mounted in a tray, called a chandraka which facilitates the spinning of cocoons.

amongst the different firms in the various Provinces and States. The question was discussed by this Government with the Consulting Engineer

glucose, preserved food products, paper and heavy chemicals.

FOREST INDUSTRIES

Proposals for the establishment of pulp and paper factories, a bobbin factory and a match factory are also under the active consideration of the Government. The question of exploitation of the forest resources in the areas likely to be submerged in the proposed Koyna Valley Dam in the Satara District is also receiving due attention.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

The Government has been conducting, under the direction of the Government of India, a census of the manufacturing industries with a view to ascertaining the existing development of industries as a basis for formulating future expansion plans.

The Census of the Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945, framed under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, at present covers the following industries :

1. Wheat flour, 2. rice milling, 3. biscuit-making (including bakeries and confectioneries), 4. fruit and vegetable processing, 5. sugar, 6. distilleries and breweries (including power alcohol manufacture), 7. starch, 8. vegetable oilseed crushing and extraction, and processing of vegetable oils, 9. paints and varnishes, 10. soap, 11. tanning, 12. cement, 13. glass and glassware, 14. ceramics, 15. plywood and tea-chests, 16. paper and paperboard (including straw-board), 17. matches, 18. cotton textiles, 19. woollen textiles, 20. jute textiles, 21. chemicals including drugs and pharmaceuticals, 22. aluminium, copper and brass, 23. iron and steel, 24. bicycles, 25. sewing machines, 26. producer gas plants, 27. electric lamps, 28. electric fans, 29. general and electrical engineering (excluding generation and transformation of electrical energy).

The Census will shortly be extended to cover all industries.

AID TO INDUSTRIES

The Government of Bombay has rendered, through the Department of Industries, valuable assistance to various agencies of private enterprise in obtaining their requirements of iron and

steel, machine-tools, pipes and tubes, coal and coke, non-ferrous metals, cement, transport facilities, telephone connections, timber, fuel oil (when under control), electric connections, etc. for industrial purposes and thus contributed to the industrial development in the Province.

During the period from October, 1946 to July, 1947, 45 applications for loans under the State Aid to Industries Rules, 1935, were received and a total amount of Rs. 18,500 was sanctioned and disbursed.

INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION

With the plans of future industrial development contemplated in the immediate future, the question of establishing a Central Standards Organisation in India for fixing Indian standards assumes considerable importance. The Government of India has accordingly set up an organisation called the Indian Standards Institution and has sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for a period of five years. The Government of India considered that all the Provincial Governments should also contribute to the funds of the Institution and the Government of Bombay has sanctioned a grant at the rate of Rs. 7,500 per annum for a period of five years.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

As a post-war reconstruction measure, the Government has sanctioned several long range schemes under the Post-War Reconstruction Plan. Some of these are being implemented. They include the schemes regarding the appointment of Deputy Director of Industries (Post-war Reconstruction) and expansion of the Industrial Engineer's Workshop. The first post has been created with the object of assisting the Industries Department in giving effect to post-war reconstruction schemes and generally for dealing with the increased work of the Department consequent on the activities of large-scale and small-scale

glucose, preserved food products, paper and heavy chemicals.

FOREST INDUSTRIES

Proposals for the establishment of pulp and paper factories, a bobbin factory and a match factory are also under the active consideration of the Government. The question of exploitation of the forest resources in the areas likely to be submerged in the proposed Koyna Valley Dam in the Satara District is also receiving due attention.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

The Government has been conducting, under the direction of the Government of India, a census of the manufacturing industries with a view to ascertaining the existing development of industries as a basis for formulating future expansion plans.

The Census of the Manufacturing Industries Rules, 1945, framed under the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, at present covers the following industries :

1. Wheat flour, 2. rice milling, 3. biscuit-making (including bakeries and confectioneries), 4. fruit and vegetable processing, 5. sugar, 6. distilleries and breweries (including power alcohol manufacture), 7. starch, 8. vegetable oilseed crushing and extraction, and processing of vegetable oils, 9. paints and varnishes, 10. soap, 11. tanning, 12. cement, 13. glass and glassware, 14. ceramics, 15. plywood and tea-chests, 16. paper and paperboard (including straw-board), 17. matches, 18. cotton textiles, 19. woollen textiles, 20. jute textiles, 21. chemicals including drugs and pharmaceuticals, 22. aluminium, copper and brass, 23. iron and steel, 24. bicycles, 25. sewing machines, 26. producer gas plants, 27. electric lamps, 28. electric fans, 29. general and electrical engineering (excluding generation and transformation of electrical energy).

The Census will shortly be extended to cover all industries.

AID TO INDUSTRIES

The Government of Bombay has rendered, through the Department of Industries, valuable assistance to various agencies of private enterprise in obtaining their requirements of iron and

steel, machine-tools, pipes and tubes, coal and coke, non-ferrous metals, cement, transport facilities, telephone connections, timber, fuel oil (when under control), electric connections, etc. for industrial purposes and thus contributed to the industrial development in the Province.

During the period from October, 1946 to July, 1947, 45 applications for loans under the State Aid to Industries Rules, 1935, were received and a total amount of Rs. 18,500 was sanctioned and disbursed.

INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION

With the plans of future industrial development contemplated in the immediate future, the question of establishing a Central Standards Organisation in India for fixing Indian standards assumes considerable importance. The Government of India has accordingly set up an organisation called the Indian Standards Institution and has sanctioned an annual grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for a period of five years. The Government of India considered that all the Provincial Governments should also contribute to the funds of the Institution and the Government of Bombay has sanctioned a grant at the rate of Rs. 7,500 per annum for a period of five years.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

As a post-war reconstruction measure, the Government has sanctioned several long range schemes under the Post-War Reconstruction Plan. Some of these are being implemented. They include the schemes regarding the appointment of Deputy Director of Industries (Post-war Reconstruction) and expansion of the Industrial Engineer's Workshop. The first post has been created with the object of assisting the Industries Department in giving effect to post-war reconstruction schemes and generally for dealing with the increased work of the Department consequent on the activities of large-scale and small-scale

industries. The appointment is expected to be made shortly.

WORKSHOP EXPANSION

The scheme for the expansion of the Industrial Engineer's Workshop has been sanctioned with a view to having the machines and implements for the requirements of small-scale industries designed and their uses demonstrated to persons interested in those industries. The question of finding a suitable site for erecting the Workshop is engaging the attention of the Industries Department.

The scheme of expansion of the Industrial Chemist's Laboratory in general consists of the establishment of a laboratory for analysis of food products, paints and varnishes and various other products, installation of important chemical process equipment and provision of an Economic Geologist's Section.

UP-TO-DATE LABORATORY

The Laboratory will provide facilities for testing, in addition to the materials and products tested at present, other products like paints and varnishes, oils, oil-cakes, fuels and food products. The process equipment will consist of such units as crushers and grinders, evaporators, distillation stills, fractioning columns, electric generators for electric-chemical processes, pyrometric equipment, etc. The Geologist's Section will carry out geological surveys of both known and rare mineral deposits in the Province with a view to their economic utilisation.

The expansion of the Industrial Chemist's Section will thus assist industrialists in improving and standardising their products and also help the small and middle-scale industries, since raw materials and finished products will be tested according to standard tests. This organisation will also be useful in testing products purchased for the use of the Government.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

The Government has issued orders for the publication of the reports of the seven sub-committees of the Provincial Industries Committee for the benefit of the public. Those of the following six sub-committees have been published.

- (i) Metals and Engineering Industries Sub-Committee
- (ii) Textile Industries Sub-Committee
- (iii) Chemical Industries Sub-Committee.
- (iv) Food and Forest Industries Sub-Committee
- (v) Miscellaneous Industries Sub-Committee
- (vi) Cottage and Small-scale Industries Sub-Committee.

The report of the special Sub-Committee is being published.

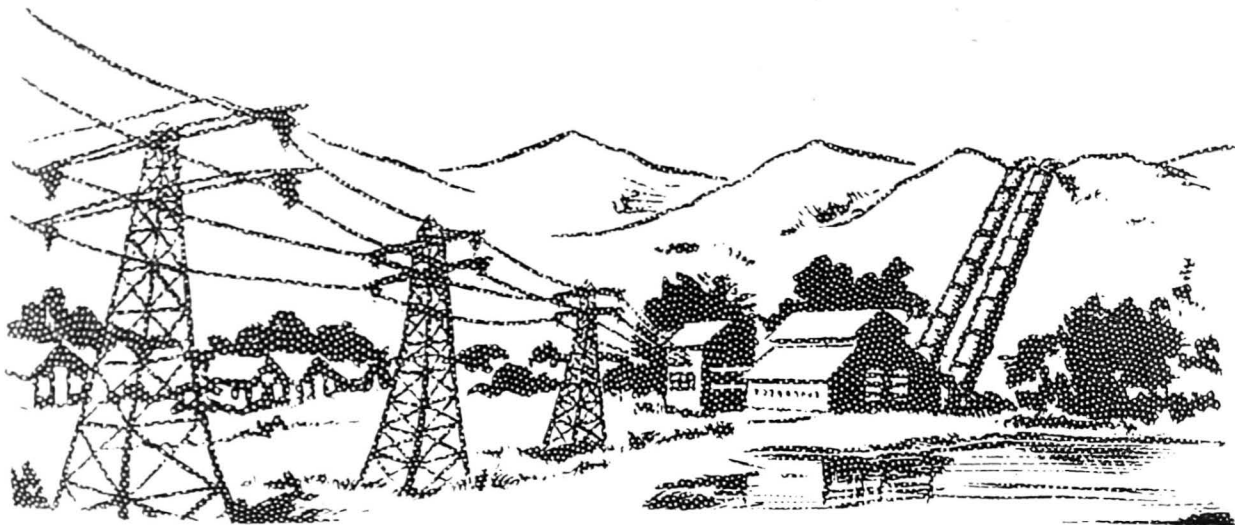
REPORT OF THE TEXTILE RESEARCH CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

The Textile Research Co-ordination Committee appointed by the Government to consider the question of the organisation of a co-ordinated research plan has since submitted its report, which is under the consideration of the Government.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

The work of revising and bringing up-to-date for the use of the public and the Government the Commercial Directory for the Province is being done by the Industries Department. Information relating to import, export and inland trade was collected and collated by this Department from various publications of the Central and Provincial Governments.

PROGRAMME OF ELECTRIFICATION



When the Congress Ministry assumed the reins of Government for the first time in 1937, it started an investigation into the possibilities of extending power supply facilities to the neglected towns and villages of the Province. A rural electrification scheme in the Poona District based on hydro-electric power available at Bhatgar was also undertaken as an experimental measure. Before, however, any other schemes, which had then been either under preparation or consideration could be introduced, the Second World War broke out and the proposed activity was suspended by the war-time administration.

GRID ORGANIZATION

The Electric Grid Department of the Government of Bombay is entrusted with the task of ensuring the co-ordinated development of the supply of electricity within the Province in the most efficient and economical manner, with particular reference to such development in areas not at present served by any licensee. Its main functions may be summarised as follows:

(1) to investigate, plan and execute hydro and thermal electric power schemes and establish Grid Systems in regions which lend themselves to such development economically;

(ii) to establish small diesel stations in isolated townships which have some cottage

industries and which cannot, within reasonable time, be served from Grid lines;

(iii) to promote rapid development of the use of electricity by agriculturists and cottage and small-scale industrialists, especially in the rural areas, by assisting them financially in acquiring utilization equipment on hire-purchase terms.

The Government of India introduced in 1946 in the Central Legislature, the Electricity (Supply) Bill, 1946. Owing to the then impending constitutional changes, further consideration of the Bill had been postponed; but when this measure is passed, the Government of Bombay proposes to set up the Bombay Electricity Board, a semi-autonomous body, which, under the provisions of the Act, will be charged with the work of rationalization and development of electric supply in the Province. The Board will then take over the Grid Department organisation.

INDEX TO PROSPERITY

The part that cheap and abundant supply of electric power can play in the development of a country's agricultural and industrial potential cannot be over-emphasised. The amount of electrical energy used per head of the population in a region is now accepted as an index of its progress, prosperity, and standard of living. The

power generation facilities at the disposal of a country, it has been recognised, indicate its capacity to produce wealth. Please see chart elsewhere in this brochure for the comparative position.

It is, therefore, axiomatic that, with the availability of abundant electric power supply at an economic price in urban and rural areas, not only will the level of employment progressively rise but the average productive capacity of agricultural and industrial workers will also increase appreciably. Supply of electricity to the public is considered all over the world as a basic industry and, without it, material progress would well-nigh be impossible.

While Bombay is well ahead of the other Provinces or States in India, in the matter of electric supply, thanks to the spirit of enterprise of its people, it is far below the level of power development achieved by other progressive countries of the world. For example, although the population of this Province forms only about 1/20th of the total in the country, it accounts for more than a third of electricity generated in the whole of India.

Yet, Bombay's power production, large as it might appear according to Indian standards, is very small indeed when looked at from the world view-point. The generation of electricity per head of the population in the Province is only 63 units per annum as against 1,750 in the U.S.A., 3,170 in Canada, 1,880 in Sweden, 817 in the U.K., 452 in France, 1,810 in Switzerland and 820 in Russia.

PLAN OF EXPANSION

It is now proposed to make electricity available rapidly year by year in progressively large areas of the Province. This is intended to be done under quasi-State control. According to present plans, the total installed capacity of the generating plant in the Province will be increased by about 50 per cent within from eight to nine years. The existing large efficient generating stations and the proposed new ones will be inter-connected wherever practicable by means of high tension transmission lines. This will reduce the need for stand-by generating plant and make it possible to supply electricity in bulk to licensees owning small inefficient generating stations which will be closed down.

The Grid System in the Province is proposed to be built up in co-operation with the existing large undertakings such as the Tatas and the Ahmedabad Electricity Company as well as Baroda State and the B.B. & C.I. and G.I.P. Railways. This will permit the most economic use of power generation and transmission facilities that exist at present as well as those projected in different parts of the Province. The co-operation amongst the organisations mentioned above is expected to prove mutually beneficial and will undoubtedly tend to reduce the cost of electric service in the Province.

The Government, in accordance with its progressive policy indicated above, has blueprinted and put into execution a number of schemes of new installations and expansion of the existing plant. These schemes comprise the North and South Gujarat Grid, the Koyna Hydro-Electric Project in the Satara District, the Kalinadi Hydro-Electricity Project in the Kanara District, the Jog Power Scheme and 21 Townships Nursery Scheme. A brief descriptive note on them will give some idea of their character, scope and utility.

SCHEMES UNDER EXECUTION

(1) North Gujarat Grid Scheme—The general plan of development contemplated under this scheme is that bulk power from the power station of the Ahmedabad Electricity Company at Sabarmati would be received in a Government-owned receiving station located near the Company's power station premises. It has then to be transmitted to Baroda in the south and to Kalol in the north. The works in hand comprise construction of about 70 miles of 66 KV lines, 14 miles of 33,000 volt transmission lines and 50 miles of 11,000 volt transmission lines and about 480 miles of distribution lines.

The main sub-stations are proposed to be set up at Barejadi, Nadiad, Anand, Baroda and Kalol. From the Ahmedabad-Barejadi, Nadiad and Anand sub-stations, an extensive 11 KV system will be put up to cover the territory within a radius of about 20 miles from each station. Hundreds of villages in the Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts appear to be in a position economically to take advantage of the scheme and will, in due course, obtain electricity from the Grid. The

construction of a new power station by the Ahmedabad Electricity Company, initially consisting of two 15,000 KW steam turbo sets, has been negotiated by the Government with the Company and is nearing completion. Arrangements are being made with the Company to order two more 15,000 KW sets to be installed in the new station as early as possible to meet the anticipated increased demand during the next 3 or 4 years. This further extension will bring up the Ahmedabad generation capacity to about 1,00,000 K.Ws.

The order for the construction of the 66|110 KV line from Ahmedabad to Baroda was placed with a firm which has been pushing on with the work. The order for the construction of the 33 and 11 KV lines is under negotiation. The required power transformers and sub-station control gear have already been ordered out. The programme of completion of works as originally prepared has had to be drastically revised in the light of the delivery dates of machinery and equipment in the U.K. According to present indications, it would appear that the distribution of electricity in this region can commence in about two years' time from now.

(2) **South Gujarat Grid Scheme**—This scheme comprises the installation of a steam power station initially comprising 2 turbo alternator sets of 7,500 KW each near Surat for the supply of power in areas from Surat to Bulsar, and the construction of an E. H. T. transmission line over a distance of about 46 miles from Surat to Bulsar. Many villages of Surat, Navsari, Bilimora and Bulsar, situated within a reasonable distance, will then be able to obtain electricity under this scheme.

The site provisionally selected for this purpose is being investigated with regard to its suitability. The B. B. & C. I. Railway authorities have been contacted for providing a railway siding to the proposed site. Tentative designs for power house building, boilerhouse and other civil engineering works have been prepared. The work in connection with preparation of designs, etc. of transmission lines and sub-stations is in hand. Orders for two turbo sets of 7,500 KW each and boilerhouse equipment have already been placed and orders for switch gear and other equipment will be placed shortly. Owing, however, to the recent coal crisis in the United King-

dom, the manufacturers are unable to deliver machinery and equipment within the period previously indicated. The programme of work as originally prepared has, therefore, had to be substantially revised. According to present indications, it appears that supply from the steam station may commence in the beginning of 1950.

ELECTRICITY IN VILLAGES

(3) **Nursery Schemes**—The following schemes are scheduled for completion in the latter half of 1948:

- (1) The establishment of small diesel power stations in the towns of Ratnagiri, Malwan, Vengurla and Chiplun in the Ratnagiri District for local distribution. The generating plant required for each station was ordered out last year and is due for delivery shortly. The power house buildings are under construction. The other work also is progressing satisfactorily.
- (2) The supply of electricity in 22 villages of the Satara Taluka based on power being taken from the existing powerhouse of the Satara Electric Supply Company.
- (3) The supply of electricity in 10 villages of the Bulsar Taluka based on electricity being taken from the existing powerhouse of the Bulsar licensee. Later on, when power becomes available from the Government-owned station at Surat, it will be supplied from that station.

BIG PROJECTS

The schemes under active consideration and likely to be undertaken during the next five years are as follows:

(1) **The Koyna Valley Hydro-Electric Project in the Satara District**—This scheme, when fully developed, is capable of meeting a maximum demand of the order of 2,00,000 KW after reserving part of the stored power supply for irrigation. Initially, about 48,000 KW could be developed economically for supply to the Districts of Poona, Satara, Sholapur, Bijapur and Ratnagiri

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The site provisionally selected for this purpose is being investigated with regard to its suitability. The B. B. & C. I. Railway authorities have been contacted for providing a railway siding to the proposed site. Tentative designs for power house building, boilerhouse and other civil engineering works have been prepared. The work in connection with preparation of designs, etc. of transmission lines and sub-stations is in hand. Orders for two turbo sets of 7,500 KW each and boilerhouse equipment have already been placed and orders for switch gear and other equipment will be placed shortly. Owing, however, to the recent coal crisis in the United King-

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- (3) The supply of electricity in 10 villages of the Bulsar Taluka based on electricity being taken from the existing powerhouse of the Bulsar licensee. Later on, when power becomes available from the Government-owned station at Surat, it will be supplied from that station.

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as required. The electro-chemical industries and other similar loads could be established with advantage near the power station site and the plant progressively developed. In December, 1946, the Government sanctioned detailed investigations and survey work to enable preparation of estimates and designs of works connected with the project. This work is making satisfactory progress. A committee has been appointed by the Government to examine the question of utilising part of the storage for irrigation purposes in the Bijapur District. The possibilities of utilising the tail race waters of the proposed Hydro-Electric Project will also be investigated.

(2) **The Kalinadi Hydro-Electric Project in the Kanara District**—This scheme, when fully developed, is capable of meeting a maximum demand of the order of 80,000 KW. Initially, 20,000 KW may be developed for supply to the Districts of Dharwar, Belgaum and Kanara as required. The preliminary survey work connected with the scheme was sanctioned by the Government in January, 1947. The work has been entrusted to a firm which has to submit its report on the possibilities of power generation from the Kalinadi and its tributaries by the end of this year.

(3) **Utilization of Jog Power**:—In consideration of the consent given by the Government of Bombay to the Government of Mysore for the electric development of the waterfall at Jog under certain conditions, the latter has agreed to supply to the Bombay Government electric power upto 5,000 E.H.P. (3,700 KW) at Jog on reasonable terms to be mutually settled. Investigations are in progress to determine the most advantageous method of utilizing the power available at Jog in the southern part of the Province.

The Tata Hydro-Electric Power Station—The Government has appointed a committee to examine the problem of successful and economic utilization of the Tata Hydro-Electric Power Station, the tail waters of which flow into the Patalganga, Ulhas and Kundalika rivers, etc.

The Committee will (1) explore the possibilities of the development of the Patalganga, Ulhas and Kundalika Valleys by utilizing the tail waters of the Tata Hydro-Electric Power Stations flowing into these rivers, (2) formulate a scheme

for such development, and (3) will guide and supervise their execution.

The Committee will submit its proposals to the Government through the District Rural Development Board, Kolaba. The various schemes suggested by the Committee and sanctioned by the Government will be worked out in detail by the Departments concerned.

DIESEL STATIONS

(4) **Nursery Schemes**—During the next five years, small diesel stations may be established in about 21 townships containing about 2,000 dwelling houses or more and having village industries, the production of which can be appreciably increased by the use of electric power. A list of the towns provisionally selected is given herewith.

| Serial No. | Division | District | Town |
|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | Northern | Ahmedabad | Dholka |
| 2. | " | " | Dhanduka |
| 3. | Central | E. Khandesh | Erandol |
| 4. | " | " | Parola |
| 5. | " | " | Dharangaon |
| 6. | " | " | Shendurni |
| 7. | " | W. Khandesh | Shahade |
| 8. | " | Satara | Islampur |
| 9. | " | " | Peth |
| 10. | " | Sholapur | Akluj |
| 11. | Southern | Belgaum | Chikodi |
| 12. | " | " | Gokak |
| 13. | " | " | Hukkeri |
| 14. | " | " | Konnur |
| 15. | " | " | Sankeshwar |
| 16. | " | " | Bailhongal |
| 17. | " | Bijapur | Guledgud |
| 18. | " | " | Ilkal |
| 19. | " | " | Sulebhavi |
| 20. | " | " | Hungund |
| 21. | " | Dharwar | Gajendragad |

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

As an illustration of the economic benefit accruing to the area having an abundant supply of electricity at a fair price, it may be noted that these 21 small towns covered by the nursery schemes are reported to have about 15,000 handlooms. Even if half of this number is replaced by power looms within the first five years, approximately 43 million yards of additional cloth can be produced each year by the inhabitants of these towns working in their own homes during hours convenient to them.

There is little doubt that people all over the Province keenly await the development of electric supply facilities. Many requests from individuals and representative bodies have been received by the Government during the past two years and they have all urged speedy execution of the electrification schemes. There is a growing demand for power from all quarters and numerous representations have been received also from small and large commercial, agricultural and industrial organisations and public bodies all over the Province, pressing the claims for early electrification by the Government of the various towns and villages of the Province.

POPULAR DEMAND

At the district conferences convened by the

Minister for Excise and Reconstruction, considerable interest was shown by the delegates in the Government's electric development plans. In fact, the public response to, and interest in, the various electrification schemes have assumed embarrassing proportions and the question of satisfying the demand for electricity in all parts of the Province within a reasonable time has presented a serious problem. Owing particularly to the acute shortage of experienced technical personnel and long-term deliveries that are now being offered by manufacturers, rapid execution of schemes is difficult, although every attempt is being made to speed up the work.

FISHERIES



The entire policy of the Government and all the efforts that have been made to develop the Province's fisheries have been marked by a single outstanding objective, viz., that of promoting the socio-economic interests of the classes engaged in this industry.

The Fisheries Department of the Government of Bombay has concentrated its attention on the task of promoting the development of the fishing industry by helping the fishermen, in every possible way, in obtaining their equipment of boats, nets, twine, hooks, coal-tar, etc., and secured training facilities and assistance in organising their industry on scientific, progressive and modern lines. The requirements particularly of expeditious transport to and from fishing grounds,

landing sites and marketing centres are of the utmost importance, as fish is a highly perishable commodity, and the Government has been exerting itself to the fullest in meeting these and other requirements so vital to the progress of the fishing industry.

DEEP-SEA FISHING

To facilitate the operations of deep-sea fishing which are essential for improving production in the fishing industry, the special vessel, 'Tapase' named after the Fisheries Minister, 52' long and equipped with a 160-B.H.P. engine was built and it is being manned entirely by members of the fishermen's community. The vessel started work in March, 1947 with the use of drift nets, making

37 voyages and landing 2½ tons of fish valued at Rs. 3,300 till the end of May. The catches comprised black pomfret, mackerel and small shark. The shark livers were used for manufacturing shark liver oil. The scheme of deep-sea fishing is being financed by the Government of India, which shares half the expenditure.

The Government of India has made the appointment of the Superintending Engineer, Deep-Sea Fishing Scheme, with headquarters in Bombay and the naval vessel, 'Berar', now renamed 'Meena', has been purchased and is being converted into a trawler under the supervision of this officer. Another motor trawler, 'Ela', has been purchased by the Indian Government and both the vessels will be operated from Bombay and employ improved fishing methods. Trawl nets, purse seine nets and Danish seine nets will be tried all along the Bombay Coast.

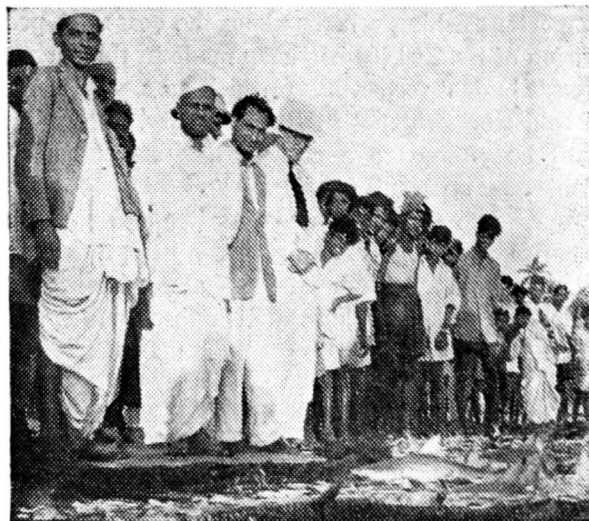
IMPROVED FISHING CRAFT

The Department has constructed two 45-foot vessels fitted with engines and they will be offered to fishermen's associations or co-operatives on a subsidy-cum-loan basis. If the vessels prove successful, it is proposed to build 30 more during the next five years; and they will then be available for use at many of the fishing centres and enable fishermen to cruise over a wider area in search of catches. The total cost of the vessels is estimated at Rs. 8,00,000.

CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATION

The fishermen have realised the value of co-operative organisation. A co-operative society with an authorised capital of Rs. 50,000, of which Rs. 18,000 was paid up immediately, was formed at Binga in the Karwar Taluka. The society has purchased a 72-foot launch at a cost of Rs. 50,000 for transport purposes and the catches of the members of the society can be carried to Bombay. The Government has extended financial aid to the extent of Rs. 40,000 to the society, out of which Rs. 30,000 are treated as a loan repayable in easy instalments, while the balance of Rs. 10,000 has been treated as a subsidy.

Fishermen's societies are being formed at Majali, Mandangad and Kodibag, while similar societies have already been established at Bag-



Mr. G. D. Tapase, Minister for Fisheries, amongst the fishermen at Karwar in the Kanara District. Seen in the picture is a shoal of fish dragged in by a rampan net.

mandla, Jaitapur and Vijaydurga in the Ratnagiri District with a membership of 1,100 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 32,000. This society is to be converted into a multi-purpose society with a capital of Rs. one lakh and will supply credit, take land for improvement and contribute to village improvement activities.

A society has been formed at Danda village in the Bombay Suburban District, while similar societies are being formed at Lower Colaba in Bombay City and Uttan in the Thana District. These societies will receive Government help for the acquisition of motor launches, trucks, ice plants, etc.

A loan of Rs. 20,000 was also advanced to the Akhil Koli Samaj Parishad Fishery Producers' Co-operative Society to enable it to purchase twine from a Bombay mill.

REFRIGERATION FACILITIES

The Fisheries Department has helped several owners of ice factories to set up 6 new plants at Bombay and Bassein by facilitating the release of machinery, building materials and supply of adequate water and energy for the use of their plant.

The Department has also prepared a scheme, as part of its five-year development plan, of esta-

blishing ice factories and cold storage plant in important fishing centres along the coast. A provision of Rs. 2,00,000 has been made in the current year's budget for setting up such an ice plant and a cold storage depot in Bombay City. The plant will be offered to a co-operative association of fishermen on a subsidy-cum-loan basis. It is also proposed to construct a five-ton ice and cold storage plant every year during the next five years at important fishing centres along the coast. The cost of each plant will approximately be Rs. 1,20,000.

HARBOUR AND OTHER FACILITIES

The Department has secured from the Bombay Port Trust storage space for the fishing companies and fishermen's associations. The Department has also been trying to have bigger and better fish-markets built in Bombay City and other important cities and towns.

Facilities for improved transport are being provided and the Department got two dozen motor trucks released and sold at controlled prices to fishermen. Assistance has also been given to fishermen's societies and co-operative associations in obtaining twine, sail cloth, timber, coal-tar, hooks and other implements and raw materials and implements essential to their occupation.



Success of the fresh water fish flattening experiment is gauged by the weight that fish put on within a given period. Picture shows a fish on the scales

LOANS AND SUBSIDIES

During the year under review, improved facilities for obtaining loans brought in a large number of applications and the loans disbursed during the period amounted to Rs. 1,69,625 including the loans sanctioned to co-operative societies and associations.

A subsidy of Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned to the Binga association and another of Rs. 990 in cash and Rs. 365 in timber to seven fishermen of Korlai, where huts had been blown off in a storm in February, 1947. A similar subsidy of Rs. 400 was granted to a fisherman of Karanji in the Kolaba District and another of Rs. 200 to one in Deobag in the Ratnagiri District for carrying out repairs to their boats which had been severely damaged by storm.

FISHERIES SCHOOLS

In addition to the four existing schools at Ratnagiri, Karwar, Ankola and Satpati, additional schools are being established at Kolak and Umar-sadi in the Surat District, Mitbao, Jaitapur and Deobag in the Ratnagiri District and at Majali in the Kanara District. Still more schools are proposed to be established and a budget provision of Rs. 1,19,400 has been made during the year for this purpose.

FOREIGN TRAINING

The Government has selected two students drawn from the fishermen's community for technological training abroad and a provision of Rs. 30,000 has been made for meeting this expenditure. The candidates are undergoing preparatory training in the University Department of Chemical Technology and the Government has agreed to bear an expenditure of Rs. 800 on account of their fees during the current year.

TRAINING OF APPRENTICES

The scheme of training apprentices drawn from the fishermen's community has been extended and the stipends granted are increased from five to ten and the amount of the stipend also increased from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month.

Another scheme for training navigators has also been introduced and five monthly stipends of Rs. 30 each have been sanctioned for the purpose.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Mr. and the late Mrs. Vicaji D. B. Taraporevala have made the generous donation of Rs. 2,00,000 to the Government for the establishment of an aquarium which could, in addition to other agencies, furnish facilities for biological research and investigation. The Government, in accepting the donation, has allotted, free of cost, a spacious and valuable plot of land situated on the Marine Drive in Bombay City for constructing it. The aquarium building is estimated to cost Rs. 7,05,000 and a provision for Rs. 2,00,000 has been made during the current year. Its foundation stone was laid by the Premier of Bombay on May 9, 1947, and the work is expected to be completed by April, 1949.

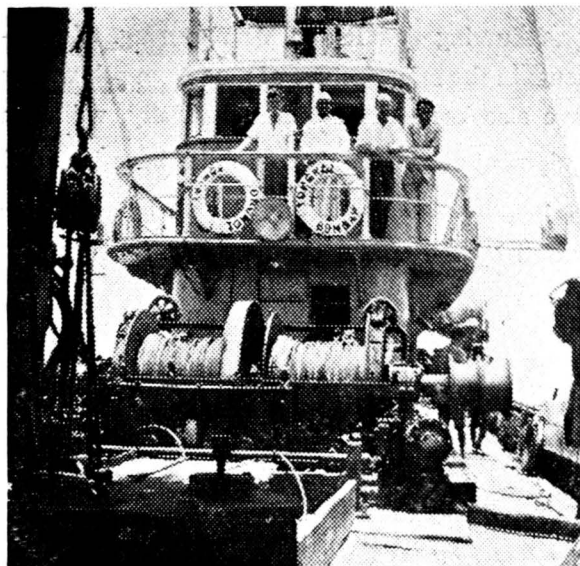
Provision has also been made for organising facilities for scientific research in fisheries through the establishment of marine biological research stations at Ratnagiri and Karwar. The scheme, included in the Post-war Reconstruction Programme, involves a capital expenditure of Rs. 2,30,000 and an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 73,500.

FISH CURING YARDS

The Department controls 20 fish curing yards in the Ratnagiri District and 14 in the Kanara District. The yards supply duty-free salt to fish curers. Both the quantity of fish cured and the sales of salt have increased considerably in recent years since the yards were transferred to the Department in 1936. A three-year scheme costing Rs. 8,45,950 for improvement of the facilities at the yards has been sanctioned by the Government.

FISH FARMS

A provision of Rs. 75,000 has been made for establishing a fish farm at Khopoli for scientific observation of fresh-water fish; and similar farms are to be established at Poona, Ahmedabad and other convenient centres at a total cost of Rs. 2,25,000. The scheme for the stocking of fresh-water sheets in this Province, at a total non-recurring cost of Rs. 5,000, is to be introduced immediately.



The 'Tongcol' is one of the two trawlers operating in our waters. The vessel, now in use for about a year, specialises in catching fish which usually hug the floor of the sea. Seen in the picture second from left is Mr. G. D. Tapase, Minister for Fisheries, together with the Captain of the vessel, who is at the Minister's left

BOMBAY LABORATORY

A technological laboratory has been established in Bombay at a cost of Rs. 50,000 and shark liver oil is manufactured out of the neat liver oil received from extraction centres established along the Ratnagiri and Kanara coasts. The necessary laboratory equipment has been imported at a cost of Rs. 12,000. During the period under review, 1,712 gallons of shark liver oil valued at Rs. 20,664 were manufactured and large quantities of it were supplied to the Surgeon-General and the Haffkine Institute. The Department is contemplating marketing a shark liver oil concentrate and a scheme for organising publicity for the Department's products at an annual recurring cost of Rs. 13,572 has been sanctioned and it will be introduced next year.

INDUSTRIALISATION OF FISH

A scheme for the manufacture of gelatin from fish maws has been sanctioned for two years,

in the first instance, at an annual cost of Rs. 12,000 non-recurring and Rs. 11,900 recurring. Experiments in the manufacture of glue from fish wastes have also been conducted successfully, while an equipment at a cost of Rs. 4,000 has been installed for manufacturing fish meal which has been approved by the Central Poultry Farm, Poona and

the Military Farm, Delhi. Both of these Farms have placed an order for its supply.

A process for the isolation of the fibrous material from shark fins has been evolved. The fins are valued by the Chinese and they can also be utilised for the manufacture of glue and gelatine.

LABOUR



THE Factories Act was further amended by the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1947, which was inserted in the new Section, 33-A. This additional section empowers the Provincial Governments to frame rules requiring that, in any specified factory in which more than 250 workers are ordinarily employed, an adequate canteen for the use of workers shall be provided. The question of drafting the rules based on the new section of the Act is being considered by the Government.

The proviso to Section 34 of the Factories Act was also amended by the Amendment Act bringing in seasonal factories engaged on work which, for technical reasons, must be continuous throughout the day, in line with the non-seasonal factories.

HOLIDAYS WITH PAY

Under the explanation to Section 49B(2) of the Factories Act, 1934, any interruption in service of a worker due to sickness, accident or authorised leave up to a period of 90 days in the aggregate for all the three and interruption due to intermittent involuntary unemployment upto 30 days during the period of his 12 months' service is allowed.

But absence due to unauthorised leave even for a day was considered as a break in service and service was to be counted afresh after such breaks. This restriction had created considerable discontent and, as a result, there were strikes in some of the textile mills in Bombay City, although the Millowners' Association, Bombay, had circulated

its member-mills to condone unauthorised absence upto 24 days. Since the workers were not happy about the provision, the Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh approached the Government for taking remedial action in the matter. The Government of India was then approached for the necessary amendment to the Act.

In the meantime, the Labour Minister took up the question with the Millowners' Association, Bombay, and, as a result of the discussion he held, it has been agreed in respect of the years 1945 and 1946 that, until such time as the Act is suitably amended, all workers who worked for 230 days in the year should be considered eligible for the holiday. In cases where there was involuntary unemployment, a further concession, subject to a maximum of 26 working days, should be granted. The Government of Bombay has urged all employers in the Province to adopt this basis for determining the eligibility of workers for holidays with pay under the Act.

ACCIDENTS

A 35-mm. talkie film demonstrating the right way and the wrong way employed for the prevention of accidents in the engineering industry is being prepared with the help of a local cinema-studio at a cost of nearly Rs. 10,000. The film will be reduced to the 16-mm. size also. The languages of the talkie will be English, Hindustani, Marathi and Gujarati.

COMPLAINTS

Two hundred and fifty nine complaints under the Factories Act, 272 under the Payment of Wages Act and one under the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act were received upto June 30, 1947.

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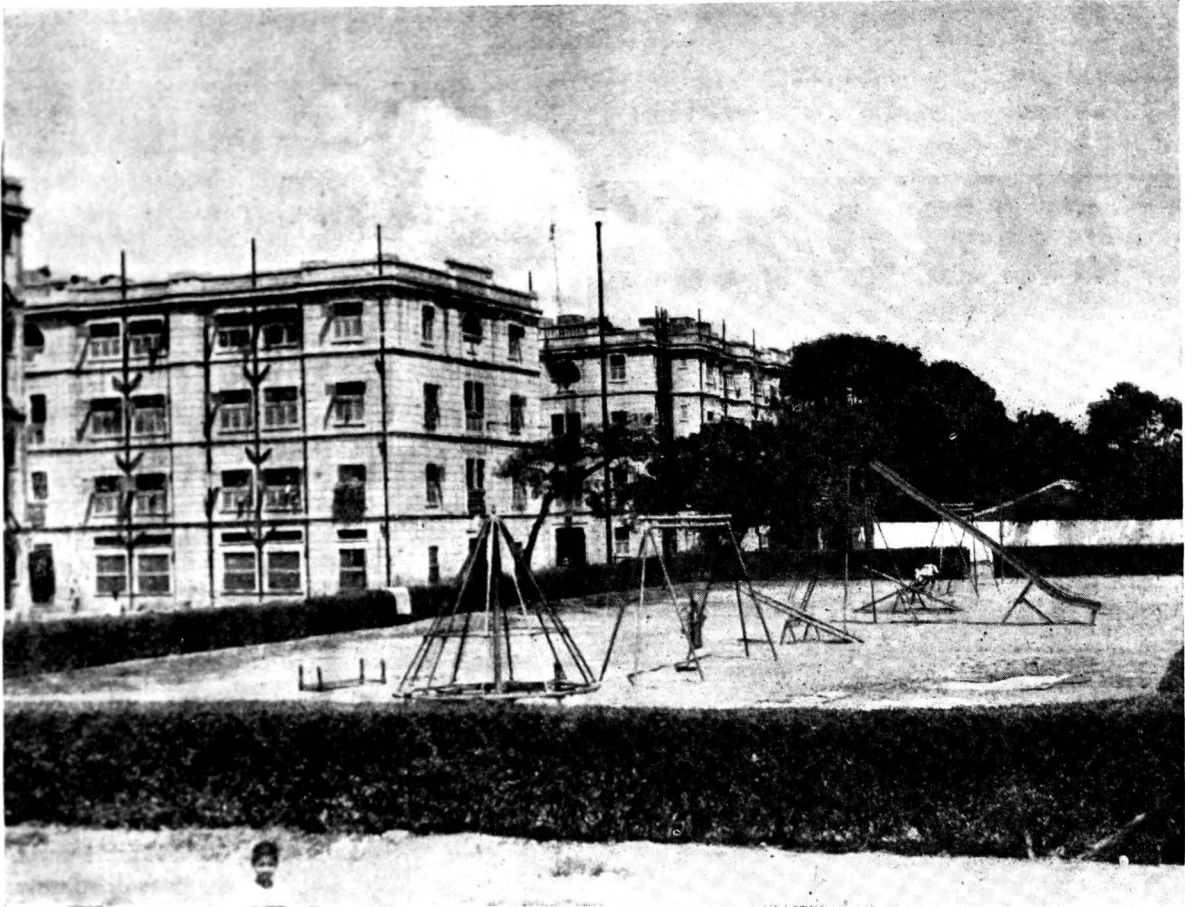
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A view of the children's playground at the Worli Labour Welfare Centre, Bombay

Most of the Factories Act complaints related to questions of holidays with pay.

EXEMPTIONS TO FACTORIES

The exemptions from the application of the Factories Act introduced have been drastically cut down and, during the period of six months ending June 30, 1947, 64 exemptions were granted to factories to meet the exceptional pressure of work.

PROSECUTIONS

Seventy cases were taken up during the period of six months ending June 30, 1947. Out of these, 29 were decided, while the remaining ones are pending. The fines imposed ranged from Rs. 20 to Rs. 1,000 and totalled Rs. 5,645.

THE ADIVASI INQUIRY

In April 1947, the Premier of Bombay made an announcement at Mahalaxmi outlining the Government's policy towards the Adivasis of the Thana District. The announcement promised the establishment of permanent machinery for fixation of wages, settlement of wage disputes and other questions. An Adivasi Consultative Committee was accordingly set up to make recommendations regarding the implementation of the announcement. The Committee decided on a preliminary sample inquiry in the Dahanu Taluka into the conditions of work and wages of the Adivasis. The inquiry was completed between May 30 and June 4. A note regarding the inquiry and a report on the permanent machinery to be set up were submitted to the Government in the first week of July. The report at the moment is under the consideration of the Government.

HOUSING ENQUIRY

As directed by the Minister for Labour and Housing, a sample inquiry into working-class housing in Bombay City was conducted by the Directorate of Labour Information from April 15 to July 12, 1947, with the help of investigators specially appointed for the purpose. About 2,200 have been collected mainly from the E F and G Wards which are the major working-class areas. The Rent Inquiry Committee appointed by the Government in 1938 dealt with only private premises; but the present inquiry covers facilities provided by the public bodies, Government, railways and other employers. The findings of the inquiry will be submitted to the Government shortly.

BOMBAY SHOPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

The Government had appointed Mr. R. R. Bakhale, B.A., M.L.C., to conduct an inquiry into the working of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939, and to make recommendations, if necessary, for improving the administrative and substantive provisions of the Act, having regard to the needs and interests of all sections of the population affected by the Act. Mr. Bakhale, in view of his poor health and at his own request, was relieved of this work and the Government has appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Shantilal H. Shah, M.L.C., as Chairman, Mr. R. R. Bakhale, M.L.C., and Mr. Chimanlal C. Shah, J.P., as members.

HOURS OF WORK IN FACTORIES

The Factories Act, 1934 has been amended with effect from August 1, 1946, reducing the weekly and daily hours of work both in seasonal and non-seasonal factories. The amendment reduces the maximum weekly and daily hours of work to 49 and 9, respectively, in the case of non-seasonal factories, and 50 and 10, respectively, in the case of seasonal factories. Under the same amendment, the spread-over of the hours of work together with rest intervals has been reduced from 13 to 10½ hours, in the case of non-seasonal factories, and 11½ hours, in the case of seasonal factories. Directions have been issued by the Government of Bombay to the Factory Department to take all necessary steps to enforce this amendment.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS INQUIRY COMMITTEE

The Government of Bombay has appointed a Committee to investigate labour conditions obtaining in important industrial establishments in Bombay City, the Bombay Suburban District and the East and West Khandesh Districts. An interim report of the Committee on the cotton textile industry in Khandesh has now been published. The Committee in its report on the cotton textile industry in Khandesh was of the opinion that there has now been a definite or even considerable fall in production since the end of the war, a fall mainly due to strikes and hartals and to the removal of war-time incentive towards maximum production and partially to stoppages on account of coal shortages, mechanical breakdowns and other causes. The Committee recommended, among other things, that (a) the war-time propaganda in favour of maximum production should be continued and intensified; (b) a radical change was necessary in the attitude of the management and the workers and that in pursuance of this policy, Works Committees should be established which the management should consult on day-to-day working; (c) the



A ladies' sewing class at a Labour Welfare Centre in Bombay

wages should be standardised and a maximum wage introduced; (d) the bonus and dearness allowance should be paid in kind (as far as the rationing system would permit) and there should be a provision for amenities; (e) the management should make arrangements for decently housing the workers; and (f) a mill labour officer—enjoying a free and independent status—should be appointed, if necessary, by the Government.

SHOLAPUR HANDLOOM WEAVERS

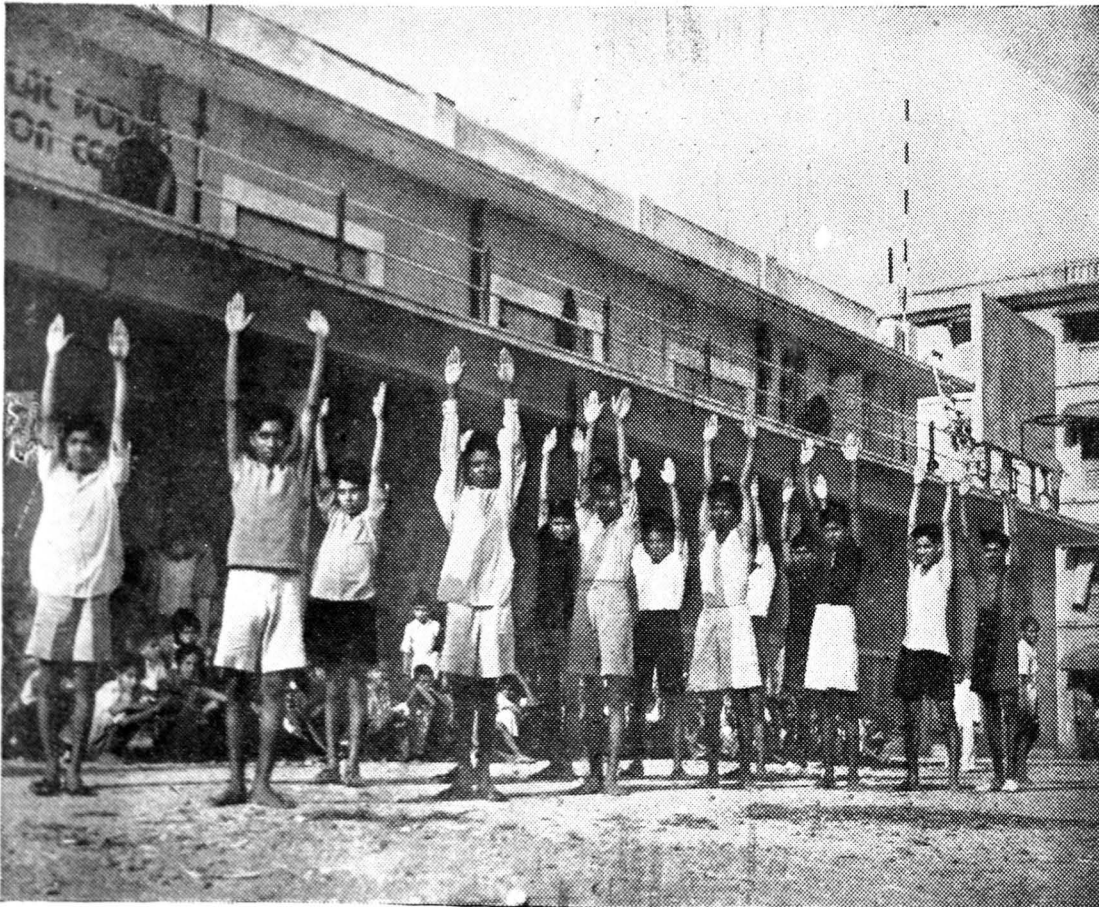
The Government has appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. V. B. Sathe, M.A., LL.B., for inquiring into the causes of discontent among handloom weavers in Sholapur and investigating their conditions of work and life.

PROVINCIAL LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD

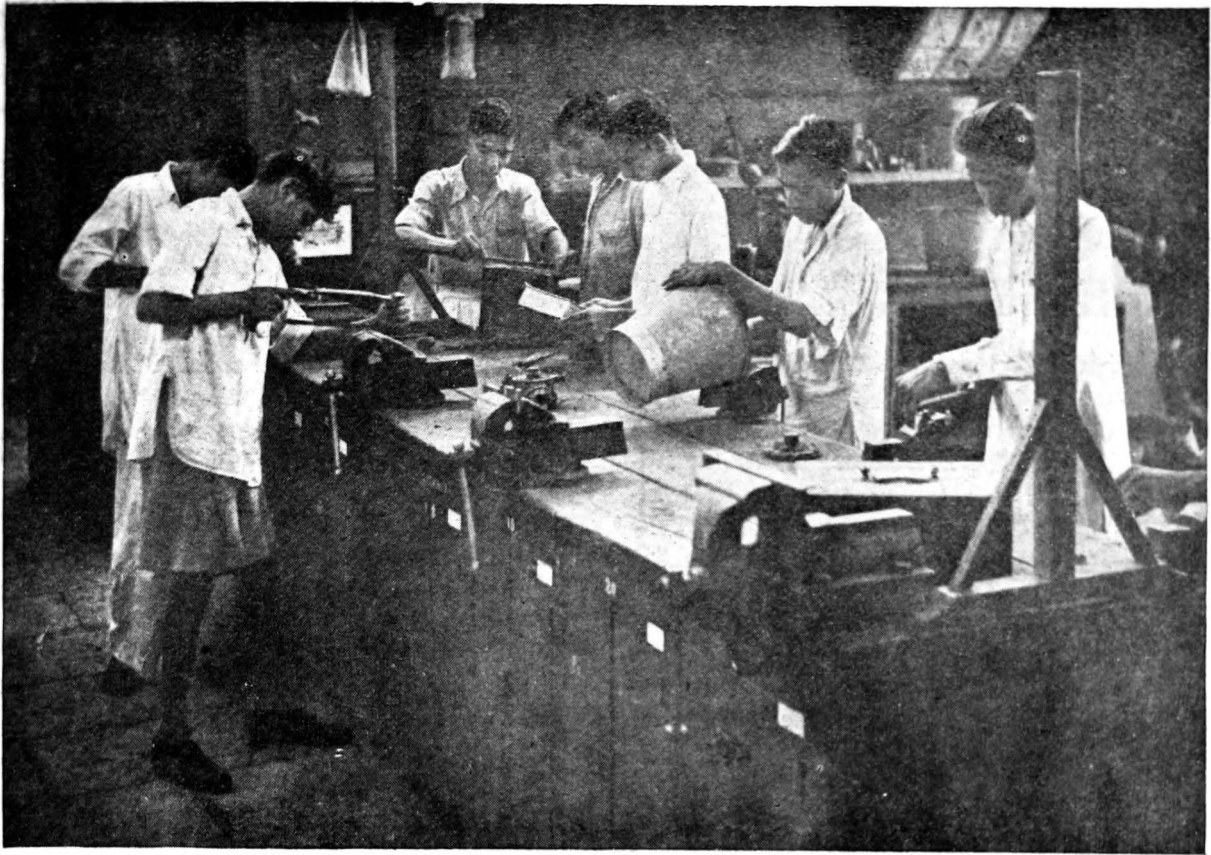
The Government has appointed a Provincial Labour Advisory Board to advise on all matters

affecting the interests of labour, and in particular, relations between employers and employees. The Board consists of the Minister of Labour as Chairman and representatives of consumers, labour, industry, and commerce, as well as certain officials. The Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political and Services Department (Labour), is the Secretary of the Board.

The first meeting of the Board was held in Bombay on May 16 and 17, 1947. The subjects discussed included the working of the three-shift system in mills, illegal strikes, employment exchanges, the decasualisation scheme for textile workers, holidays with pay under the Factories Act, 1934, labour welfare schemes, the training of labour welfare workers and the classification of trade unions and industries under the B. I. R. Act. The Board passed resolutions on three-shift working, illegal strikes and sit-down or stay-in strikes.



Children taking physical exercise in the open air at the DeLisle Road Centre, Bombay.



The Fitting Section is busily engaged in work at the Industrial Training Workshop, Ahmedabad,

On the question of the three-shift working, the Board recommended that, in view of the findings of the Textile Labour Inquiry Committee that night work had had injurious effects on the health and social life of the workers, such three-shift working, involving work after midnight, should be avoided. The Committee, however, recognised that there might exist exceptional circumstances justifying the three-shift system.

INCREASE IN CLOTH PRODUCTION

The Board, further, was of the opinion that there was a very substantial scope for increase in the supply of cloth without introducing the third shift. The Board also recommended certain safeguards for adoption in cases where the working of the shift might be necessary in exceptional circumstances. On the question of illegal strikes and sit-down or stay-in strikes, the Board suggested that, among steps to remove the causes of such strikes, it was desirable that the conditions

under which workers had to perform their duties should be made acceptable to them in the largest possible degree and that these conditions should conform to uniform minimum standards. The Board also recommended that the workers should be provided with amenities on an approved and uniform scale, and that, for this purpose, a code should be prepared for adoption by employers.

The treatment of workers, the resolution continued, should be such as to avoid giving rise to irritation and friction. For this purpose, the management should keep in close touch with the joint committees which should be set up and discuss with them all matters relating to the welfare of workers and their grievances. The Board was also of the opinion that the Government, besides taking all such steps as could bring about better understanding between employers and employees, should ensure that all disputes are dealt with expeditiously at all stages and that a responsible officer of the Government be made available

to the parties to investigate promptly into the causes of stoppages of work and to bring about speedy settlement of disputes.

REORGANISATION OF LABOUR OFFICE

The office of the Commissioner of Labour was constituted in 1933 in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour. As the work connected with labour problems had increased in volume, it was decided to reorganise the Labour Department.

The offices of the Commissioner of Labour, the Labour Officer, Bombay, and the Director of Labour Welfare were reorganised into three Directorates: (1) The Directorate of Labour Administration, (2) The Directorate of Labour Information and, (3) The Directorate of Labour Welfare, each under a Director as a permanent measure with effect from March 1, 1947.

The Directorate of Labour Administration is in charge of matters connected with trade disputes, trade unions under the Trade Unions Act and the administration of laws till now administered by the Commissioner of Labour. The Directorate of Labour Information is in charge of (1) compilation of statistics relating to employment, trade unions, workmen's compensation, industrial disputes, etc, (2) Socio-economic inquiries relating to the cost of living, wages and family budgets, and (3) the preparation and production of "The Labour Gazette". The Directorate of Labour Welfare is in charge of the labour welfare activities of the Government and also the work till now carried out by the Government Labour Officer.

BOMBAY INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ACT

The provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, which so far applied to the textile industry, were made applicable to the business of banking companies in the Province of Bombay as well as the concerns engaged in the conduct and maintenance of public transport services by omnibus and tram and those which supply electricity within Bombay Municipal limits.

SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

A number of disputes outside the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act regarding the workers'

demands for wage increases, grant of dearness allowance or bonus or reinstatement of workers discharged or retrenched, etc. were investigated by the Labour Office. Out of 100 such disputes investigated by this office during the period from April, 1946 to July, 1947, 72 were settled as a result of informal discussions with the parties. In 12 cases, the demands were either withdrawn or were not pressed further by the representatives of workers or employees after the issues involved were discussed with the parties. In the remaining cases, no settlement was possible. During the period, 36 disputes were referred for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules and Section 10 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, after the lapse of the Defence of India Rules.

During the same period, 24 disputes were referred to the Industrial Court for arbitration under Section 49 A of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act.

Details of important disputes are set out below.

STANDARDISATION OF WAGES

Following the references of the disputes in the cotton textile industry in the City of Bombay regarding increase and standardisation of wages, etc., to the Industrial Court for arbitration last year, demands for the fixation of a minimum wage and standardisation of wages were made by the cotton textile workers at other centres, viz., Sholapur, Ahmedabad, Khandesh, Surat and Broach.

As the conciliation proceedings held in the disputes resulted in failure, the Government referred the disputes of the workers of Sholapur, Ahmedabad, Broach and Jalgaon to the Industrial Court for arbitration under Section 49A of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, while the parties to the disputes at Surat and Chalisgaon voluntarily submitted the disputes to the Industrial Court under Section 43 of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act.

The Industrial Court has given an interim award in respect of the dispute in the City of Bombay mentioned above. The award has fixed a minimum monthly wage of Rs. 30 and has also settled a standardised list of basic wages for

employees in the cotton textile industry in the City.

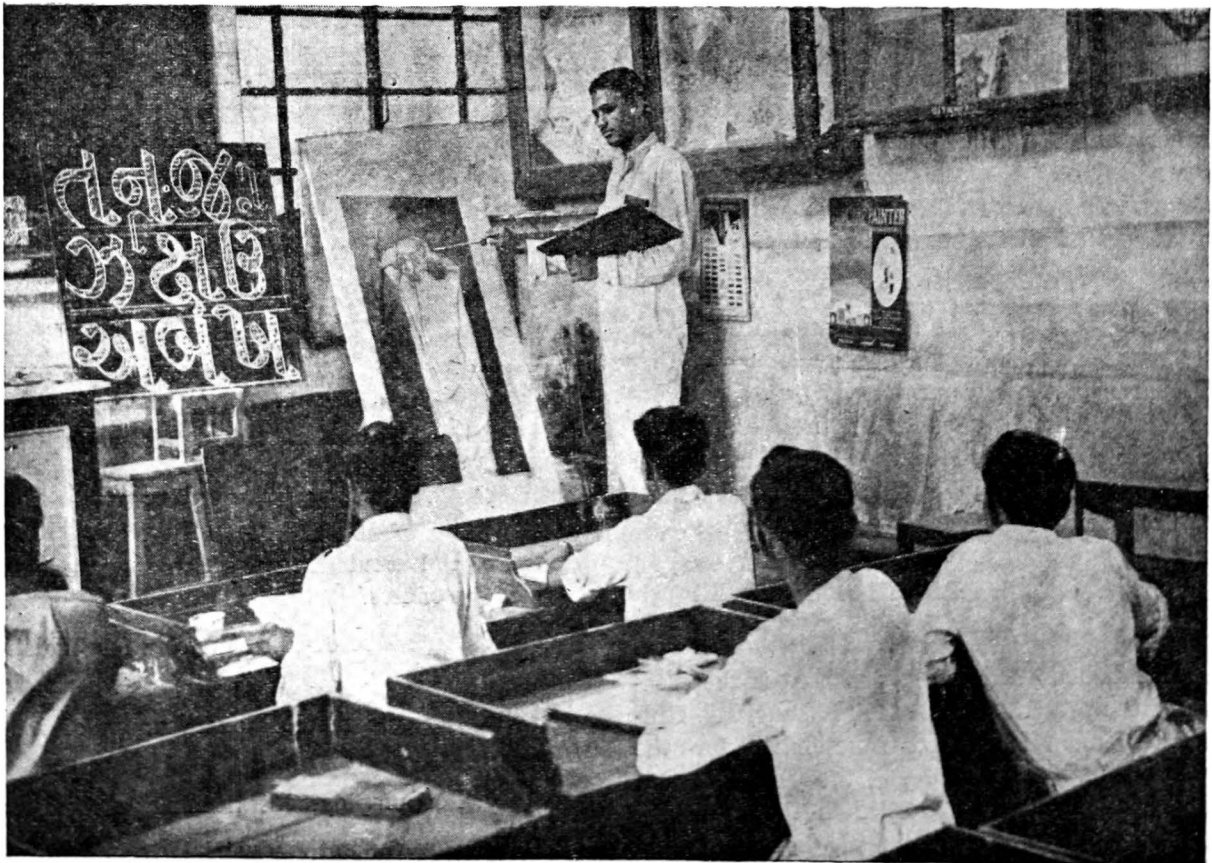
BANK EMPLOYEES

The employees of 30 banking companies in the City of Bombay, who had organised themselves, had made a number of demands including those of recognition of their unions, scales of pay, increases in dearness allowance, payment of gratuity, etc. on their respective managements. Informal conciliation was attempted in the disputes, but did not succeed. The threatened strike, which would have seriously affected an essential service was, however, averted by the Government making the provisions of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act applicable to the business of banking companies and referring the disputes to the Industrial Court for arbitration. The Court gave its award in April, 1947. Shortly afterwards, a demand was made by the employees of seven banking companies of Ahmedabad for

making the award applicable to them as well and that dispute also was referred to the Industrial Court for arbitration.

B. E. S. T. EMPLOYEES

Another important dispute, which was referred for adjudication during the period, was that of the employees of the B. E. S.T. Co., Ltd., Bombay. As the Company was being taken over by the Bombay Municipality, the workers had demanded a 50 per cent. share in the goodwill money along with increases in wages, consolidation and dearness allowance with basic salary, etc. The parties could not, however, come to any settlement and the dispute was referred to adjudication under Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules. In spite of the efforts made by the Government to persuade the workers to avail themselves of the adjudication machinery for a peaceful settlement of their dispute, the workers resorted to a strike on March 24, 1947, paralysing the trans-



A view of the Spray-Painting Section of the Workshop

port system of the City. The strike continued until April 16, 1947 when the workers resumed work unconditionally.

NON-FACTORY EMPLOYEES

One of the notable features during this period was the incidence of a large number of disputes concerning non-factory employees, e.g., clerical employees of various commercial establishments, workers of salt pans, municipalities, etc. Mention has been made above of the reference of the dispute of employees of banks to arbitration. The clerical employees of other commercial establishments had also organised themselves into unions and made several demands on their respective managements and even resorted to strike to force their demands in certain cases, e.g., the employees of the Imperial Chemical Industries, the Bombay Life Insurance Co., Ltd., the Empire of India Life Assurance Co., Ltd., etc. Of the 36 disputes referred to adjudication, 11 concerned the clerical employees of different commercial and other establishments.

After a successful strike by the inferior staff of the Bombay Municipality in April 1946 for enforcing their demands in respect of scales of pay, better leave facilities, house rent allowance, etc., similar demands were made by the inferior staff of the Kalyan, Ahmedabad and Kaira Municipalities. They were referred to adjudication, as no settlement was otherwise possible.

During this period, the large body of workers scattered over the areas of different salt-pans in the Thana District, the Bombay Suburban District, Uran in the Kolaba District, etc., had organised and made demands on their employers. As a result of the growing unrest, the disputes in 36 salt-pans at Bhyandar, Thana, etc. and 8 salt-pans at Uran were referred for adjudication.

WELFARE OF LABOUR AND OTHER EMPLOYEES

The Labour Welfare Department is the creation of the present Minister for Labour, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda. It started functioning for the first time in the beginning of the year 1939 and rapidly extended its activities in the industrial cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, and Hubli. The present Minister for Labour had previously been in charge of the Department for

some years in the capacity of Honorary Commissioner for Amenities to Industrial Labour till he severed his connection with it towards the end of 1941.

NEW AND AMBITIOUS SCHEME

During the Section 93 regime, there was no development of the activities of the Department. But the return to and resumption of office by the Popular Ministry in April 1946 saw a revival and extension of its activities. Plans for future development were prepared and a number of very useful scheme formulated with a view to implementing the labour policy of the Government of Bombay. In all, 36 different schemes were prepared and forwarded to the Government for its approval. Out of these, five schemes were eliminated and the rest approved for incorporation in the revised Five-Year Plan. The schemes approved are:—

1. The completion of the 'A' type Labour Welfare Centre at Sholapur.
2. Additions and alterations to the Recreation Centre at Ahmedabad.
3. The expansion of cinema activities of the Labour Welfare Department.
4. The establishment of 15 additional 'C' type centres, six each in Bombay City and Ahmedabad and three in Sholapur.
5. The establishment of one 'B' type centre each at Broach, Amalner, Viramgam, Surat, Jalgaon, Dhulia, Nadiad, and and three such centres in Bombay.
6. The opening of an additional 'A' type centre at Ahmedabad and Sholapur.
7. The construction of a swimming pool at Worli.
8. Universal literacy among industrial workers.
9. Anti-tuberculosis sanatoria for industrial workers.
10. Periodic medical examination of industrial workers.
11. Post-employment training.
12. Government industrial training workshops in Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and the Karnatak.



Apprentices at work in the Smithy Section of the Government Industrial Training Workshop at Ahmedabad

13. Adult education (general).
14. Adult education (technical).
15. Co-operative societies for housing, banking, credit stores and canteens.
16. Scholarships for higher studies for children of industrial workers.
17. Pre-employment training.
18. Charkha classes.
19. Holiday homes for industrial labour.
20. Convalescent homes for industrial labourers.
21. Aid to social institutions (including gymnastic clubs) conducted by industrial workers.
22. The opening of reading rooms and circulating library posts.
23. The production of films.
24. Workers' school for citizenship and trade unionism.
25. Employment bureaux.
26. Supervision of welfare work in factories.
27. The construction of a workers' recreation playground, Bombay.
28. Four 'B' type centres each at Poona, Gadag, Gokak and Chalisgaon.
29. The construction of a creche building attached to the 'A' type centre at Sholapur.
30. The housing of industrial workers; and
31. School for training labour welfare workers.

Out of these, some 16 schemes are to be taken up during the first year of the Five-year Plan.

WHAT THE CENTRES OFFER

At present the Labour Welfare Department conducts 31 different types of Labour Welfare

Centres in the Province of Bombay. These include the four additional 'C' type Labour Welfare Centres started during the period under review at Jalgaon, Amalner, Dhulia and Chalisgaon. The place, type and number of the Centres are:—

| Place | 'A' Type | 'C' Type | 'D' Type |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bombay | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Ahmedabad | 1 | 4 | - |
| Sholapur | 1 | 5 | - |
| Hubli | - | 1 | - |
| Jalgaon | - | 1 | - |
| Amalner | - | 1 | - |
| Dhulia | - | 1 | - |
| Chalisgaon | - | 1 | - |
| | 5 | 22 | 4 |

An 'A' type Centre consists of a big pavilion with an auditorium and a stage for theatrical performances, a gymnasium and separate shower-baths for men and women. It provides facilities for both indoor and outdoor games, sports and other activities. There is also special provision in it for a children's playground with the necessary equipment. There are no 'B' type Centres at present but they are going to be established under the Post-war Plan. They will be a replica, on a smaller scale, of the 'A' type Centres. The 'C' type Centres, which are housed in hired buildings, provide for indoor activities including sports, while the 'D' type Centres are playgrounds in the open which provide for outdoor sports and games only.

The activities at the Centres are many and varied and they offer a wide range of facilities for recreation and instruction, and provide unlimited scope for human interest and endeavour. These are entertainments by visual aids such as the cinema, the epidiascope and the magic lantern; exhibitions with pictures, posters and charts; drama, music, indoor games, outdoor games, gymnastics, children's playground, medical aid; reading room, library, literacy classes; training in alternative occupations, charkha classes; welfare and anti-drink propaganda, special activities for women and children, like nursery schools, sewing classes, women's socials; preparation of films, slides, etc; and circulating libraries, hand-written

magazines, debates, picnics, outings, sports competitions, etc.

INSTRUCTION AND SERVICE

Exhibitions are an effective instrument of mass education. When supplemented with an entertainment programme, they invariably attract a large number of people from the surrounding areas. During the period under review, seven exhibitions—two in Bombay, four in Ahmedabad and one in Sholapur—were organised. The exhibition organised at Worli in Bombay was opened by the Minister for Labour, while the one held at Naigaum in the same city was inaugurated by the Minister for Health, Dr. M. D. D. Gilder. In all 20,645 persons took advantage of and attended these exhibitions.

The Welfare Centres at Worli and DeLisle Road in Bombay had formed peace committees during the uneasy and disturbed days of riots in the city in order to help people live in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

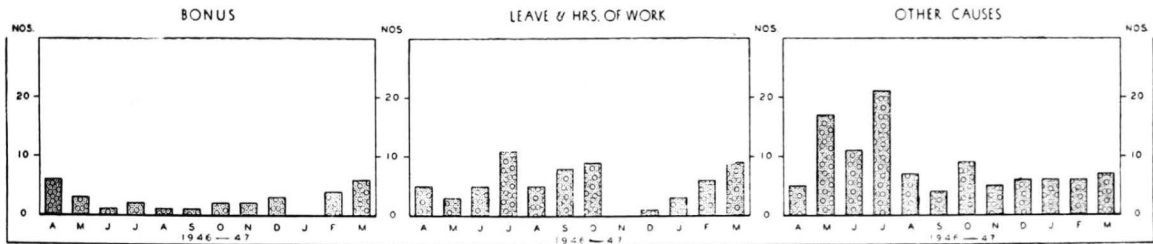
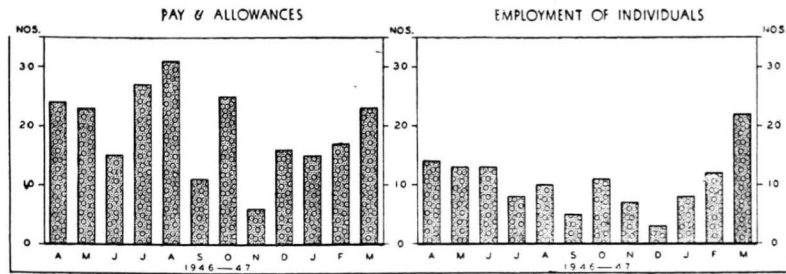
The Department also assisted in setting up workers' housing consultative committees at Bombay and Ahmedabad. The various sections of the working class could consult these committees over the type designs of tenements to be constructed by the Government under the Housing Programme.

Among the most popular activities of the Department, which caters for the educational needs of industrial workers and covers wide areas, are those of circulating libraries. There are in all 151 library posts at present—55 in Bombay, 44 in Ahmedabad, 28 in Sholapur and 24 in Hubli. The average monthly number of books issued during the period under review was 2,100. These posts are manned by young and enthusiastic persons drawn from the rank and file of workers themselves. They offer their services in an honorary capacity.

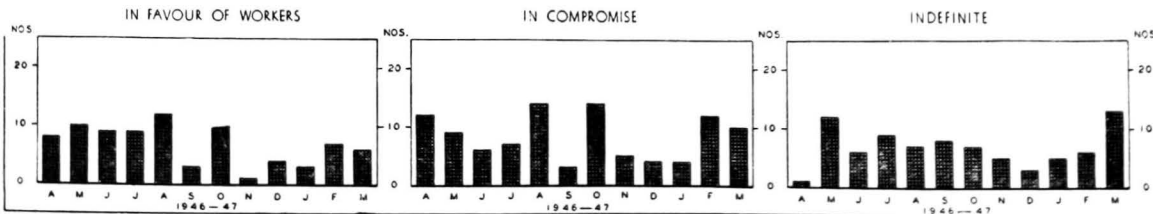
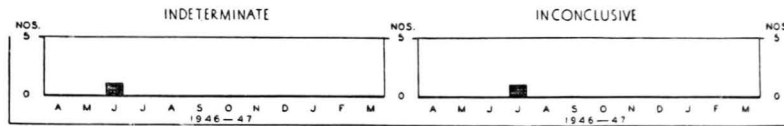
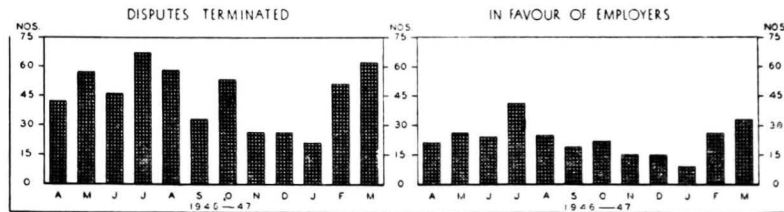
TECHNICAL TRAINING

The Industrial Training Workshop at Ahmedabad is a special feature of the Labour Welfare Department. It was set up with the twin objects of training workers in alternative occupations as a remedial measure in the solution of the unem-

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BOMBAY CAUSES



RESULTS

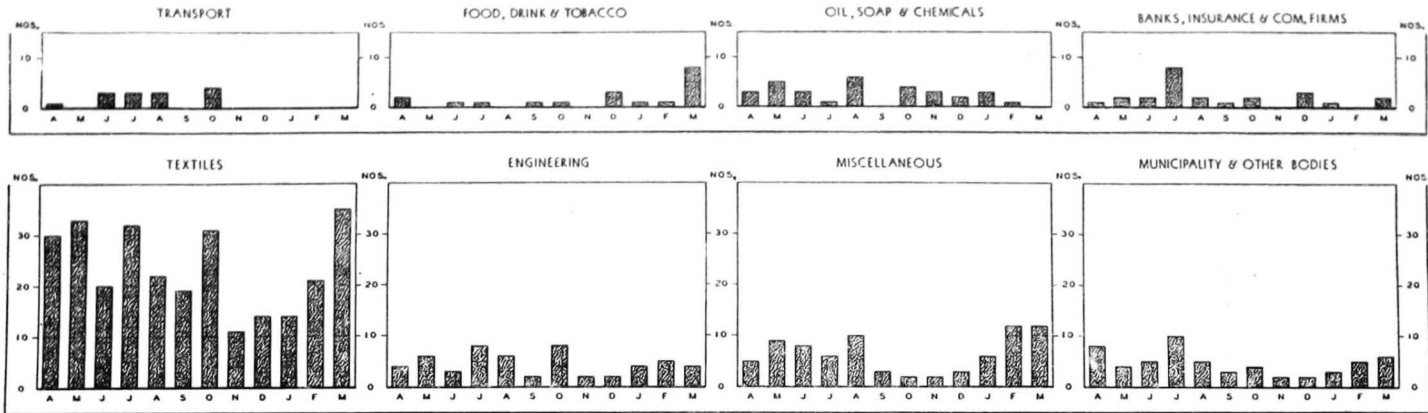


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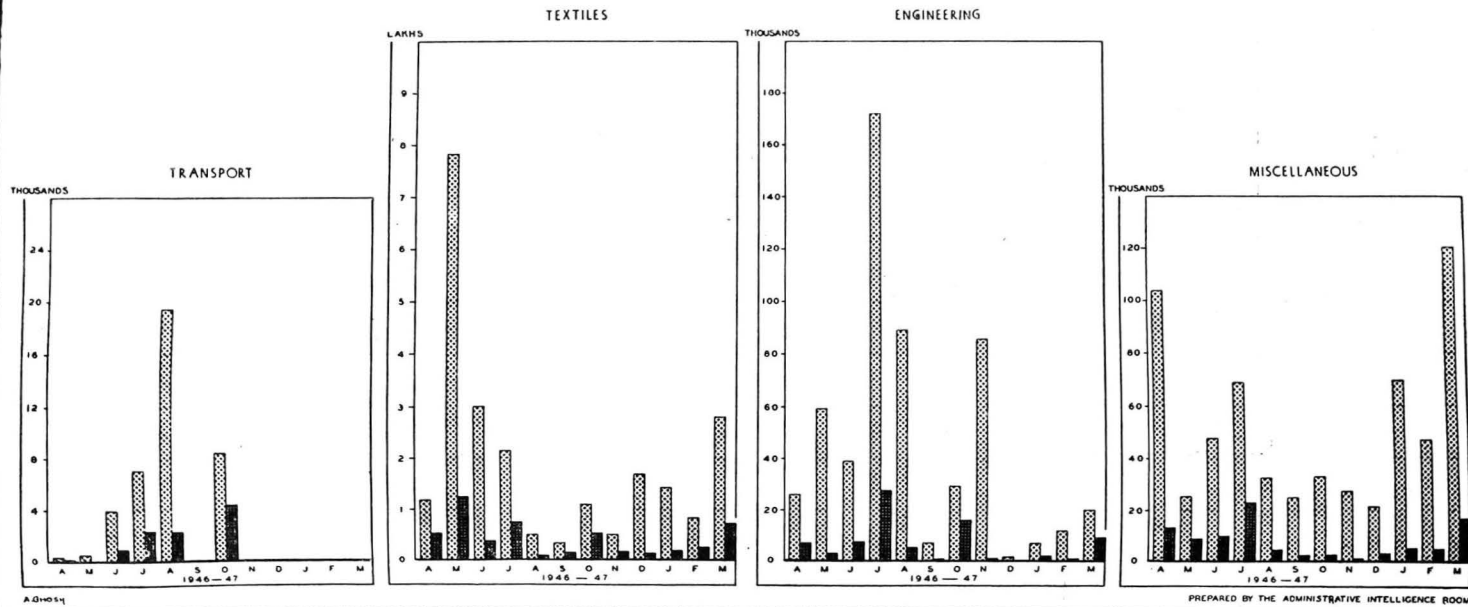
A chart showing the causes and results of industrial disputes in Bombay for the period from April 1946 to March 1947.

BOMBAY INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES 46-47



WORKMEN INVOLVED & MAN DAYS LOST

WORKMEN INVOLVED ■ MAN DAYS LOST



The two charts at top show the disputes that arose during the period from April 1946 to March 1947 in the various industries, while those below indicate the number of workmen involved and the man-

ployment problem and of providing facilities for increasing the industrial and technical efficiency of workers. Occupational training in fitting, turning, moulding, smithy, tailoring, carpentry and painting is provided at the Workshop at present.

With accommodation for 150 apprentices in two shifts, the courses are both full-time and part-time. The elementary course is completed in six months and the advanced one in twelve months. An average of 102 apprentices are undergoing training at present.

**A REVIEW OF THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
IN THE PROVINCE OF BOMBAY FOR THE
SIX-MONTHLY PERIOD ENDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 1947**

A total of 367 disputes occurred in the Province of Bombay during the period under review. They involved 479,204 work-people and a loss of 2,686,290 working days. Of these 367 disputes, 183 or 49.86 per cent occurred in the textile industry, involving as many as 362,127 work-people and a loss of 1,698,965 working days. Six disputes occurred in the transport industry and involved 1,417 work-people and a loss of 127,691 working days. The engineering industry was confronted

with 52 disputes, involving 82,789 work-people and a loss of 726,889 working days.

The miscellaneous industries had to face 126 disputes involving 32,871 work-people and a loss of 137,745 working days. In this category,



Slum Clearance

commercial organisations had 33 disputes; municipalities and other local bodies 26; chemical, dye industries, etc., 19; paper and printing 15; food, drink and tobacco 8; wood, stone and glass had 6 disputes and the other industries 19.

DISPUTES ABOUT PAY PREPONDERATE

Of the total number of disputes during the period under review, 118 occurred over questions relating to pay and allowances; 58 referred to bonus issue; 88 arose over employment of individuals; 24 related to leave and hours of work and 79 originated from miscellaneous causes.

Of these, 185 terminated in favour of employers; 52 in favour of workers; a compromise was arrived at in 55 disputes, the result of 68 disputes was still indefinite, 2 were indeterminate and 5 inconclusive. Seventeen disputes were being tackled on September 30, 1947.

HOUSING



In 1941, the population of Bombay was 14,89,883. By 1945, however, the population increased to 25 lakhs, but the increase in the number of new houses was about 500 only. This increase should have been 17,000. The housing problem

in the city is thus acute. The seriousness of the problem can be judged from the fact that whereas in the year 1939 eight lakhs of people lived in 2,40,000 one-room tenements, the same number of tenements now house 12 lakhs of people.

A special officer was appointed for taking over surplus Defence Department assessments. The Government has taken over from the Defence Department all suitable buildings and military barracks, to ensure that all available accommodation is effectively utilized. The chief of these buildings are shown below:—

1. ENSA hutments.
2. Queen's Barracks.

3. Temporary hutments behind the Cricket Club of India.
4. Barracks near the Law College.
5. Building on C. S. No. 1 at Wodehouse Bridge, Bombay.
6. Combined Signal School property at Land's End, Bandra.
7. Hutments at Worli.

PROHIBITION



PROHIBITION measures were first introduced by the Congress Ministry in the year 1938 in certain parts of the Province and, later, in 1939, they were extended to some more parts. The areas that were covered by the Prohibition scheme as such were divided into two parts, namely, the 'Prohibition Area' and the 'Dry Area'. The former comprised the Town and Island of Bombay, the Bombay Suburban District, some parts of the Thana District, the Broach District, a part of the Surat and the Ahmedabad Districts including Ahmedabad City and two talukas of each of the Ahmednagar and Kanara Districts. The major parts of the Ahmednagar and Kanara Districts constituted the "Dry Area".

Although all the measures adopted in the 'Prohibition Area' and the 'Dry Area' aimed at complete Prohibition, there was a slight difference in the restrictions imposed in the two kinds of areas. In the Prohibition Area, possession of intoxicants was prohibited except under a permit. In the Dry Area, possession of drugs and liquor in excess of certain quantities was restricted to permit-holders and a small prescribed quantity of both liquor and drugs was allowed to be imported without a permit into this area.

Subsequently, owing to some legal flaws, many restrictions, especially those on foreign liquor, had to be relaxed. This relaxation resulted in a sharp rise in the consumption of foreign liquor and, consequently, in the Excise revenue derived from potable foreign liquor. The total Excise revenue also showed an unprecedented increase,

as it rose from Rs. 2,44,81,237 in 1938-39 to about Rs. 9,00,00,000 in 1946-47. The year 1946-47 is important from more than one point of view. While it shows the maximum Excise revenue with an imposing figure of about 900 lakhs, it is also remarkable for the announcement that the next four years will see the end of the source of this enormous tainted revenue. It is also during this year that the Government had taken the irrevocable decision to implement complete Prohibition within the target period of four years.

Past experience showed that it caused hardship to the people addicted to drink and drugs when they were asked to give up the evil habit overnight. It was, therefore, considered advisable to allot sufficient time not only to the addicts but also to the business interests who had invested their money in the Excise trade to adjust themselves to the changed circumstances. It is for these reasons that it was decided to achieve Prohibition by stages and the following programme has accordingly been chalked out.

THE PRESENT PROGRAMME

- (a) Total prohibition should be achieved within a period of four years. It should apply not only to liquor but to opium and hemp drugs also.
 - (b) A 25% annual cut should be made in the consumption of all types of liquors and not in the ration of liquors.
 - (c) The days of closure should be as under:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------|
| First year | .. .. | Two days |
| Second year | .. .. | Four days |
| Third year | .. .. | Five days |
| Fourth & subsequent years | .. .. | All days |

(d) The strength of the liquor to be issued in any area of the Province in the first year should not be higher than 45% U.P. and the liquor of other lower strengths issued at present should be further reduced by 5% in each case.

(e) The possibility of selling Nira (in an unfermented state) under proper conditions should be investigated.

(f) So far as opium and hemp drugs are concerned, a permit system should be introduced, as is done in Bombay at present, and in order to find out whether the opium habit can be completely eradicated without causing injury to the health of the addict, the experiment of making a small progressive cut in the ration allowed to each permit-holder every three months should be tried out in the first year and the results watched. The position should then be revised in the light of these investigations.

(g) Steps should be taken to appoint the extra preventive staff required for the enforcement of prohibition measures in the first year as early as possible.

(h) Apart from propaganda, prohibition workers in the rural and urban areas should be encouraged to assist the Excise officers by vesting them with some independent powers under the Prohibition Act.

(i) Being found in a drunken state should be made an offence under the Prohibition Act and a heavy penalty provided for it. There should, further, be a specific provision in the Prohibition Act for punishing persons behaving in a disorderly manner under the influence of drink and the punishment should be more severe than the one prescribed for the offence of being found in a drunken state. In both cases, a minimum sentence of imprisonment with or without fine should be provided.

(j) The distinction between prohibition and dry areas should be abolished and all the existing prohibition and dry areas should be known henceforward as special areas.

(k) The assessment duties should be increased.

CUT IN LIQUOR CONSUMPTION

In accordance with this programme, the following steps have been taken:

The figures of consumption of intoxicants during 1945-46 have been taken as the basis for effecting a 25% cut in consumption in the current year. During the year 1948-49, the consumption will be reduced by 50% of the consumption for 1945-46.

All hemp drugs and opium shops have been closed and Government depots have been opened for the sale of these drugs to holders of permits on the strength of medical certificates. The quantity allowed on the permits is to be reduced gradually, so that by the time complete prohibition is achieved, none of these drugs will be sold to any addict.

All liquor and toddy shops and booths and also Government depots are closed for two days a week in 1947-48 and for three days a week in 1948-49. Sunday is a day of closure and the other two days will be a public holiday, a mill pay-day, a Wednesday and a Friday, in this order of preference.

Duties on country liquor, assesment on foreign liquor and tax on toddy have been doubled. The assessment on foreign liquor has again been substantially increased for 1948-49 for discouraging its consumption.

The limits of possession, sale, transport, import and export have been drastically reduced so as to minimise illicit transactions.

The strength of country liquor which ranged from 25% to 70% U. P. was reduced to 45% U. P.

NO DISTINCTION IN AREAS

The distinction between the Prohibition and the Dry areas has been abolished and these areas are now called the 'Special Areas'.

The Abkari, Opium and Molasses Acts have been amended so as to provide enhanced punishments for Excise offences.

The above measures will gradually reduce the sale of intoxicants, thus removing the temptation for the addicts. The provision for inflicting

heavy punishments will also deter offenders from evading the Excise law.

Since the Government realised that this social reform needed not only legislative and preventive measures but also the intelligent sympathy of the people, the Government, with a view to securing such public support, constituted the Provincial Prohibition Board which consists of 33 members, 27 of whom are non-official members and leaders of various groups in the public life of the Province.

The main functions of the Board are:

(i) to educate and organize public opinion on the problem of the prohibition of alcohol and drugs;

(ii) to advise on methods of detecting and preventing offences against the Abkari, Opium and Molasses Acts;

(iii) to provide facilities for counter-attractions, recreation and the provision of non-alcoholic drinks;

(iv) to assist all activities which further the policy of the Government in regard to the prohibition of alcohol and drugs and to carry on social and welfare work.

The Board, therefore, set out to use its individual and corporate influence to make the people Prohibition-minded. It decided to plan its work through the following six main sub-committees:

1. Nira, 2. Molasses, 3. Vigilance, 4. Education and Propaganda, 5. Recreation, Counter-Attraction and Social Welfare and 6. Research and Statistics.

Each of these Sub-Committees is presided over by a Minister of the Government.

THE NIRA SUB-COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Nira Sub-Committee was held in Bombay on August 29, 1947, with the Minister for Finance in the chair. The Committee discussed (i) the alternative uses of toddy-producing trees, such as gur, sugar-candy and syrups, (ii) the use of Nira as a drink before it gets fermented and (iii) measures to detect fermentation in Nira. After exhaustive and pro-

longed discussion, the Committee resolved to entrust Major-General Sir Sahib Singh Sokhey with the work of finding out a useful preservative for arresting fermentation in Nira and a convenient device for the detection of fermentation. Mr. Gajanan Naik, Dr. Manohar Desai and Dr. Mandlekar, the Industrial Chemist to the Government of Bombay, were requested to be in touch with Major-General Sir Sahib Singh Sokhey during the period of experimentation.

The Committee then resolved to advise the Government to work out the experimental scheme of Messrs. Gajanan Naik and Krishnadas Shah for the sale of Nira and the development of the palm products industry. The Committee was of opinion that the Government should take immediate action on the scheme and place funds at the disposal of the Commissioner of Excise to implement it with the least possible delay. The Government, therefore, has accorded its sanction to the scheme and decided to open centres for the sale and supply of Nira and also to render help in the process of manufacture of Nira. The owners and the tappers of toddy trees and other persons engaged in the liquor trade and hit by Prohibition are to be given a fair chance to participate in the working of the Nira supply scheme of the Government. Licences are also to be granted to them to run Nira shops after the experiment of development of palm products and sale of Nira is tried out.

THE MOLASSES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Board has appointed this Sub-Committee for finding out (1) the alternative uses of molasses and mhowra flowers other than their use in distillation, (2) safeguards to control the possession, transport, sale and use of molasses and mhowra flowers, (3) suitable denaturants to make denatured spirit entirely unconsumable by human beings and (4) the use of power alcohol and rectified spirit for motive purposes admixed with petrol and a stabilizer or any other ingredient.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on September 13, 1947, in Bombay under the chairmanship of the Minister for Health and Public Works. After discussing the problems referred to it at length, the Committee appointed two Sub-Committees. One out of two small

committees was formed (1) to investigate different denaturants for different industries and particularly an effective and nauseating denaturant for the issue of denatured spirit to the public for domestic purposes, (2) to work out the proportions in which they should be used and their financial aspects and (3) to advise whether the issue of denatured spirit for domestic purposes should be on permits or without permits and with what limit of transport and possession. Dr. Mata Prasad, Principal, Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, was appointed as convener of this small committee. The other small committee was to decide the utilisation of molasses for purposes other than rectified spirit and power alcohol. Dr. K. A. Hamied was appointed as convener of this small committee. These small committees will now commence working.

THE VIGILANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Board has set up the Vigilance Sub-Committee to advise and guide the Board on all matters pertaining to vigilance. The Committee is finding out ways and means for the selection and training of honorary and stipendiary vigilance workers and guards.

The first meeting of the Vigilance Sub-Committee was held on September 20, 1947, in Bombay under the chairmanship of the Minister for Excise and Reconstruction. At this meeting, a Select Committee consisting of (1) the Commissioner of Excise as its convener, (2) the Inspector General of Police, (3) Mr. V. S. Dongre and (4) Mr. H. J. H. Taleyarkhan was set up. This Select Committee will shortly meet to discuss the organization of honorary workers and the co-ordination between them and the Excise and Police staff and to discuss the question of giving training and powers to the vigilance corps.

EDUCATION AND PROPAGANDA SUB-COMMITTEE

Experience has proved that educative propaganda is absolutely essential for the successful enforcement of Prohibition. The Provincial Prohibition Board has, therefore, appointed a sub-committee to suggest methods for achieving the following objects: (i) measures for educating the public on Prohibition, (ii) preparation of suitable literature and other material, (iii) suit-

able machinery for propaganda and (iv) lessons on Prohibition as part of the educational curriculum. The Sub-Committee held its first meeting at Poona on September 27, 1947, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Local Self-Government. The Committee resolved to concentrate on (i) organising public opinion in favour of Prohibition, (ii) dissuading the addicts from drink (iii) counteracting anti-prohibition propaganda and creating a front amongst the public to put down the activities of anti-social elements, such as smuggling, illicit distillation, etc. and (iv) enlightening generally the different classes of the people on the evils of drink and the benefits of Prohibition. The Committee also accepted authentic literature, films, posters, lantern slides depicting realistically and effectively the psychology of both the addicts and their families and suitably devised and graded propaganda as bases for Prohibition propaganda. The Committee was of opinion that a substantial amount has to be spent among the masses, i.e., agriculturists and labour, if propaganda is to be successful. Intelligent propaganda among the student population was also necessary for this purpose. The methods of propaganda were to be simple and direct and the Committee, therefore, resolved to adopt recreation and entertainment like Kirtan, Powada, Bhajan, etc., free reading-rooms and libraries, for conducting Prohibition propaganda among the masses. The Committee accordingly passed 14 resolutions covering all the aims, objects and means of Prohibition propaganda.

The Recreation, Counter-Attraction and Social Welfare Sub-Committee and the Research and Statistics Sub-Committee have not yet met.

To further implement the Government's Prohibition policy to rally public support, it is proposed to form Prohibition Committees composed of persons with local influence for each district and for each of the four major cities of the Province.

WELFARE CENTRES TO BE OPENED

The steps taken by the Board till now make it amply clear that they are giving top priority to the task of educating the public through propaganda and helping the addicts to give up drink by providing effective diversions. It is hoped that

Welfare Centres will be started all over the Province and adequate entertainment will be provided for all those who need it. The Board will make use of films, slides, posters, Kalapathaks, Powadas and other means of propaganda to make the people Prohibition-minded. It is also proposed to start a monthly prohibition magazine to carry the inspiring message of prohibition to the literate section of our people.

In addition to this, further co-operation of the public is being organized through the institution of Honorary Prohibition Guards. They will be drawn from all sections of the people and their voluntary service will be used to help not only the detection of anti-social behaviour and Excise offences but also to bring out the positive aspects of the Prohibition policy.

THE BACKWARD CLASSES



ANY tribe, gang or class of persons or a part thereof which is addicted to systematic commission of non-bailable offences is notified as a Criminal Tribe under Section 3 of the Criminal Tribes Act, and under Section 4 of the Act, members of such tribes are registered, i.e., registers of such persons are prepared by the District Magistrate under instructions from the local Government.

POLICY OF REDEMPTION

Persons who are registered as members of a criminal tribe and whose movements are registered may be divided into two categories: (1) those who are under police surveillance under sections 10 and 11 of the Criminal Tribes Act, and (2) those who are interned in settlements under Section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act and are directly in charge of the Backward Class Department.

The 13 tribes at present registered as criminal tribes are:—Mang-Garudis, Katkaris, Ramoshis, Kanjar Bhat's and Chharas, Mangs, Parghis, Rajat Bhamptas, Takari Bhamptas, Berada, Lomas, Bhils, Kolis and Tadvis.

But under the humane, reformatory and progressive policy of the Government, two tribes, viz., the Dharulas and the Waddars have been denotified and freed from all restrictions under the Criminal Tribes Act. The proposals to denotify three more tribes, viz., Ramoshis, Mangs and Waghris are under consideration of the Gov-

ernment and early orders on the subject are expected.

SETTLEMENTS AND COLONIES

The members of a registered tribe are interned in settlements under Section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act. There are 12 Settlements and 4 Free Colonies in charge of the Criminal Tribes Department as shown below:

| | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Settlement | Shalapur |
| 2. | do | Ambernath |
| 3. | do | Indur |
| 4. | do | Hubli |
| 5. | do | Gadag |
| 6. | do | Bijapur |
| 7. | do | Khanapur |
| 8. | do | Bagalkot |
| 9. | do | Ahmedabad |
| 10. | do | Dhulia |
| 11. | do | Jalgaon |
| 12. | do | Mundwa |
| 13. | Free Colony | Limdargaon (Haregaon) |
| 14. | do | Belgaum |
| 15. | do | Barsi |
| 16. | do | Indgi |

The total population in these Settlements and Free Colonies is:

| | Registered | | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|--------|
| | Members | Dependants | |
| Settlements | 1332 | 2543 | 7288 |
| Free Colonies | 878 | 6410 | 3925 |
| Grand Total: | | | 11,213 |

"CRIMINALS" RECLAIMED

In January, 1947, the Government appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of the Premier of Bombay to investigate the problem of the criminal tribes and explore the possibilities of its satisfactory solution. The Government then considered recommendations made by the Committee and has come to the conclusion that the time has now come when whole communities should cease to be stigmatised as 'criminal' and treated accordingly. The Government has, therefore, decided to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act as soon as the Habitual Offenders Act, which is proposed to be enacted with a view to keeping effective control over criminal elements, is placed on the Statute Book. With the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, communities which are at present classified as 'criminal' will be considered, treated and looked after as 'Backward Classes'.

In the meantime, the Government has issued executive instructions—which are being implemented—in relaxation of the Criminal Tribes Rules, 1930. These instructions relate to (1) the manner of treatment of the persons now restricted under the Criminal Tribes Act and (b) the application of the Criminal Tribes Act to future cases.

The registration of all persons with one conviction or none and of those with two or more convictions who have no convictions for offences against property or person during the last two years is to be cancelled. Internees in Settlements with a clean record of crime against property or person during the last two years are to be released to Free Colonies on licence. The licensees in the Free Colonies with a similar clean record are to be deregistered.

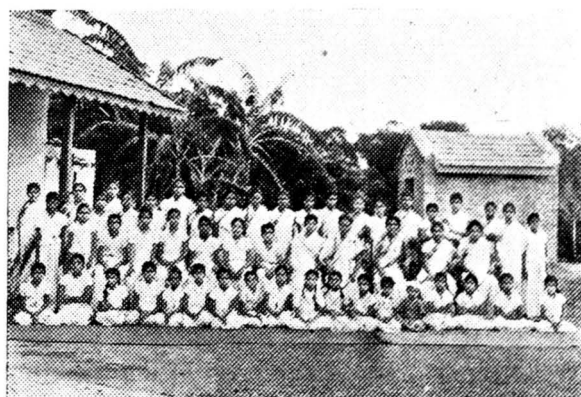
NEW CLASSIFICATION

The Government has introduced a classification of 'habitual offenders' (or those with more than 2 but not more than 5 convictions for offences against person or property) and 'confirmed criminals' (or those with more than 5 such convictions). Only the members of the Criminal Tribes who are 'habitual offenders' may be registered under the Act; and only those who are 'confirmed criminals' are now to be interned in the Settlements.

Large tribes which have been declared 'criminal' under Section 3 of the Criminal Tribes Act are to be denotified from the operation of the Act if the incidence of criminality among them is on the decline. Very small Settlements are ordered to be closed down and the settlers transferred to large Settlements in the neighbourhood.

UPLIFT OF BACKWARD CLASSES: SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Lump-sum scholarships are awarded to deserving Backward Class students to enable them to purchase books and stationery and pay their examination fees, etc. The scale of these scholarships has been liberalised during the period under review.



Harijan girls of the Balikashram, Ahmednagar

Fifteen sets of technical scholarships are granted to deserving Backward Class students by the Director of Industries on the recommendation of the Backward Class Department. Monthly scholarships, each of the value of Rs. 40 p.m., are also awarded to Backward Class students in medical colleges in the Province.

STUDENTS' HOSTELS

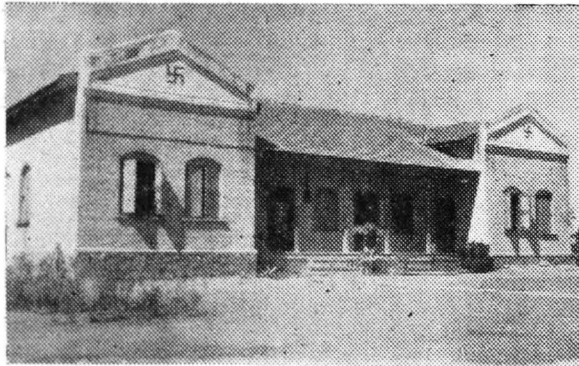
Grants-in-aid are paid to Backward Class hostels managed by voluntary agencies according to rules framed by the Government for the purpose of regulating such grants and satisfying itself that the expenditure incurred is utilised to bring maximum benefit and aid to the Backward Classes.

There are in all 81 hostels in the Province which receive such Government grants. Grants

are also paid to some of these hostels for the construction of buildings in suitable cases.

A GOVERNMENT-MANAGED HOSTEL

There is also a Backward Class hostel situated in Poona which is entirely financed and managed by the Government. Among the Backward Class students in the hostel, 32 are attending secondary and technical schools and 32 are students of various other arts and professional colleges.



The Balikashram, Ahmednagar. (1945)

In addition, 6 hostels for Backward Class girls are being conducted by the Backward Class Department. They are situated in the Backward areas and are run by voluntary agencies under a special system.

Grants are also paid to Backward Class District Committees according to special rules framed for the purpose.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION SCHEMES

It is proposed to allot Rs. one crore for financing various schemes and ameliorative measures for the Backward Classes including Harijans, during the five-year period beginning with 1947-48. The basic aim is to raise the general level of education among the Backward Classes and organise efforts to enable these Classes to participate in the agricultural, industrial and commercial development of the Province. The Government also seeks to improve by means of ambitious schemes their general standards of health and of the surroundings in which they live.

Out of Rs. one crore to be expended over a period of five years, Rs. 12,00,000 (recurring) and Rs. 1,50,000 (non-recurring) have been included in the current year's (1947-48) budget for various schemes. A brief outline of the schemes to be implemented during 1947-48 and the provision made for each of them are given below.

Primary Education—The scheme provides for a comprehensive literacy and educational drive through the introduction of compulsory education among Backward Class children between the ages of 6 and 12 in areas with considerable Backward Class population in each district. The school-going children will be supplied with stationery, books, etc., free of cost. The cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 3,44,500 during 1947-48.

Secondary Education—This scheme provides for free studentships for all Backward Class boys in secondary schools and for an increase in the present scales of scholarships. It is also proposed to open new hostels for girls in primary and secondary schools. The amount provided for the scheme during 1947-48 is Rs. 1,85,840.

Higher Education—The scheme provides for grant to pupils of additional sets of scholarships in the arts and professional colleges and for an increase in the rates of capitation grants to Backward Class hostels recognised by the Backward Class Department. The expenditure for the scheme during the first year is estimated at Rs. 1,37,460.

Agricultural Course—This scheme provides for an increase in the number of scholarships and free studentships at the Agricultural College, Poona, for short-term courses in agriculture. It is estimated to cost Rs. 2,400 during the first year of the five-year period.

Training in Professions and Trades—This scheme provides for training suitable Backward Class girls and women in courses in nursing, infant welfare, public hygiene, etc., every year with the award of apprentice scholarships. The amount provided for the scheme during 1947-48 is Rs. 3,000.

Industrial Training—It is proposed to start additional peripatetic demonstration parties in Backward Class areas for imparting training in cottage industries, such as cotton weaving, tan-

ning, cane and bamboo work, carpentry and wood work, fibre processing, leather work, etc. This is estimated to cost Rs. 21,600 during 1947-48.

Provision of Grain Depots—This item provides for the establishment of grain depots to be further developed into multi-purpose societies to meet the needs of Backward Class borrowers. Subsidies will also be given to suitable and trained candidates to start their own business. The amount provided for during 1947-48 is Rs. 10,000.

Vocational Training—It is proposed to provide additional sets of scholarships to Backward Class candidates for receiving training in technical subjects, such as carpentry, smithy, mechanical and electrical engineering, etc. The total amount provided for the scheme is Rs. 9,540.

Medical Aid—The scheme provides for medical aid to the Backward Classes through the extension of the village aid scheme and the opening of subsidised medical practitioners' centres and touring medico-cum-propaganda units. The total cost is estimated at Rs. 2,02,578 for 1947-48.

Building Societies—It is proposed to construct cheap houses for the use of these Classes through the agency of building societies to be started for this purpose. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 1,00,000 during the first year.

Tagai Loans—It is proposed to grant interest-free tagai loans for agricultural purposes. The total amount provided for in 1947-48 is Rs. 15,000.

Discretionary Grants—It is proposed to allot Rs. 10,000 every year to be utilised by the Backward Class Officer for giving redress in emergency cases, e.g., Backward Class victims of accidental fires, floods, etc. The grant can also be used for giving special grants for activities organised for their uplift.

Propaganda—An amount of Rs. one lakh has been earmarked every year for uplift propaganda. This work will be entrusted to voluntary agencies and it will concentrate on the removal of untouchability and such other subjects of vital socio-economic interest to these people.

Staff for Reorganisation—It is proposed to strengthen the staff of the Backward Class

Officer suitably to enable him to implement and supervise the various schemes for the uplift of the Backward Classes. The total amount provided for the scheme during 1947-48 is Rs. 35,736. The additional staff sanctioned includes a Personal Assistant to the Backward Class Officer, two Special Officers for Aboriginal and Hill Tribes work at Thana and Surat and 12 District Organisers and clerical personnel.

Poona Hostel Building—It is proposed to construct a new building to house the Government Backward Class Hostel, Poona, at an approximate cost of Rs. 1,51,117.

Backward Class Office—It is proposed to demolish the existing building of the Backward Class Office at Poona and construct a new one in its place at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,51,826.

The schemes as outlined above are being finalised in consultation with the Heads of the Departments concerned and will be put into effect as soon as they are approved and sanctioned by the Government.

REMOVAL OF HARIJANS' DISABILITIES

The Government has throughout been pursuing vigorously the policy of having all the disabilities and inequalities of the Harijans removed as also the stigma attaching to them as a class. It has spared no pains in trying to restore to this class the status of equality with the other sections of the population to which it is entitled.

LEGAL ENACTMENT

In addition to other measures adopted to achieve this aim, the Bombay Harijan Removal of Social Disabilities Act was passed. This legislative measure guarantees to Harijans the equal rights of enjoyment of public amenities, free and unrestricted access to public roads and institutions and use of public conveyances. Anyone preventing them from exercising these rights is liable to punishment.

ENFORCEMENT DRIVE

As it was imperative that the provisions of this law should be implemented, the Government ordered that wide publicity be given to the provisions of the Act. Village officers have, accord-

ingly, been instructed to convene meetings in their villages and explain its provisions to the village population. It is also proposed to appoint special officers to enforce the legislation and set up machinery for quick disposal of cases involving breaches of this law. The drive against untouchability is being intensified further by building up public opinion with the help of private organizations against acts of injustice to which the Harijans have been subjected. It has achieved considerable success and now the community's social conscience has been roused against such iniquities. The Government has not been content merely with having the law of removal of the Harijans' disabilities passed but is deter-

mined to see that it is enforced throughout the Province effectively and its provisions are translated into action in the day-to-day village life.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The Collectors of all districts have, therefore, been instructed to send in their progress reports indicating the action taken in enforcement of the Act. It has, of course, been recognised that the success of the legislative and other administrative measures of this kind depends, in a large measure, on the degree of co-operation among the progressive elements in the general public, the private organizations and Government officials and servants in the districts.

HEALTH & HYGIENE



THE medical organisation of Bombay Province has been so built up as to answer to the needs of the rural areas, the Government having realised the importance of public health services to the physical weal of the people.

India has a high birth- and death-rate. Infant mortality and frequent epidemics take a heavy toll of life every year. Medical aid, especially hospital arrangements, has been almost negligible in the countryside and scourges like malaria have rendered many areas uninhabitable. In general, illness and malnutrition have sapped the vitality of the masses and also affected production both in the field and the factory.

Taking the district as the primary unit, the Government of Bombay has maintained a Civil Hospital at each district headquarters which is owned, staffed, financed and controlled entirely by it. Under the Post-war Development Plan, each of these hospitals will have a minimum of

75 general beds. The nursing, medical and other staff will also be suitably augmented. There are about 14 hospitals with less than 75 beds at present and the Civil

Hospitals at Satara, Surat, Ratnagiri, Broach, Ahmednagar and Alibag will first be tackled in the next five years. Local committees will assist with advice in this task. About 17 of these hospitals have ambulance vans attached to them to



Village Ambulance Van

bring serious cases to headquarters from the interior.

TWO T. B. HOSPITALS

It has been decided to appoint trained science graduates as laboratory and X-ray technicians at Government hospitals and to establish two T. B. hospitals in the course of the next five years. Negotiations are in progress to take over the Indian Military Hospital at Deolali from the military authorities and treat T. B. patients there.

With a view to exercising effective control over leprosy in the Province, a number of leper colonies will be founded, providing industrial and agricultural pursuits for the inmates, thus making them self-supporting. Such colonies will be miniature villages where all the ordinary avocations of life will be represented. Two of these will be established at Sandra for Satara District and Takle for Bijapur and Sholapur Districts. A special Leprosy Officer is proposed to be appointed in this connection.

To relieve the pressure on hospitals in Bombay City, incurable patients requiring no active hospital treatment are proposed to be accommodated in infirmaries.

One hundred beds have been added to the J. J. Hospital, and the St. George's Hospital has now been thrown open to members of all communities.

TRAINING OF NURSES

To remedy the shortage of nurses in the Province, the Government has opened centres for training nurses at Nasik, Surat, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Dhulia, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Bijapur,

Dharwar, Poona, Belgaum and Thana. A preliminary training institution known as The College of Nursing was opened in Bombay in 1943 and



Training of Nursing

recently the Government has sanctioned the opening of two more such colleges at Poona and Ahmedabad. The duration of the course is three months and instruction

will be in Marathi and Gujarati, respectively. After finishing this course, the students will go back to their hospitals for completing the three-year nursing course there. To encourage girls to take to the nursing profession, 20 scholarships are sanctioned to be awarded to students of the upper classes of high schools. A budgetary grant of Rs. 50,000 has been provided for the construction of a building for the college at Poona, while the other college at Ahmedabad will be housed in the old hostel of the B. J. Medical College.

The Provincial Government has participated in the Government of India's scheme for the training of nurses in the United Kingdom. The two Governments will share the expenses on a 50 : 50 basis. Four educated women were sent abroad during the period from October 1, 1946 to September 30, 1947 for the Probationer Nurses' Course, while one trained nurse proceeded there for post-graduate training in the Sister-Tutor's Course lasting a year.

The previous Congress regime introduced a scheme under which medical practitioners were subsidised on condition that they practised in the rural areas, each such practitioner being placed in charge of 3 or 4 villages, which were usually accessible by rail or road and which he visited on definite days of the week. It is now proposed to extend the scheme, particularly to the Backward areas of the Province. The Government has sanctioned the establishment of 125 additional centres in areas where there are no medical facilities at present and 80 in the Backward areas alone. The question of increasing the emoluments of the subsidised medical practitioners so as to help recruitment under the scheme is receiving careful consideration at the hands of the Government.

VILLAGE AID SCHEME

In places where it is not possible to establish

dispensaries due to shortage of doctors, it is proposed to extend the Village Aid Scheme by establishing first-aid centres in villages which are far away from Government or Local Board dispensaries. Under the new arrangement, village primary school teachers are trained and provided with boxes containing simple remedies and first-aid equipment.

Another scheme aims at setting up what are called cottage hospitals in the rural areas. The existing dispensaries cater mostly to outdoor patients and have usually a few beds for emergency cases. The correct role of the rural dispensary is to serve as a cottage hospital for the area by collaborating with the general practitioners of the locality. For this purpose, it should have better equipment and adequate staff of nurses and also after-care arrangements. A rural dispensary, thus reorientated, would retain ordinary cases and pass on those in need of special facilities in respect of diagnosis and treatment to the larger hospitals.

COTTAGE HOSPITALS

Five such cottage hospitals have already been opened in the Province and 33 more are proposed to be established in the near future. Three



A Cottage Hospital

of them will be opened at Dahanu in the Thana District, at Dakor in the Kaira District and at Abrama in the Surat District. Substantial donations in cash and in the form

of buildings have been received for this purpose.

Nine touring medico-cum-propaganda units are operating at present in the partially excluded areas of the Province in order to look after the Aboriginal and Hill Tribes. Three of these are permanent.

Under a scheme of improvement of local board dispensaries, certain grants are sanctioned to them for bettering the diet and attendance at them so that the fullest advantage may be taken of in-patient accommodation.

With a view to turning out more doctors, the Government medical schools at Poona and Ahmedabad have been transformed into medical col-

leges and provision has been made for bringing the laboratory and the library up to the standards demanded by the University of Bombay by the supply of the requisite equipment, books and magazines. The staff has also been appointed in both these colleges and 50 students were admitted to each institution in 1946 and 1947. The Medical Education Committee's proposal to build a new college at Poona and to extend the Sassoon Hospital is under consideration.

TRAINING ABROAD

Under the scheme initiated by the Government of India to send out medical students to the United Kingdom for advanced training in various subjects, in which the Government of Bombay has participated and agreed to bear half the cost of scholarships, 4 medical graduates were sent abroad last year and 6 are proposed to be deputed during the current year for specialising in Phar-

macology, Industrial Medicine, Tuberculosis and Necro-Surgery.

In order to encourage the indigenous systems of medicine, the Government has appointed a committee to report on the working of the Bombay Medical Practitioners' Act, 1938 and the rules and regulations issued under it. A grant of Rs. 1 lakh has been sanctioned to teaching institutions in the Indian systems of medicine towards their programme of expansion and development.

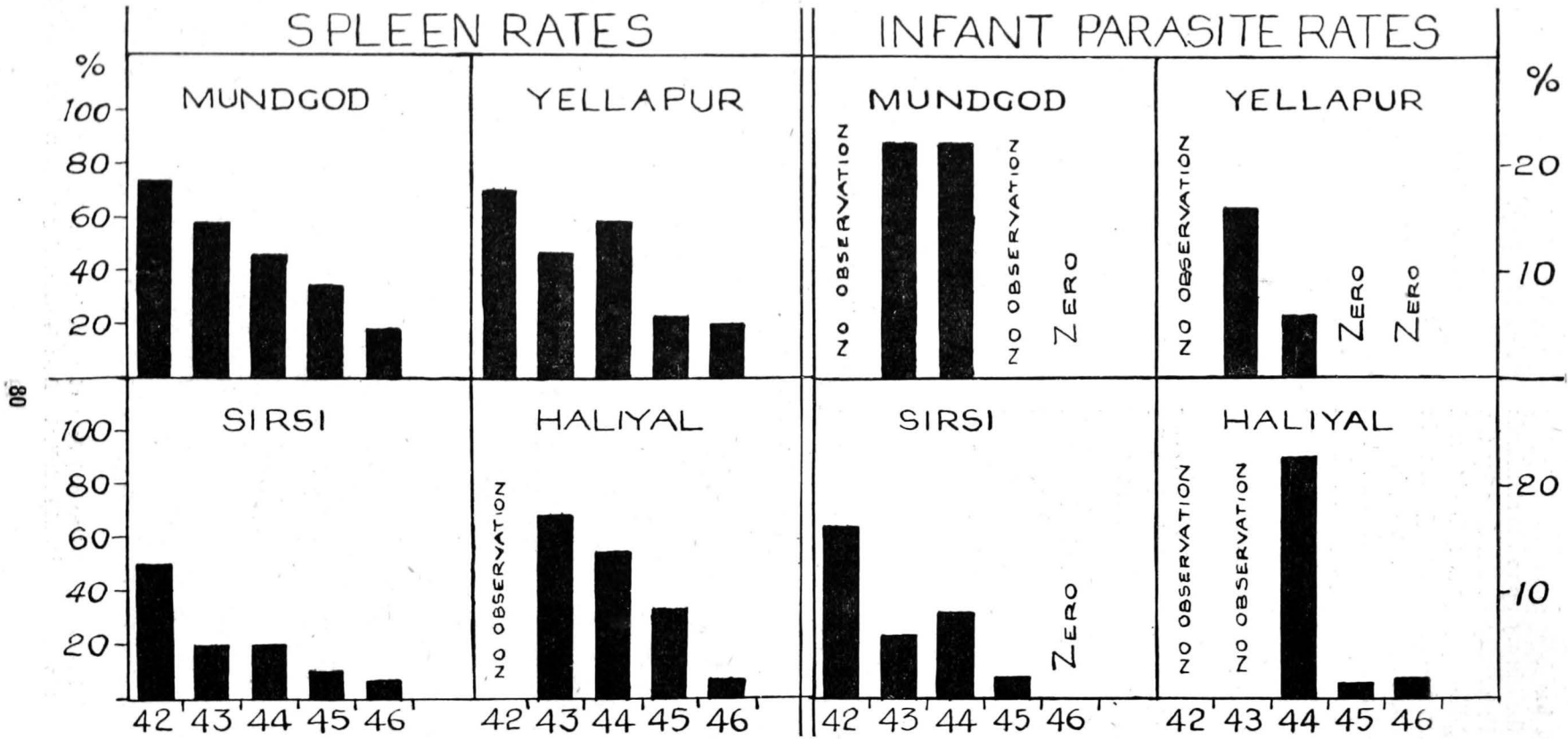
THE HAFFKINE INSTITUTE

One of the best-equipped laboratories in the country, the Haffkine Institute has to its credit a record of excellent research in medicine, biological products and drugs.

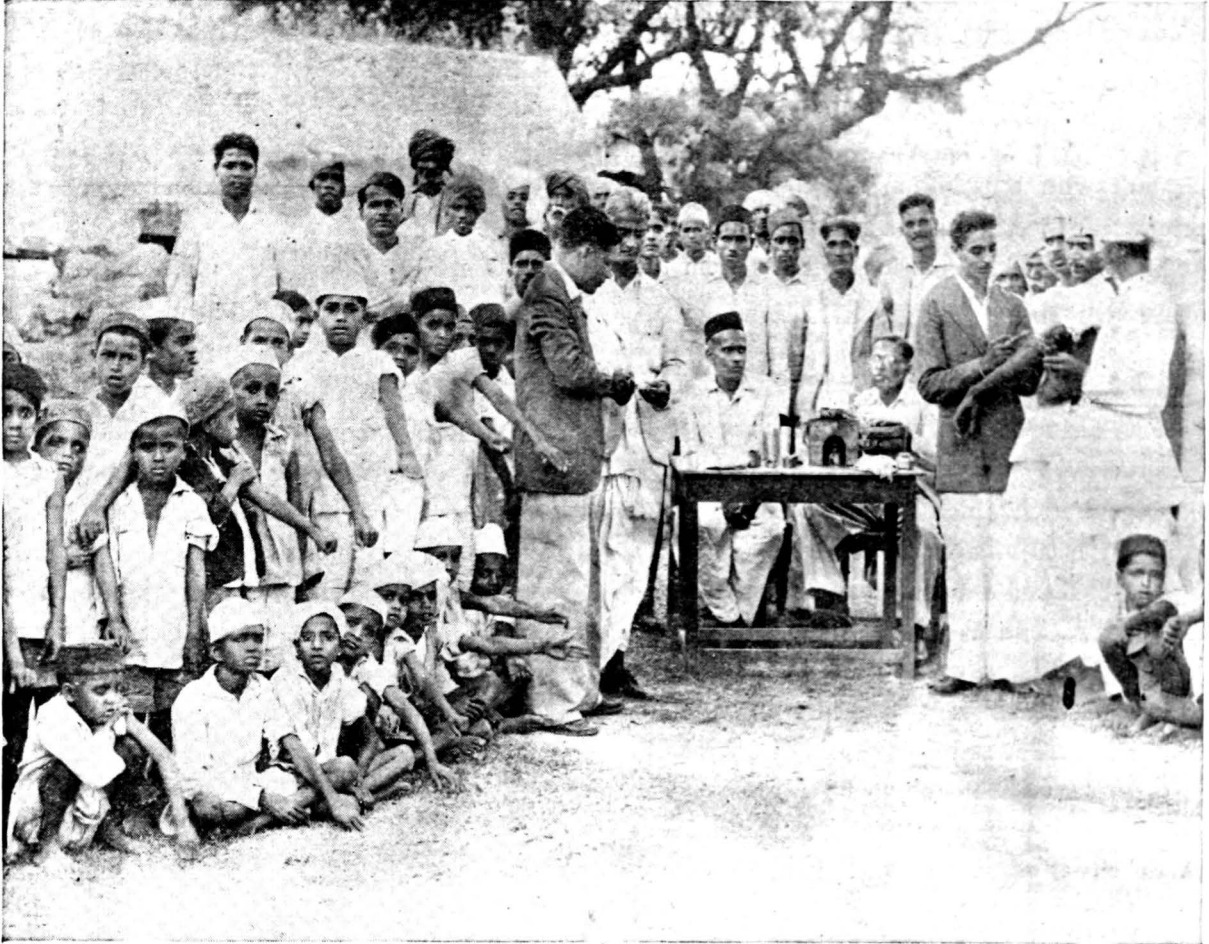
In view of the increase in eye diseases due to malnutrition resulting from deficiency of Vita-



The Government Mobile Health Van and Jeep at work in a scarcity-affected village. An inoculator may be seen at work (centre). The Medical Officer is examining children for malnutrition (right)



A chart showing the progressive decrease in the spleen and infant parasite rates in poor talukas of the Kanara District.



Another village where the residents are being inoculated.

min A, which is supplied by shark liver oil, the Government has sanctioned a scheme costing Rs. 12,217-13-10 to distribute the oil free to needy persons through hospitals, doctors and dispensaries. The scheme is sanctioned for a year, in the first instance.

DISTRICT HEALTH ORGANISATION

With a view to the promotion of positive health and to control epidemics more effectively, the District Health Officers' Scheme has been introduced in most districts of the Province. Under it, every district will have a district health officer, an epidemic medical officer, a senior sanitary inspector, three sanitary inspectors and four health visitors (to be appointed) in addition to existing vaccinators, both in Government and Local Board employ, who are proposed to be augmented by the employment of qualified sani-

tary inspectors as sanitary sub-inspectors at the rate of two per taluka as the target figure. This staff will function as the nucleus on which to build up a sound health organisation in the Province.

This staff will have at its disposal 20 shock squads for the Province, each squad consisting of an epidemic medical officer, a sanitary inspector and a mukadam with three sanitary orderlies. These squads will undertake preventive measures against epidemics in the rural areas. There are similar squads for improving village sanitation.

There are also mobile hygiene units having trucks to transport the preventive staff to the affected areas rapidly. They are operating in the Bijapur, Dharwar, Belgaum, Sholapur, Satara

and Ahmednagar Districts and are at the moment temporary.

In addition, the three divisions—Northern, Central and Southern—have each a mobile hospital unit with a provision for 50 beds to be accommodated in tents and a suitable staff. Each unit has two trucks for bringing cases from the villages to the camp hospital.

MALARIA CONTROL MEASURES

Much headway was made during the period under review by the Permanent Provincial Malaria Organisation which was established in 1942. More than 1,000 villages having a population of over a million and a quarter have benefited from the Malaria Control Scheme launched in the Kanara and Dharwar Districts in July 1946. Under it, every village is sprayed with an emulsion of D. D. T. at stated intervals of 6 weeks to 2 months throughout the malaria season. The results have been most gratifying as may be seen from the charts printed elsewhere in this brochure.

Of the five malaria control squads sanctioned by the Government for carrying out malaria



Cyanogas fumigation of rat burrows in progress in a plague-infected village in the Purandhar Taluka of the Poona District.

survey work and devising control measures, two are already functioning in the Bijapur and Sholapur Districts and the remaining three—two in the Gujarat Districts and one in the Nasik District—will do so shortly. Such work has also been carried out in the Salsette Island of the Thana District.

The Government has taken the fullest advantage of recent research in malaria control which has shown that D.D.T. and Paludrine constitute the most effective remedies against that foul fever. The various experiments carried out show that a single dose of three tablets of Paludrine is very effective in a primary attack of malaria, while one tablet a week taken throughout the malaria season will afford reasonable protection to the extent of 90 per cent., and, if taken twice, in almost all cases.

A plague organisation has also been sanctioned as a post-war reconstruction measure for a period of five years, in the first instance, and it will start work as soon as the requisite staff has been appointed.

COMBINED MEDICAL AND HEALTH UNITS

In order to provide for the co-ordination of the preventive and curative aspects of medical work in the rural areas, the Government has sanctioned the establishment of combined medical and public health units for 36 centres in the Province at the rate of one each for a taluka. The unit consists of a subsidised medical practitioner, a health visitor, a midwife, a dai and two health assistants, with two sanitary squads consisting of a mukadam and three sanitary orderlies. Of these only 10 are at work, owing to scarcity of suitable personnel.

The training of midwives is carried on at a number of Civil Hospitals, in maternity homes and centres run by the Bombay Mothers and

Children Welfare Society, to which a grant is paid annually by the Government.

The Government has also sanctioned facilities for the training of sanitary inspectors at Poona and Ahmedabad to the extent of 50 candidates at each place in two batches every year. This is in addition to the existing arrangements for this purpose.

Public health propaganda is at present carried on by the Bombay Mothers and Children Welfare Society, the Education Department, Government's Rural Development Vans and the District Health Staff. Co-ordination of all these activities is under the consideration of the Government.

During the months of August and September 1947, the following important orders were issued:

Additional inferior staff was sanctioned at Government hospitals in Bombay City in order to implement the eight-hour working day for inferior servants at the hospitals.

Sanction was also accorded to the creation of a post of Honorary Supervisor of the Social Service Departments of the three Government hospitals in Bombay City, namely, the Cama and Albless Hospitals, the G. T. Hospital and the J. J. Group of Hospitals, Bombay.

The Government sanctioned the establishment of two cottage hospitals—one at Dakor in the Kaira District and the other at Abrama in the Surat District during the period under report.

In pursuance of the scheme for the creation of a cadre of 100 technicians, 70 for laboratory

work and 30 for X-ray work in Government hospitals and laboratories in the Province, the Government approved the training of 10 laboratory and X-ray technicians and the creation of 10 posts of technicians (5 X-ray and 5 laboratory technicians) at Government hospitals in Bombay City and the mofussil (6 of them will be employed in Bombay City hospitals and four in mofussil hospitals).

In August, the Government sanctioned (1) the refund of free-studentships in respect of 14 students of the B. J. Medical School, Ahmedabad which were withheld on account of the students' participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement during 1942 and (2) the payment of scholarships to four students whose scholarships were similarly withheld.

The Government revised the existing diet scales in vogue in Government leper hospitals in order to improve the health of leper patients. The Government sanctioned to licentiates with approved war service who join Medical Colleges for the M.B.B.S. course the payment of an amount equal to their tuition and examination fees.

The Government has accepted in principle the proposal to exchange professors between Government medical colleges in this Province and the colleges affiliated to recognised Universities in other parts of India. Major P. V. Gharpure, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Grant Medical College, Bombay has been selected for deputation under the scheme.

Restoration of attached properties:—In addition to restoring the properties which were attached at the time, the following relief was offered to the sufferers:—

(i) An amount of Rs. 2,697, being the net income realised by the Government from the attached properties, was returned to the persons concerned.

(ii) An amount of Rs. 7,458, being the sale proceeds of the attached properties which were sold by auction, was returned to the persons concerned.

(iii) An amount of Rs. 18,912 was paid to the persons concerned as compensation for the loss caused to them due to the attachment of their properties, which were damaged, lost or sold at low prices by auction.

Compensations:—(i) An amount of Rs. 94,883 was paid to the various Congress Committees and institutions as compensation for the losses suffered by them due to the action taken by the Government under the Criminal Law Amendment Act in respect of their buildings. A few more cases are still under the consideration of the Government.

(ii) An amount of Rs. 5,640 was paid as compensation in regard to persons who were accidentally injured or killed in the firing resorted to by the police or the military to disperse riotous mobs.

BANS ON BOOKS LIFTED

Since October 1, 1946, bans on 169 books have been removed and securities refunded in the case of 2 newspapers and 9 printing presses.

At the instance of the Government, editors of newspapers of Bombay City and some important districts in the Province have adopted certain Press conventions, by which they have agreed to exercise restraint in publishing matter relating to communal disturbances and to refrain from publishing any matter tending to create or promote communal ill-feeling or containing incitement to violence. Breaches of the conventions are brought to the notice of the Bombay Provincial Press Advisory Committee and the editors of newspapers committing such breaches

are requested to avoid them in future. The Government is glad to note that most of the newspapers in the Province are co-operating with it by avoiding publication of matter involving breaches of these conventions.

JUDICIAL REFORMS

Consequent on the passing of the Bombay Prevention of Bigamous Marriages Act, 1946, there was a public demand for legislation to provide for a right of divorce among all communities of Hindus in certain circumstances. The Bombay Hindu Divorce Act, 1947 was accordingly enacted. It provides for a right of divorce on the following grounds:—

- (a) if the defendant was impotent at the time of the marriage and continues to be so at the time of the institution of the suit;
- (b) if the defendant has been a lunatic for period of not less than seven years before the institution of the suit or is an idiot;
- (c) if the defendant has been suffering from leprosy not contracted from the plaintiff for a period of not less than seven years before the institution of the suit;
- (d) if the defendant has deserted the plaintiff for a continuous period of four years;
- (e) if the defendant has not been heard of as being alive for a space of seven years by those persons who would have naturally heard of it had the defendant been alive;
- (f) if the defendant, if a husband, has any other woman as a concubine, and, if a wife, is a concubine to any other man or leads the life of a prostitute.

A wife can also sue for divorce on the ground that her husband has married again before the coming into operation of the Bombay Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Act, 1946, and such wife is living at the time of the institution of the suit.

The Act has made provision for judicial separation on the following grounds:—

- (1) if the spouse is suffering from leprosy not contracted from the plaintiff;
- (2) if the wife is a concubine of any other or leads the life of a prostitute.
- (3) if the husband has married again before the coming into operation of the Bombay Prevention of Hindu Bigamous Marriages Act, 1946, and such wife is living at the time of the institution of the suit.
- (4) if the husband has any other woman as a concubine; or
- (5) if the husband is guilty of legal cruelty.

LAW AGAINST PROSTITUTION

The Bombay Prevention of Prostitution Act, 1923, has been found to be defective in several respects and it has failed to achieve the object for which it was intended and the punishments that could be inflicted under it were not adequate to check the evil. Suggestions were also received by the Government from private individuals and public bodies and associations for the amendment of the Act. The provisions of the Act were accordingly examined by a special committee, appointed by the Government to examine the defects found in its working and to make recommendations to make it more effective in its operation. It is proposed to give effect to the recommendations made by the Committee by enacting a self-contained piece of legislation to replace the Act of 1923.

CITY CIVIL COURT FOR GREATER BOMBAY

In October 1946, the Government appointed Mr. P. M. Lad, I.C.S., as an officer on special duty to report on the proposal to establish a city civil court and a sessions court in Bombay. The proposal has been accepted and the necessary legislation has been undertaken. The court will go a long way in reducing the prohibitive cost of litigation in the High Court of which there have been frequent complaints.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

In response to public demand, the Government abolished all Honorary Presidency Magis-

trates' Courts in the Province; these magistrates will not try any cases hereafter. If this institution is discontinued altogether, the public will find it difficult to approach easily an attesting officer. The Government has, therefore, decided that in future, as far as possible, every taluka should have an Honorary Magistrate, whose duty will be only to attest documents taken to him by the public. To solve this difficulty in Bombay City itself, the Government will continue the Honorary Presidency Magistrates.

Only those people who actually assist the Government in times of emergency will hereafter be created Justices of the Peace.

PROHIBITION LEGISLATION

In order to strengthen the administrative machinery for the effective enforcement of Prohibition, the Government is framing legislation to provide for the enhancement of punishment for the offence of being drunk or for being incapable of taking care of one's self or for behaving in a disorderly manner under the influence of drink in any street or public place. It will also provide for externment of persons convicted of Excise offences.

BEGGARS BRANCH

The beggar problem is engaging the attention of the Government. It has not been possible to launch a vigorous drive under the Bombay Beggars Act owing to lack of accommodation to house beggars. However, efforts are being made to secure surplus military camps and, as soon as more accommodation becomes available, beggars will be rounded up under the Act and sent to Homes where they will receive training to equip them for gainful employment after expiry of the period of their detention. The Act is reformatory in the case of indigent and helpless beggars and penal only so far as exploitation of beggars and contumacious vagrancy are concerned. It is the intention of the Government to apply the Act to the whole Province as and when adequate and suitable institutional accommodation becomes available.

THE JUVENILE BRANCH

The Juvenile Branch dealing with the problems of care and treatment of juvenile delinquents and

destitutes was established in 1934 and placed in charge of the Backward Class Officer. As the work of this and other branches under the Backward Class Department had increased, it was found that the continued amalgamation of the various branches under one officer would hamper their individual growth. So the Government sanctioned the separation of the Juvenile, Provincial Association and Beggars Branches from the Backward Class Department and their constitution into a new Department called the Juvenile and Beggars Department under a full-time C.I.C.S. and C.I.C.I. with effect from July 5, 1947. This will provide a greater scope for expansion of work under the Bombay Children Act, the Bombay Borstal Schools Act, the Bombay Probation of Offenders Act and for the expansion of after-care work.

Efforts are being made to expand the work of the Branch. Sweets and medals were distributed to the inmates of all certified schools in the Province in celebration of the achievement of independence by India.

HABITUAL OFFENDERS

The existing law relating to habitual offenders has been found to be inadequate. In the Punjab, there is an Act which provides for the control of the movements of bad characters. It has been of great value in that Province in dealing with this type of criminal. Local legislation is being undertaken on the lines of the Punjab Act with additional provisions for settlements on the lines of the settlements established under the Criminal Tribes Act. In fact, the legislation which is being undertaken will replace the Criminal Tribes Act, which operates community-wise and which is to be repealed within two years of the passing of the fresh measure.

THE CRIMINAL TRIBES

A committee was appointed to enquire into the problems of criminal tribes and other cognate matters. This Committee has recommended the gradual repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act. Pending repeal of the Act, the Government has relaxed the provisions of the Act in regard to registration of members under it and internment of members in settlements. It has also ordered that members of the Criminal Tribes, who have one or no

conviction and who have two or more convictions but whose behaviour during the last two years has been good, should be deregistered. In addition, settlement inmates who have behaved well during the last two years are to be transferred to free colonies and those members living in colonies whose conduct has been satisfactory during the last two years are to be released and deregistered straightaway. Till such time as this Act is repealed, the Government proposes to denotify as many tribes as possible from the operation of the Act. A beginning has already been made in this direction by the denotification of Patanwadias, Pagis, Barias and Khants of the Kaira District and the Waddar Tribe.

INDEPENDENCE DAY RELEASES

The Jail Reforms Committee visited certain jails in the Province and the Borstal School at Dharwar to gain first-hand information of the conditions obtaining therein.

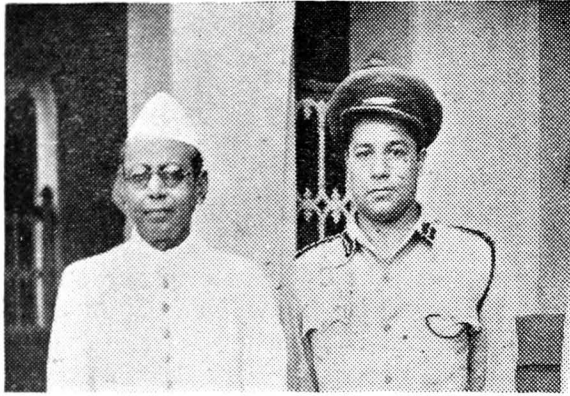
Seven more persons who were convicted of offences in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1942 were released.

On the occasion of the celebration of the Independence Day, the Government of Bombay (a) released over 3,000 prisoners which figure represents roughly 40 per cent of the jail population; (b) commuted death sentences passed on persons other than those involved in the communal disturbances and pending execution on August 9, 1947 or passed between that date and August 15, 1947 and, in addition, death sentences passed in connection with the communal disturbances and fixed for execution between August 10 and 16, 1947; and (c) granted special remission to those prisoners who did not qualify for release. Special items of food were also provided for all prisoners on August 15, 1947.

The report of the Jail Reforms Committee has been submitted to the Government and it is under active consideration.

ARMS FOR CROP PROTECTION

In view of the present serious food shortage in the Province, the Government has revived its policy of 1938 in regard to the grant of arms licences for crop and cattle protection. District Magistrates and the Commissioner of Police,



**The Premier of Bombay Mr. B. G. Kher, and the
Commandant of the Greater Bombay Home Guards,
Capt. M. J. Maneckji**

Bombay have, accordingly, been directed to grant very freely licences for crop and cattle protection to cultivators, notwithstanding the war-time orders imposing restrictions on the grant of new licences and renewals of old ones.

POLICE WIRELESS GRID

During the regime of the present Ministry, sanction was accorded to the formation of the Provincial Police Wireless Grid. Accordingly, the wireless communication of the police force was extended to the mofussil, and the Districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Surat, Nasik, East Khandesh, Poona, Satara, Belgaum, Sholapur and Dharwar were thus connected with one another.

The question of extending the wireless system to all the districts of the Province is under consideration.

The wireless equipment of the Bombay City Police Force has also been modernised.

RE-ORGANISATION OF POLICE FORCE

During the last riots at Ahmedabad, the necessity for the reorganisation of the Ahmedabad City Police Force was badly felt. The Government has, therefore, decided to reorganise, on the lines of the Bombay City Police Force, the Ahmedabad as well as the Poona City Police Force by splitting up the Ahmedabad and Poona District Police Force into two charges—one for each city and the other for the remaining districts. In the meanwhile, the strength of the Ahmedabad City Police Force has been increased.

Photographic work in connection with the Criminal Investigation Department was hitherto done in the Government Photo Registry. Owing to the increased demand on the services of this section, to facilitate speedier investigation of crime, this arrangement was found inadequate and unsatisfactory. The Government has now sanctioned a scheme for establishing an independent photographic bureau for the use of the Police Department. This will enable the police to speed up investigation, take necessary photographs on scenes of offences, maintain a photographic record of certain types of criminals, etc.

ANTI-CORRUPTION BRANCH

The establishment of anti-corruption squads was reported in the earlier brochure.

These squads worked in full swing, having been strengthened wherever necessary. In view of the special circumstances which have led to the formation of these squads, additional special pay has been sanctioned for both the executive and clerical staff of the Anti-Corruption Branches in Bombay City and the mofussil.

The staff of the anti-corruption squads has mainly to deal with offences under Sections 161, 162, 163, 164 and 165 of the I. P. C. and to enable it to work efficiently and expeditiously. Offences under these sections have been made cognisable by suitably amending Schedule II to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, in its application to this Province.

With a view to heightening the force of the drive against corruption and blackmarket trading in the Province, the Government has decided, as a tentative measure, to recruit a few suitable and experienced men from outside the Police Force to posts in the Police Department. This will remove the handicap on the present regular executive staff whose officers are too well-known to the public to enable them to unearth offences where the identity of a police officer must not be disclosed.

HOME GUARDS

The disturbed conditions in Greater Bombay and Ahmedabad pointed to the urgent need of securing fuller assistance from members of the public in the maintenance of law and order. For

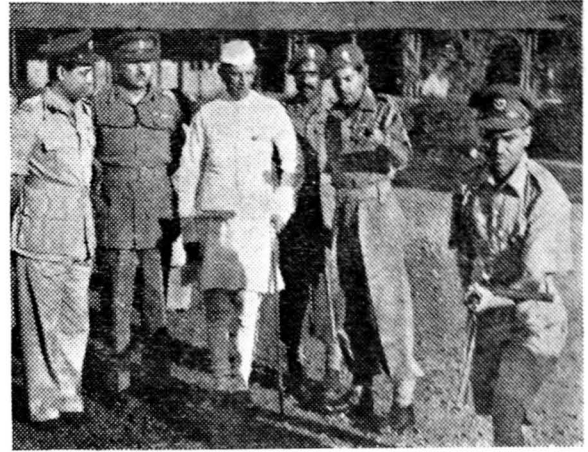
this purpose, it was necessary to enrol a volunteer organisation known as Home Guards to supplement the ordinary police. As the Legislature was not then in session, provision for the purpose was made by promulgating an ordinance known as the Bombay Home Guards Ordinance in November, 1946, and rules known as the Bombay Home Guards Rules, 1946, were made thereunder. The provisions of the ordinance were subsequently enacted into law known as the Bombay Home Guards Act, 1947.

There are at present two such organisations—one at Bombay and the other at Ahmedabad. The present strength of the organisation in Bombay is 2,098 and that in Ahmedabad 866, the targets at these places being, respectively, 5,000 and 2,000. The organisation consists of a Commandant, with Division Commanders, Company Commanders, Platoon Officers, Squadron Leaders and Guards under him. The Commandant is in charge of the entire force. In making appointments to the Home Guards, the Commandant is assisted by a committee known as the Home Guards Recruitment Committee. Recruitment is confined to men only but some clerical posts will be thrown open to women at a later stage. Those between the ages of 20 and 50 and who have studied up to the 6th Standard English or passed the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination are eligible for enrolment.

THEIR DUTIES

The functions of the Home Guards ordinarily consist of (1) guarding of public buildings (2) patrolling for the prevention of crime (3) enforcement of such regulations and orders made under the Bombay City Police Act in the Bombay area and the Bombay District Police Act in the Ahmedabad area or any other law which a police officer might be required to enforce and assisting the ordinary police in discharging their duties.

The Home Guards are supplied with uniforms to be worn while on duty. Before they are called out for duty, the Guards are given training. The course generally consists of physical training, squad drill and lectures on the duties they have to perform. Training in the use of arms is also provided for in selected cases.



The Home Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, watching a Home Guard learning the use of arms

For purposes of administration and discipline, the Home Guards are generally under the control of their own officers, but when called out to assist the police force, the senior officer of the Home Guards is under the control of the senior officer of the police force concerned.

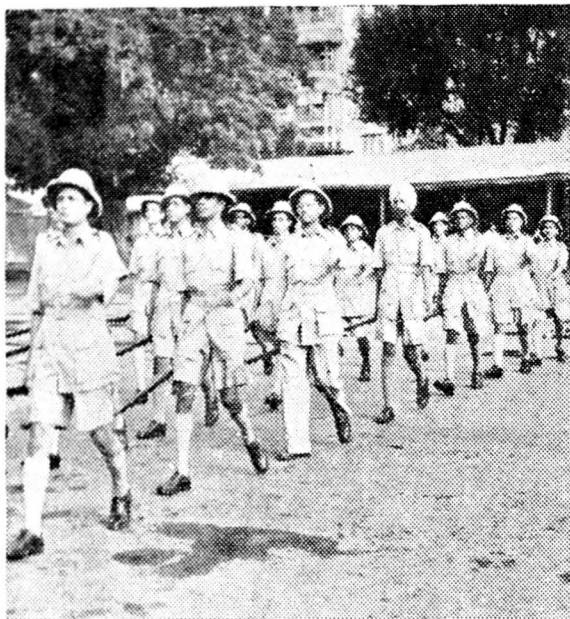
A VOLUNTARY BODY

This being a voluntary association, no regular payment is made to members but whenever they are called out to assist the police, a duty allowance of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per day is paid to them. If any person suffers any damage to his person or property while on duty, he will be paid such compensation as may be determined by the Government.

The Home Guards Act has since been applied to all the districts in the Province and it has been decided to start Home Guards organisations in all district headquarters towns and other important towns in the districts. Commandants have been appointed in all districts, except the Panch Mahals, Poona, Bijapur and Kanara and the District Magistrates have been instructed to arrange for enrolment at once. Recommendations for the appointment of Commandants in the four districts are still awaited from the District Magistrates concerned.

THE MOTORISED SECTION

It is proposed to form a motorised section of the organisation for members owning motor-vehicles who desire to place their vehicles at the



Some of the Home Guards receiving training in arms in Bombay

disposal of the Commandant. In that case, the Government will bear the cost of petrol for the use of the motor vehicles. The Government will also bear the difference between the riot and ordinary rates of insurance premia of these vehicles in cases in which the owners have taken out riot insurance policies.

Before he is enrolled as a member, each applicant has to sign a pledge that he will, without favour or affection, malice or ill-will, or communal or political bias, discharge all the duties that may be assigned to him faithfully according to law and will not allow any communal or political bias to interfere with the duties he is called upon to perform by the Government or by his superior officer or officers.

It is proposed shortly to extend the Home Guards organisation to other district headquarters towns and some of the more important taluka towns.

COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES

Bombay City:—The communal situation in Bombay City continued to be disturbed till the end of February, 1947. Thereafter, it registered a gradual return to normal but again worsened

on March 30 and stray stabbing and other incidents continued to occur up to the middle of July, 1947. In addition to the measures mentioned in the previous report, whenever stabbing incidents of a serious nature occurred, curfew of long duration was imposed on the locality concerned with a view to restoring peace and arresting the spread of infection to other localities. Besides, collective fines were imposed on disturbed localities. These measures had the desired effect.

The communal situation in Bombay City again deteriorated on August 1, 1947, when a bomb was thrown into the auditorium of a cinema theatre. This was followed by stray cases of stabbing, and bomb, acid, and stone-throwing till the 13th of that month. There was considerable improvement since the celebration of the Independence Day but on August 19 and 21, bombs were thrown on rival communities. From September 2, sporadic knife attacks started occurring again and continued intermittently up to the end of that month. The communal situation has become very tense on account of the influx of refugees from Sind and the Punjab.

Measures similar to those already narrated above were taken to bring the situation under control.

The Mofussil:—The news of riots of a very serious type in other Provinces has had repercussions in the mofussil also.

In Ahmedabad City, stray stabbing, acid and bomb-throwing incidents continued to occur with short spells of peace and normalcy till April. The proclamation of a state of emergency declared there was, therefore, allowed to lapse at the end of May.

In the first fortnight of July, however, some communal incidents again occurred there and some persons were detained as a result.

Communal trouble with stray incidents involving stabbing, stone-throwing and damage to places of worship also occurred in the Ratnagiri, Broach, Panch Mahals, Kaira, Thana, East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Ahmednagar, Poona, Satara, Sholapur and Belgaum Districts.

NIZAMPUR DISTURBANCES

Communal disturbances of a very serious type broke out at Nizampur in the Kolaba District on October 23, 1946 over refusal by a Hindu shopkeeper to sell a Lungi on credit to a Muslim youth. The infection spread to several other places. There were retaliations and counter-retaliations and much destruction of property on account of loot and arson and large-scale attacks on villages. Nearly 80 persons were killed and about an equal number injured. The police were compelled to open fire several times and the military had also to be called out to aid the civil authorities. A proclamation of emergency was issued and curfew orders were promulgated. About 800 persons were arrested, many detained and some externed. The proclamation of emergency was allowed to lapse in April and the situation improved markedly by the end of June, 1947.

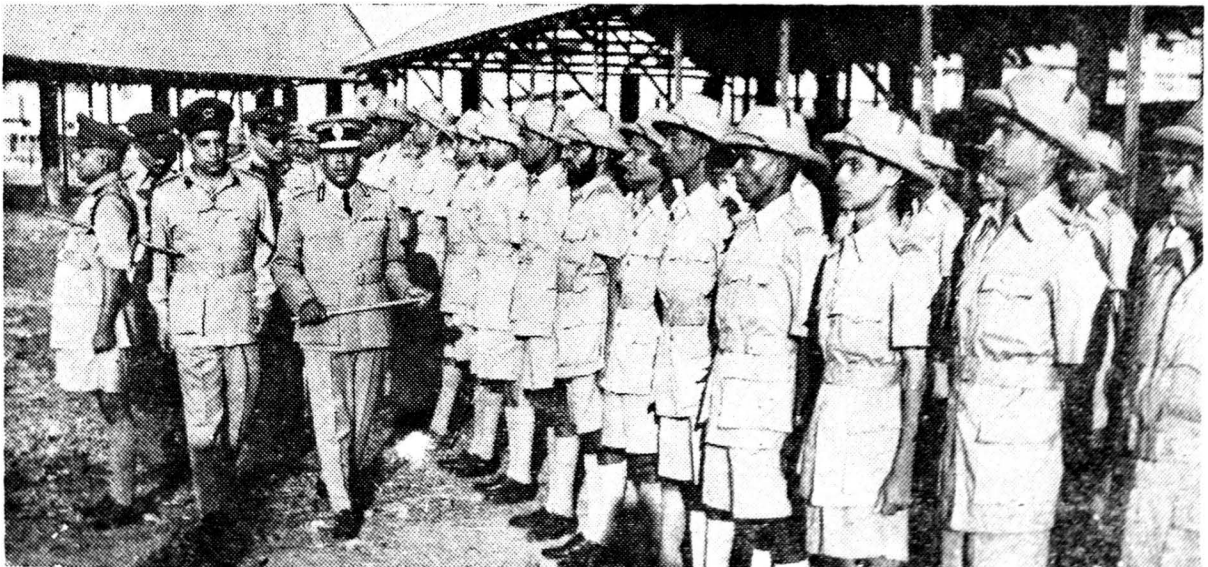
During disturbances, the usual measures were taken. In addition, three ordinances were promulgated in order to deal effectively with the situation. One of them provided for the constitution of a volunteer body to supplement the ordinary police. The second provided for (i) the punishment of whipping for the offence of carry-

ing lethal weapons or any corrosive substance, (ii) the imposition of collective fines and (iii) the employment of additional police in disturbed areas. The third provided for a speedy disposal of riot cases, for death penalties for attempt to murder or for stabbing when a disturbed condition prevailed and for the constitution of special courts. All these ordinances were later incorporated into the Bombay Public Security Measures Act, 1947.

Under this Act, persons who are involved in communal riots or engaged in unlawful activities, or who make rabid speeches are being detained or externed, or other suitable restrictions are being imposed on them. The assumption of wide powers under this Act has helped very much to control the situation.

SITUATION IN THE SATARA DISTRICT

The policy of the Government outlined in the last brochure for restoring law and order in the Satara District was successful for some time. But the situation in the District has not been completely normal and serious acts of lawlessness, such as murder, dacoity, arson, etc., continue to be committed in the District due to the existence of two rival gangs. With a view to bringing these gangs to book and ensuring the peace of the Dis-



The Inspector General of Police, Bombay Province, Mr. N. M. Kamte, is seen reviewing the Home Guards at a recent parade in Bombay City, accompanied by the Commandant

trict, action has been taken under the Bombay Public Security Measures Act against known and potential bad characters.

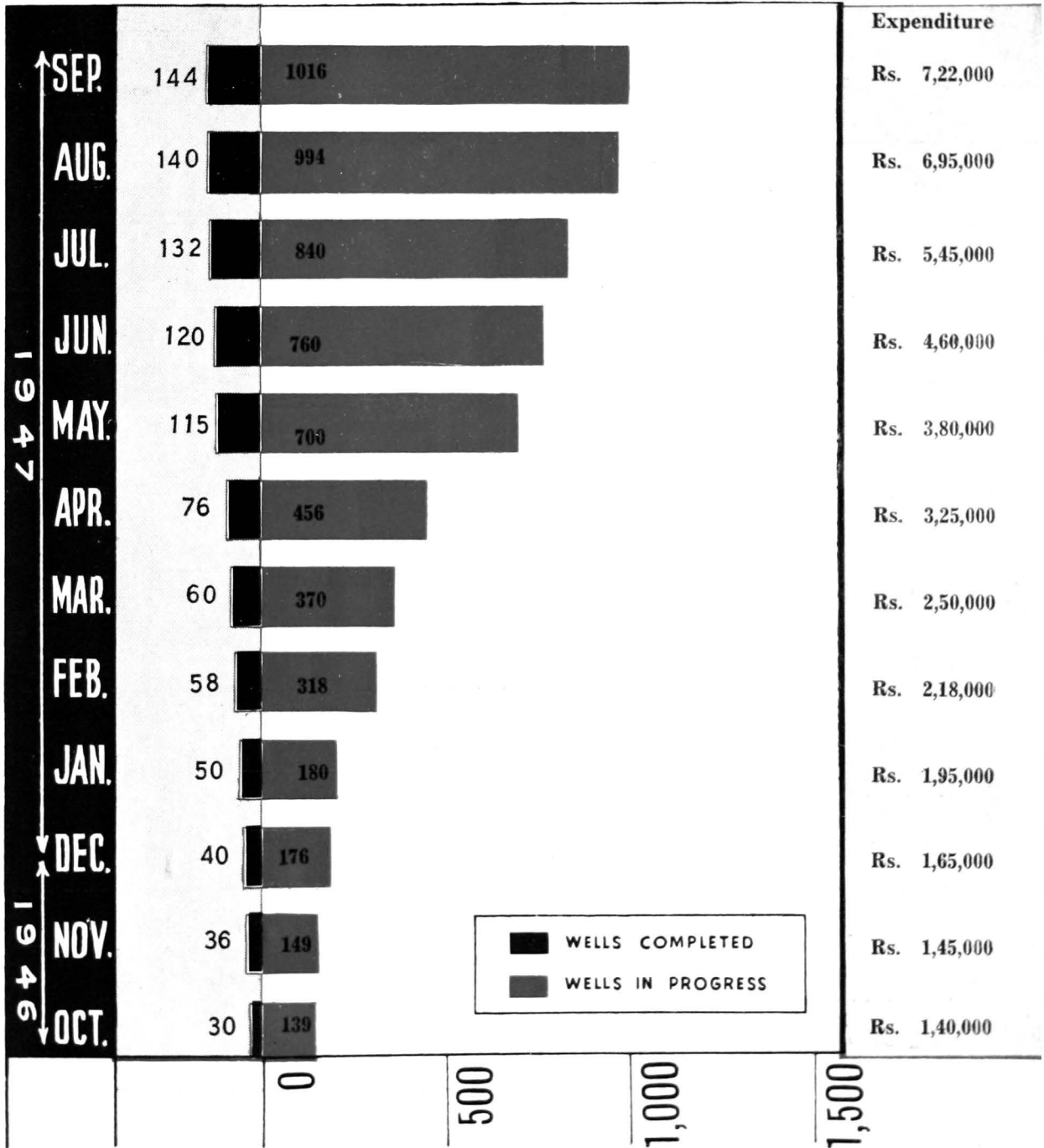
The action taken under the same Act against political bad characters had a salutary effect and there was much improvement in the situation in the District.

SECURITIES FROM NEWSPAPERS

Since October 1, 1946, securities have been demanded under the Indian Press (Emergency

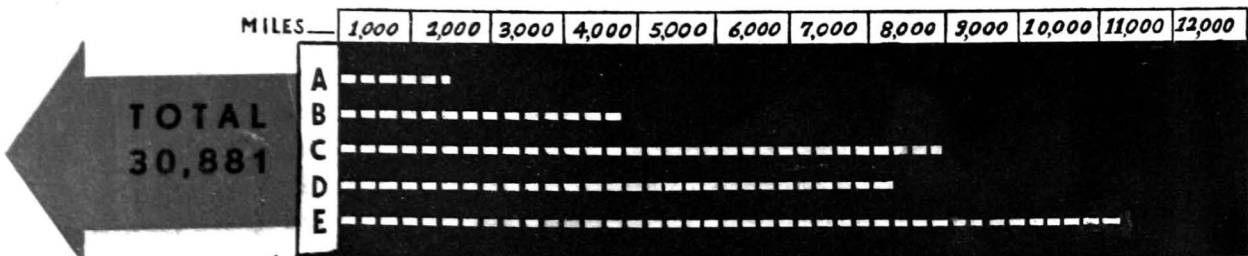
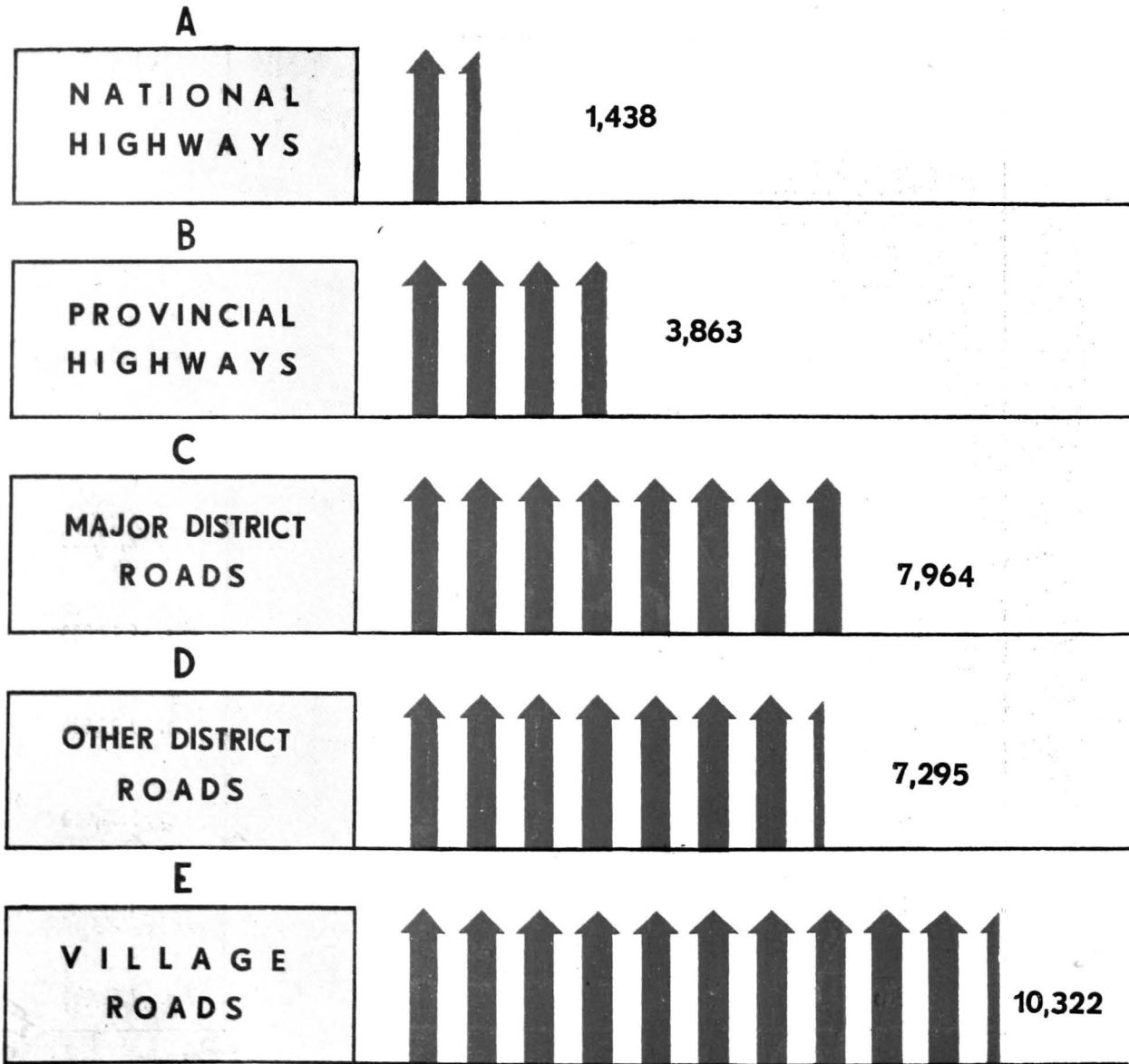
Powers) Act, 1931, from 10 newspapers and 10 printing presses on account of the printing and publication by them of matter likely to inflame communal ill-feeling. Orders forfeiting securities or portions thereof were issued in the cases of three newspapers and three printing presses for the same reasons. Orders under the Bombay Public Security Measures Act, 1947 were issued against nine newspapers, restraining them for specified periods from publishing matter having any bearing on the communal situation.

CHART SHOWING PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS FOR VILLAGE
WATER SUPPLY IN THE BOMBAY PROVINCE



ROAD MILEAGE IN BOMBAY PROVINCE

(THIS INCLUDES ROADS TO BE IMPROVED AND NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE P.W.R. PROGRAMME)



IRRIGATION



In the Province of Bombay, rainfall is usually available for agricultural operations but it is often precarious. Tanks and canals, therefore, supplement rainfall for food crops and irrigate valuable crops like sugarcane. The conspicuous achievements in irrigation have been the canals in the Deccan, viz., the Girna, Kadwa, Godavari, Pravara, Mutha and Nira canals with a capital outlay of Rs. 9 crores. These works are playing a vitally important part at present in helping the Province's food drive which is so very necessary at this moment.

CONCESSIONS TO CULTIVATORS

With a view to promoting the food and fodder campaign, the Government of Bombay has, from time to time, offered concessions to cultivators for irrigating such crops.

These are: (1) the surplus water available in canals during the monsoon is given for growing food and fodder crops at the nominal rate of Re. 1 per acre; (2) the rabi food crop for which at least one watering is taken before the end of September each year is charged at the reduced rate of Rs. 3 per acre; (3) the water rate for wheat crop in the rabi season has been reduced to Rs. 3 per acre; (4) Nalla water is allowed free of charge where cultivators undertake to construct the necessary bunds and channels and (5) water for rice is supplied at Rs. 4 per acre and the follow-on crop after it in the rabi season is charged at the nominal rate of Re. 1 per acre.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

The area under sugarcane cultivation has been reduced by reducing sanctions at the time of revision of the cane blocks. The overlaps are restricted to very short periods in order to release more water for food crops. Cotton cultivation is not allowed and restrictions have been imposed on the area under groundnut. The Bombay Growth of Food Crops Act has been made applicable to the areas under the Deccan Canal System and every sugarcane grower is required to grow, in addition, under irrigation, a stipulated area of food crops.

Every effort is thus being made to harness the irrigation works for production of the maximum food crops possible with the existing resources. The canals have been taxed, as they never were before, to contribute their share towards the "Grow More Food" campaign. The areas under food and fodder crops on the Deccan Canals increased from 1,43,677 acres in the year 1940-41 to 4,00,000 acres in 1944-45.

PROGRESS IN IRRIGATION

There are 10 sugar companies operating on the Deccan Canals with a crushing capacity of 7,750 tons a day and 21,750 acres of cane crops (excluding those of the Belwandi Sugar Farm, for which no acreage is granted) in the aggregate are guaranteed the annual supply of water by the Government. In addition to this, there is one Gur manufacturing company also to which an annual supply of water for 600 acres of cane has been guaranteed.

The area irrigated by irrigation works for which capital accounts are kept has risen from 3,09,960 acres in 1940-41 to 4,49,130 acres in 1944-45.

The Irrigation Department is concerned with the emergency irrigation works taken up to increase the area under food and fodder crops, as well as the major irrigation works included in the first 15 years' programme.

TANKS AND BANDHARAS

In order to increase the area under food and fodder crops, the Reconstruction Department (now Agriculture and Rural Development Department) decided to take up the construction of new irrigation works and improvements to some of the existing ones as an emergency measure. Accordingly, the following 25 irrigation works consisting of tanks and bandharas were taken up by this Department: Northern Circle 3; Deccan Irrigation Circle, 5; Central Circle 9 and Southern Circle 8; i.e., a total of 25 works.

Of these works, 12 have been completed and the rest are in progress.

In addition to these works, six river lift irrigation schemes (two in each revenue division) were also taken up for execution. Of these, two in the Southern Division have already begun to function. One of the works in the Central Division has been dropped, while the remaining three are in progress.

It is expected that all these emergency irrigation works, when completed, would irrigate an area of 33,587 acres and bring a yield of 13,056 tons of foodgrains and 1,310 tons of fodder.

The major irrigation works that have been included in the revised 15 years' programme of major irrigation works are:

| Name of Project | Storage Capacity in M.c.ft. | Area to be irrigated in acres | Rough estimated cost at post-war rates in lakhs of Rupees | Percentage of Return |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Northern Division | | | | |
| Meshwa Canal Project | Pick-up weir scheme | 10,000 | 17.8 | 2.4 |
| Mahi Canal Project | | 1,20,000 | 300 | 2.6 |
| Watrak Canal Project | | 70,000 | 188 | 2 |
| The Tapti River Project | Pick-up Weir | 1,17,000 | 86.00 | 4 |
| The Wardala Tank Project | | 4,500 | 9.00 | 2.5 |
| The Patadungri Tank Project | | 20,000 | 15.64 | 1.7 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| Vir Dam Project | | 90,000 | 167.00 | 1.94 |
| Khadakwasla Project | | 42,100 | 215 | 2.13 |
| Gangapur Dam Project | | 61,000 | 173.00 | 2.15 |
| The Girna Project | | 1,10,500 | 248.00 | 2.7 |
| The Mula Project | | 1,16,000 | 396.00 | 3.58 |
| Raising Chankapur Dam | | 600 | 5.00 | 1.2 |
| The Kukadi Project | | 1,24,650 | 622 | 2.8 |
| Bhima Project | | 70,000 | 280.50 | ... |
| The Dhome Project | | 30,000 | 216.00 | ... |
| The Koyna Valley | | 37,000 | 164.00 | ... |
| Southern Division | | | | |
| Improvements to the Gaddikeri Tank | ... | ... | 6.2 | ... |
| Pick-up-weir scheme at Shiyogamandir across the Malaprabha | ... | ... | 20.4 | 0.64 |
| Asoga Reservoir scheme with storage on the Malaprabha | 20,000 | 74,200 | 472.00 | 3.5 |
| Gokal Left Bank Canal Scheme (Extension) | ... | 40,000 | 27.00 | 0.65 |
| The Don Scheme | ... | ... | .. | ... |
| The Daddi Project | 18,000 | 1,45,000 | 967.00 | ... |
| The Markandaya Project | ... | ... | 256.5 | ... |
| The Dharma Canal | ... | 14,500 | 9.30 | ... |

An expenditure of Rs. 9.5 crores has been allowed on the first five years' programme commencing from 1947-48. A budget provision to the extent of Rs. 17.79 lakhs has been made during the current year for the following works, the progress of which is also shown against each of them:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| (a) Meshwa Canal Project | This has been approved by the Government and the fair plans are under preparation. |
| (b) Wardala Tank Project | Plans and estimates are under scrutiny. |
| (c) Mahi Canal Project | The project has been returned to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, for revision. |
| (d) Patadungri Tank Project | Survey work is nearing completion. |
| (e) Vir Dam Project | The proposals made by this Government to the Bhore Darbar for the State's participation in the scheme having been rejected by the Darbar, the work on the project is stopped for the present. |
| (f) Gangapur Dam Project | This project has been approved by the Government and the fair plans are under preparation. |
| (g) Daddi Project | The project is under investigation. |

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKS

In spite of the fact that it is two years since the termination of the war, there has been no marked improvement in the condition of supply of material and machinery, technical equipment, personnel and labour. Despite such set-backs and difficulties, however, Public Health projects have generally not been neglected, and the Government has come to the rescue of the local bodies which by themselves are quite helpless. A typical case may be cited of the timely aid given by way of the construction of an emergency scheme costing about Rs. 13 lakhs to the Sholapur Town Municipality, which was on the verge of water famine during the summer months of 1947.

In the Post-war Reconstruction Programme for the first five years, the following five works are to be undertaken as Government works, although they are ordinarily the liability of local bodies.

1. The Neersagar Water Supply Scheme for Dharwar and Hubli; 2. Improvements to Alandi

Water Supply; 3. Belgaum Water Supply Scheme; 4. The Khadakwasla Water Supply for Poona and Kirkee; and 5. Improvement to Pandharpur Water Supply.

An amount of Rs. 1,86,22,000 has been allotted for the post-war Government Public Health works for the first five years. Out of this amount, Rs. 10,00,000 have been allocated for the Neersagar Water Supply Scheme to be taken up in 1947-48.

An expenditure of Rs. 9.5 crores has been permitted on the first five-year programme. But as it is probable that most of the big projects will take more than five years for completion, works costing considerably more than this sum must be taken up.

Priority was, therefore, accorded to works in each Revenue Division to an amount exceeding Rs. 4 crores. They are:

| Works included in the first five-year programme | Area irrigated in acres | Cost in lakhs of Rupees |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Northern Division | | |
| 1. Meshwa Canal Project | 10,000 | 17.8 |
| 2. Watrak Canal Project | 70,000 | 188 |
| 3. Wardalal Tank Project | 4,500 | 9 |
| 4. Patadungri Tank Project | 20,000 | 15.64 |
| 5. Mahi Canal Project | 120,000 | 300 |
| Central Division | | |
| 1. Vir Dam Project | 90,000 | 167 |
| 2. Gangapur Dam Project | 61,000 | 173 |
| 3. Raising Chankapur Dam | 600 | 5 |
| 4. Girna Canal Project | 110,500 | 248 |
| 5. Kukadi Project | (to be worked out) | |
| 6. Mula Project | (to be worked out) | |
| Southern Division | | |
| 1. Daddi Project | 145,000 | 967 |
| or | | |
| Asoga Scheme | 74,200 | 472 |

If the two projects suggested for the Southern Division were taken in hand, most of the other schemes included in the programme for that Division would be rendered unnecessary for inclusion as separate items.

The Tapti River Project has been omitted for the present as the Government of India's assistance to the investigation of a multi-purpose project on this river has been sought and the scheme will form part of that Project.

MISCELLANEOUS



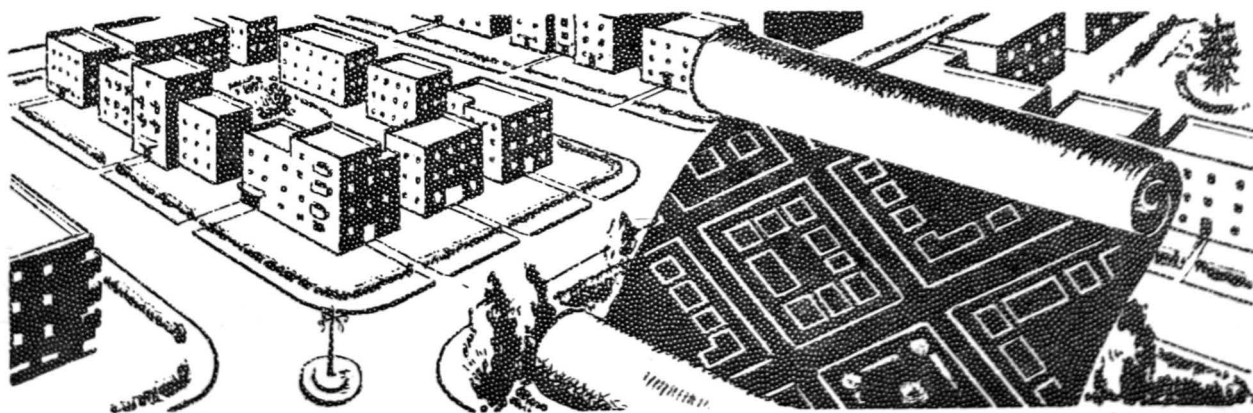
THE Second World War made its impact felt in towns and villages as well as in large industrial cities in the Province. The result was complete cessation of building activity. In addition, population increase and its concentration in certain urban areas continued, giving rise to congestion and chaotic housing conditions everywhere generally.

Even today, long after the termination of the war, the war-time difficulties of securing essential building materials, transport, etc. still impede the pace and progress of building activity. But the local authorities having realised the importance and need of planned development, the Province as a whole has been making good progress in this direction.

TOWN PLANNING

A large number of municipalities throughout the Province are today contemplating preparation of statutory town planning schemes under the provisions of the Bombay Town Planning Act as offering the only effective and permanent solution to the problem of overcrowding and acute shortage of housing accommodation. They have under consideration the orderly planning of open lands on the outskirts of their towns. The Bombay Corporation, too, has published its planning scheme in the Mandvi area which was devastated by the dock explosion of 1944.

Thus, since September 1946, the Municipalities of Anand, Ghatkopar, Urun-Islampur, Ahmednagar, Nipani, Dharwar and Panvel have informed the Government of their town-planning schemes and approached it for the necessary sanction to them. The Government's Town Planning and Valuation and other Depart-



ments have accordingly offered their fullest co-operation in this task.

SEVERAL PLANS READY

The Town Planning Department had thus specially deputed an assistant to Nadiad to prepare a planning scheme for that town; and a similar scheme has been under preparation for Chalisgaon. The Government has already sanctioned a scheme at Ahmednagar and the Consulting Surveyor has been appointed arbitrator in connection with it. Sixteen more town-planning schemes are also under arbitration.

Schemes have also been prepared without recourse to the Town Planning Act by the Town Planning Department. They are concerned with the improvement and extension of several towns and villages in the Province. Lay-outs have been prepared for the re-siting and rehabilitation of 14 villages in the Ahmednagar District which were badly affected by abnormal floods last year. The Department has similarly completed preparation of the Master Plan for the improvement of Dharwar Town. The Dharwar Municipality has its willingness to implement the plan as soon as possible with acquisition of the lands proposed to be improved under the Plan. A similar Master Plan for Karad will shortly be completed.

RECONSTRUCTION AND SLUM CLEARANCE

The Town Planning and Valuation Department has been receiving requests from a number of municipalities for technical advice and assistance in preparation of their town planning or development schemes. But the Department is handicapped in complying with all these requests as its hands are full with work. The Government has, however, sanctioned the expansion of the Department in order to undertake the preparation of master plans for 50 towns and villages under the Five-Year Plan of Post-War Reconstruction and the work is to start as soon as the necessary additional staff is appointed.

The expanded Department will then undertake a rapid survey of urban areas, especially of industrial towns and towns that are likely to develop into industrial centres. The object of the survey is to draw up slum-clearance and town improvement schemes and when this is done, the

Government would be in a position to formulate its policy and sanction grants towards financing them.

HOUSING FOR LOW-INCOME GROUPS

The Bombay Municipal Corporation has, in the meantime, drafted a bill on the lines of the English Housing Act, 1936, for the purpose of amending the Bombay Municipal Act, 1888. Under this amendment, the procedure of planning will be simplified. It will facilitate clearance of city slums and blighted areas. It will make possible preparation of re-development schemes and provision of housing for the working classes and low-income groups amongst the city population.

The Government has also decided to effect a similar legislation in order to enable local authorities throughout the Province to solve the difficult and complicated problem of slum clearance in their respective areas.

TRAINING SCHEME

The Town Planning and Valuation Department has to deal with the important problems of province-wide regional planning and prevention of ribbon-development and housing. The Government, therefore, intends to send officers of the Department to foreign countries for training in the modern principles of housing and town-planning and for the study of recent advance and development in the specialist field so that they may on their return tackle our problems efficiently.

An Assistant in the Department was sent to the United Kingdom in January 1946 for higher training in estate management. The total cost for 5 years for training in foreign countries is estimated at Rs. 24,000 (exclusive of passage charges and fees).

PLAN FOR EVERY VILLAGE

The Government has outlined a long-range plan of getting master plans prepared for every town and village with a population of 2,000 and over. Under these plans, the "gaothans" will be replanned, and congestion and blight that at present deface the appearance of towns and villages and constitute foci of disease and bad health will be removed. Suitable open land on the outskirts

of "gaonthans" are planned for housing people dishoused as a result of slum clearance and also to meet the demands of additional housing accommodation for increased or concentrated blocks of population. In a healthy and well-ordered development of this type, care will be taken to see that the populated localities lie within a radius of one mile of the national highways and provincial or District Local Board roads, as such close location is vital to their economic growth and development.

The total cost of the Five-Year Programme is estimated to cost Rs. 8.82,000 and the programme has already been launched. Its pace will be gradually increased if it is found that all the towns and villages in the Province are not developed within five years. The master plan will be executed by the local authorities concerned.

MUNICIPALITIES AND NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEES

The Government has had under its consideration the question of improving the finances of municipalities in this Province. It has already appointed a small Departmental Committee to go into the whole question and make recommendations regarding the ways and means for improving the position of the municipal finances.

RELIEF TO SANITARY STAFF

While the question of improving municipal financial resources was being examined separately, the establishments employed by the municipalities had been pressing for payment of dearness allowance, temporary additional pay and bonus as on the scale granted by the Government to its employees. The municipalities pleaded their inability to meet the additional demands on their slender financial resources and the Government, in order to alleviate the hardship caused to the municipal employees and prevent breakdown of the sanitary organisation in different areas, decided to sanction up to March 31, 1948, in the first instance, 50% of the extra expenditure and additional pay of their sanitary staff by municipalities with a population of one lakh and less and notified area committees and a grant of Rs. 25 on account of bonus to each member of the sanitary staff who had completed at least one year's service

on August 1, 1947 and Rs. 2 for each month or part of a month of service in the case of a member who had not so completed his service.

The Government had appointed a committee in 1935 representing various interests to examine and report on the possibilities of the post-war development of Bombay City and its suburbs with a view to securing co-ordination of the activities of the various authorities in Bombay City and Greater Bombay. The Committee has recommended preparation of the 'master plan' for Greater Bombay and the work has been entrusted to the Special Engineer of the Bombay Municipality. The cost of the preparation of the plan will be shared equally by the Government and the Bombay Municipality.

REORGANISATION OF ADMINISTRATION

The Government has also under its active consideration a scheme of reorganisation of the municipal administration of Greater Bombay under the control either of the Bombay Municipal Corporation or of a Federal Development Corporation that will have to be constituted more or less on the lines of the London County Council. The Government has, further, appointed a committee to hold an inquiry into the financial position of the Bombay Municipality and report on the necessity of Government extending any financial assistance to the Municipality in the light of its actual requirements.

In the meantime, in order to help the Bombay Municipality to tide over its financial difficulties and enable it to meet its growing liabilities, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50,00,000 has been sanctioned during the current financial year pending the final decision of the Government on the question of giving financial assistance to the Municipality.

THE B.E.S.T. COMPANY

The terms of licences granted to the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramway Company, Ltd., for operating electric supply and tramway and bus services in the City of Bombay contain the provision of option to the Bombay Municipality of being allowed to acquire undertakings of the Company.

The Bombay Municipal Corporation recently decided to exercise this option but it was not pos-

sible for it technically to operate the services under the provisions of the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888, and it became necessary to have special legislation passed. As the legislature of the Province was not in session at the time, a special legislation was necessary to ensure smooth transit from Company management to Municipal management and an ordinance was accordingly promulgated by the Government. It provided for an efficient management and control of the electric supply and transport services in the City of Bombay which were acquired by the Bombay Corporation on August 7, 1947.

INCREASED REVENUES

The schedule to the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888, relating to the levy of town duties by the Bombay Municipality had remained practically unchanged ever since the Act was passed in 1888 in respect of both the number of articles liable to duty and the maximum rates laid down so far back as 1888. It, therefore, became necessary to revise the schedule and bring it in line with present-day conditions, and thus provide increased revenues to the Bombay Municipal Corporation which had to meet its growing expenditure. The City of Bombay Municipality Act, 1888, has accordingly been amended suitably with the necessary revision of the schedule. This amendment will yield an additional annual income of Rs. 39 lakhs to the Bombay Municipality and thus improve its financial position.

JOINT ELECTORATES

The Government of Bombay, in accordance with the decision of the Constituent Assembly of India, has decided that all elections to local bodies should be held on the basis of joint electorates and it is undertaking the necessary legislation. As the introduction of the joint electorate system involves the revision of the constitution of local bodies, instructions have been issued to all Collectors to postpone 'sine die' all elections to the municipalities having separate electorates for Muslims. Steps are also being taken to extend the terms of municipalities having separate electorates for Muslims and to extend the terms of municipalities wherever they are due to expire within the next four months or so to enable the next elections to be held on the basis of joint electorates.

The Government is also considering the question of introducing adult franchise in elections to local bodies.

BOMBAY MUNICIPAL FUND

During the period of the War, the Bombay Municipal Corporation had to postpone many essential works and replacement of worn-out transport and other equipment, owing partly to the difficulty of securing material and partly, on account of the extraordinary rise in prices. With the object of reserving funds for the resumption of these essential works and replacement, and thus relieving the burden on ordinary revenues in the immediate post-war period, provision had been made in the City of Bombay Municipal (Post-War Reconstruction Fund) Act, 1944, for the creation of a special fund by means of annual contributions from the ordinary revenues during the period of the war and one year after its termination.

It has now been represented by the Corporation that, in addition to the specific items of expenditure in respect of which credits have been made to the Post-War Reconstruction Fund, there are several equally important and urgent items of postponed expenditure for which no provision could be made in the Fund. There are also new items, such as extension of hospital facilities, which must be carried out urgently. In the present state of the Municipal finances, it is not possible to provide funds for these items except by diverting funds earmarked in the Post-War Reconstruction Fund for less essential or urgent items. The City of Bombay Municipal (Post-War Reconstruction Fund) Act, 1944, is therefore being replaced and some of its provisions are being re-enacted with suitable modifications so as to give the Corporation power to redistribute the allocations made in the Fund and to enable it to utilise it for new items, expenditure on which, the Corporation is satisfied, requires priority.

HOUSING FOR HARIJANS

The Government has decided to give grants to local bodies to enable them to provide adequate housing accommodation to their Harijan employees. Details of the terms on which assistance will be given to the local bodies for this purpose are still under the consideration of the Government and an official announcement in the matter will be made shortly.

PARKS AND GARDENS



Parks and gardens as well as well-kept spots of landscape and natural beauty offer themselves as essential amenities for the urban and rural populations. They also provide scope for open-air exercise and recreation along with aesthetic pleasure and contribute considerably in making life in crowded noisy cities happy and pleasant.

NEW ORGANISATION

The Government has, therefore, decided to organise systematic preservation of natural beauty spots and their care and healthy development in order to make them accessible to the large populations of over-crowded industrial cities and towns for purposes of physical and mental recreation and pleasure. It is also intended to preserve the wild life inhabiting some of the places famous for their beauty of landscape and natural life.

Such national parks exist in Great Britain, the U.S.A., Canada, South Africa and several other countries of the world and the Government has thought it necessary that a beginning in this direction should now be made. A special Department of Parks and Gardens has, therefore, been established. It is staffed by a Director of Parks and Gardens, technical assistants, surveyors, tracers, malis, a photo-artist and other staff. It has been placed under the control of the Political and Services Department which also deals, among other subjects, with housing and labour welfare.

FIRST NATIONAL PARK

The Kanheri Caves and Magathana Estate in the Thana District, situated at a distance of only 20 miles north of Bombay, offer themselves as an ideal park and, in the Province, as the first national park. This proposed National Park possesses natural scenery, it contains the largest collection of historic Buddhist caves with rock-hewn, impressive and artistically incom-



Rock-hewn Statues,
Kanheri

parable statues and at the same time offers the quiet seclusion of a Buddhist monk's life of peace and meditation.

In order to develop the site for the National Park, the Government has already acquired about 5,730 acres of land in the vicinity of the Caves. It is proposed to construct a good road leading up to the Caves and the whole area, which is at present in a wild state, will be cleared up. It will then be replanned and reafforested in places and developed suitably for conversion into an attractive National Park.

It is also intended, when the National Park is laid out and thrown open to the public, to establish adequate holiday facilities particularly for hikers and campers in the form of hotels, hostels

and camps. These will have to be located and planned with the greatest care and calculation, so that they would not mar the beauty of the place or strike a discordant note.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The new Department also attends to the work of the reorganisation of and improvement to existing gardens. The Department, in addition, advises local bodies and others owning or maintaining public gardens. The Department will be concerned with the vital function of preventing spoliation of natural beauty spots and conserving them for the nation. It will, further, survey, plan and supervise road-side arboriculture and concentrate on both creation and preservation of woodlands and groves.

TRAINING IN GARDENING

The Department will, at the same time, maintain a central nursery and regional nurseries for

organising distribution of plants, seedlings and seed. It will periodically hold vegetable, fruit

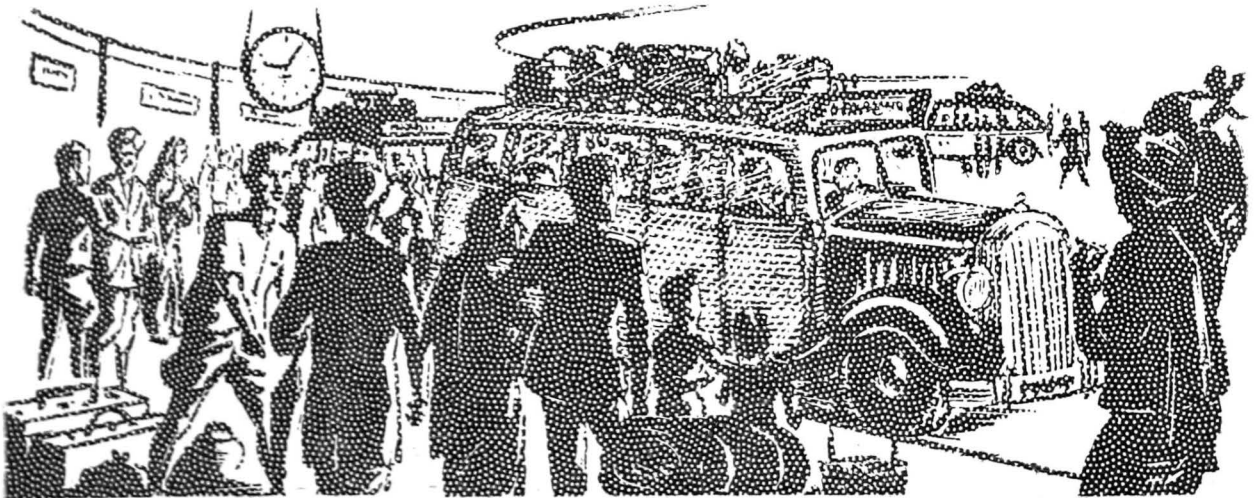


and flower shows to disseminate the widest knowledge of and create interest in gardening for pleasure and profit. It will also organise courses of training in ornamental and landscape gardening for suitable candidates.

Before such national parks are established in the different parts of the Province, it is necessary to carry out a systematic preliminary planning. Such preliminary survey work has already been completed so far as the Kanheri National Park is concerned and a full programme and lay-out have been drawn up. Other projects will be taken up as soon as possible.

The Department is assisted by an Advisory Committee consisting of both officials and non-officials with the Premier of Bombay as Chairman.

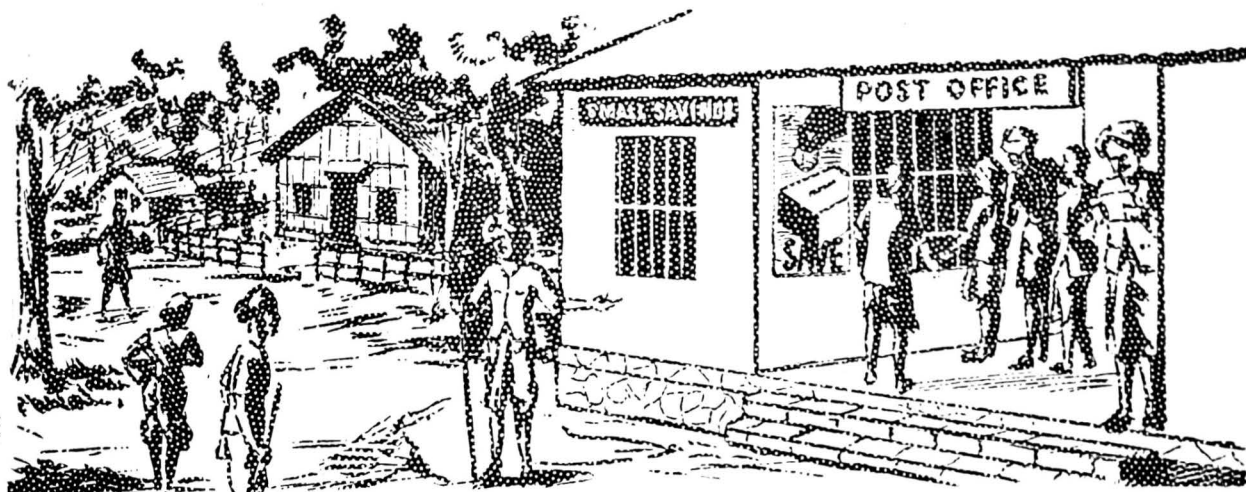
NATIONALISATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT



The scheme for the Nationalisation of Passenger Bus Services (Rural Areas) in the Province of Bombay is still in the draft stage and

the Government has not taken any final decision in the matter.

SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME



The Small Savings Scheme Organization was set up in Bombay Province early in 1944 with a Provincial National Savings Officer and five Assistant National Savings Officers (one for each of the three Revenue Divisions of this Province and two for Bombay City). The Scheme, however, actually started functioning about July 1944 in Bombay and between July and November 1944 in the various districts of the Province, when the receipt books under the Scheme were first made available by the Government Press for the use of the authorized agents.

Successful working of the Scheme depended, among other things, on the employment of a large number of authorized agents throughout the Province. This Province, however, has placed a ban on its servants. In fact, Bombay Province is about the only Province where its Government servants are not appointed authorized agents. In the beginning, therefore, the Provincial National Savings Officer got together some people whom he selected from amongst businessmen, share and stock brokers, insurance men, lawyers and their assistants, clerks in banks, limited companies, firms and other offices, traders, etc. These were appointed authorized agents. Thereafter, as a result of the continuous propaganda carried on by this Organization, the number began to increase steadily. There are now about 5,000 authorized agents in the Province.

At the end of March 1947, there were about 4,350 authorized agents. There has since been a further increase in this number.

SECURING CO-OPERATION OF ALL

Early in 1944, the Provincial National Savings Officer began touring the whole Province, and his assistants their respective divisions, to secure the co-operation of officials and non-officials for the advancement of the Scheme. Small Savings Committees, with influential local non-officials as members, were accordingly formed by the Provincial National Savings Officer at many important places in the Province. Later, in October 1944, the Government of Bombay approved this idea of securing non-official help and co-operation and accordingly issued orders directing the formation of more non-official Small Savings Committees at District headquarters, important Taluka headquarters and market towns. These were formed before the end of the financial year 1944-45. In Bombay City, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Bart., took the greatest interest in the scheme from among non-officials.

The number of Assistant National Savings Officers was increased about December 1945 from five to eleven. They are now posted as follows:—

| Officers | Headquarters |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Bombay City | .. Bombay City |
| 2. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Bombay City | .. Bombay City |
| 3. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Kaira-Panch Mahals | .. Anand |
| 4. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Ahmedabad | .. Ahmedabad City |
| 5. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Ratnagiri-Belgaum | .. Belgaum City |
| 6. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Kanara- Bijapur-Dharwar | .. Dharwar City |
| 7. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Thana-Kolaba | .. Thana Town |
| 8. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Satara-Poona | .. Poona Camp |
| 9. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Broach-Surat | .. Surat City |
| 10. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Nasik-East and West Khandesh | Nasik City |
| 11. Asstt. National Savings Officer for Ahmednagar-Sholapur | .. Ahmednagar City |

During the financial year 1944-45, this Organization gave wide and continuous publicity to the Scheme and directed throughout the Province the activities of the authorized agents. Among the special activities during the year may be mentioned the following two outstanding achievements in Small Savings:—

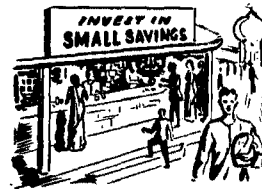
(i) **Small Savings Stall at the War Services Exhibition, Poona.** The War Services Exhibition was opened at Poona in September 1944 by His Excellency Sir John Colville, Governor of Bombay. There was a Small Savings Stall at the Exhibition. The Stall was a great success and it helped to give wide publicity to the Scheme. The sales at the Stall exceeded Rs. 4,60,000, thus breaking the Sind record of a little over three lakhs collected at the War Services Exhibition held at Karachi.

(ii) **Savings Fortnight, January 1945:—**With a view to giving extensive publicity to the Scheme, a Savings Fortnight was celebrated in the Province of Bombay in January 1945. In addition to the usual modes of publicity, viz., posters, leaflets, street banners, etc., talks were

broadcast from the Bombay Station of All-India Radio by His Excellency Sir John Colville, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Bart., and Mr. K. R. Mehta, the Provincial National Savings Officer. Exhaustive directions were issued by the Provincial National Savings Officer to all the Small Savings Committees in the Province on the celebration of the Savings Fortnight. The Fortnight was a great success. The total investments in National Savings Certificates during the month of January 1945 exceeded Rs. 90 lakhs.

During the financial year 1945-46, two Savings Weeks were observed in the Province. Both these proved very successful.

(iii) **Small Savings Stall at the War Services Exhibition, Sholapur.** The War Services Exhibition moved to Sholapur in April 1945. The success of the Stall at Poona encouraged the idea



A Small Savings Stall

of having a similar stall at Sholapur. This also proved a great success and the sales in cash of National Savings Certificates and Stamps at the Stall amounted to

Rs. 1,61,570. Besides these, promises given of more than half a lakh of rupees were later realised. New and more attractive publicity measures were devised.

(iv) A Savings Stall was opened at an Agricultural and Cattle Show opened by His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, at Sanand in the Ahmedabad District. His Excellency Sir John Colville, the Governor of Bombay, was also present. The organization of this Stall provided a good opportunity to propagate the Scheme among the agriculturists. His Excellency the Viceroy expressed his appreciation of the work done at the Stall. His Excellency the Governor was also deeply interested in the publicity contrivances specially devised for the Stall.

During the financial year 1946-47, two 'Weeks' were again observed in the Province. One of the weeks was a local Savings Week and was observed on different dates in different districts. The other week was a Provincial Savings Week and was observed almost simultaneously.

The Premier, Mr. B. G. Kher, and the Finance Minister, Mr. V. L. Mehta, both very kindly gave

messages recommending the Small Savings Scheme to the public. These messages were given the widest possible publicity.

SAVINGS GROUPS

The Government of India attach the greatest importance to the formation of a large number of Savings Groups through which alone it seems possible to inculcate among the vast masses of people the habit of saving. This organization has devoted great attention to this important part of the Scheme and has been able to form a large number of Savings Groups throughout the Province. It is estimated that the Savings Groups now number about a thousand.

The sales of National Savings Certificates and Stamps during each of the financial years since the introduction of the Scheme are as follows:—

| | | |
|---------|----|-----------------|
| 1944-45 | .. | Rs. 3,56,35,000 |
| 1945-46 | .. | Rs. 6,72,97,370 |
| 1946-47 | .. | Rs. 6,46,12,130 |

Disturbed conditions at many places in the Province resulting in the dislocation of business came in the way of a higher total in 1946-47. Most of the efforts were concentrated on the inculcation of thrift among the very poor who could only be expected to buy four-anna stamps or at the most five- or ten-rupee Certificates.

GOLD AND SILVER SHIELDS

During the financial year 1945-46, this Province set up four records in Small Savings and the largest percentage of savings per head of population per month was obtained. The target fixed was 3.5 annas per head of population per month. The savings in Bombay totalled Rs. 6,72,97,370 and, therefore, averaged 4.303 annas per month per head. Bombay Province was, therefore, awarded the Viceroy's Gold Shield for Governors' Provinces for 1945-46. This was the first record. The second consisted in securing the highest average during the last two quarters of 1945-46 in Class I (States and Provinces with a population of over a million) and for this, this Province was awarded the Finance Member's Silver Shield.

The third record lay in Bombay being the only Governor's Province to exceed the target. The target was Rs. 5,47,31,000 and a collection of Rs. 6,72,97,370 was made. The fourth record lay in Bombay collecting the largest amount 'absolutely' in Small Savings, in spite of its population being much less than that of several other Provinces. The Government of Bombay deputed Mr. K. R. Mehta, the Provincial National Savings Officer, to receive on their behalf the Gold and Silver Shields at a Presentation Ceremony held in New Delhi on April 18, 1947 when Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Minister, presided and presented the Shields.

The celebration of Indian Independence in August 1947 gave this Organization an opportunity to publicize the Small Savings Scheme by linking up National Savings with National Independence. Special publicity material including Independence Commemoration Stamps was produced and distributed widely in the Province. The idea underlying this link-up was that political independence must be supported by economic independence and that the Small Savings Scheme by enabling the common man to save and be economically independent would help ultimately to make the country itself economically independent. Meetings and lectures on saving were arranged all over the Province during the Independence Week. The Music Circle Savings groups, which aim at linking up entertainment with saving, arranged special music programmes by talented artistes during the whole 'Week'. At all these functions prominent officials and non-officials presided and many others addressed the gatherings.

BOMBAY'S RECORD

The average saving during the last financial year (1946-47) was also the highest of all Governors' Provinces and Bombay has won again the Gold Shield and all the four Silver Shields for the year 1946-47, thus adding one more to the previous records.

National Savings Certificates are sold in denominations of 5, 10, 50, 100, 1,000 and 5,000 rupees. For those unable to buy even a five-rupee Certificate, there are stamps worth annas four, eight and a rupee. When the aggregate of the Stamps on a Savings Card (which is given

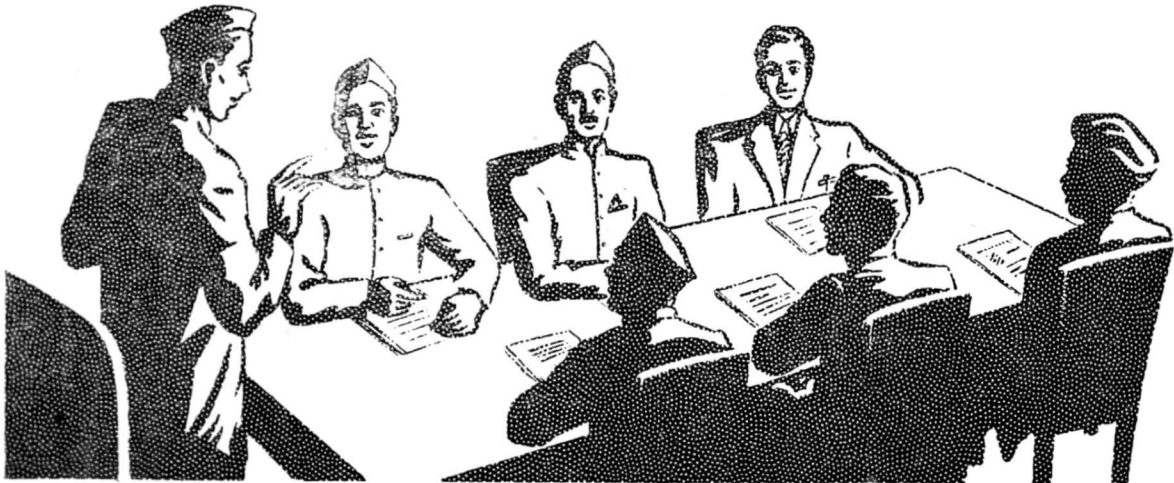
free) is Rs. 5, the card is exchanged for a Five-rupee Certificate, thus enabling even the poorest man to start saving.

National Savings Certificates and Stamps are, of course, available at Post Offices but they can also be had through authorized agents and at Savings Bureaux. We have a number of such Bureaux, the most successful one being at the Imperial Hosiery Stores, Poona. It has collected more than four lakhs of rupees. Temporary

Bureaux were also opened at Army Demobilization Centres to prevent demobilized men from thoughtlessly spending away their hard-earned savings.

The National Savings Certificates and Stamps are bought by all classes of people in this Province, anything from a 5,000-rupee National Savings Certificate to a four-anna Stamp being sold through this Organization.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE



In response to the general public demand and with a view to establishing an efficient and economical administrative machinery in the Province, the Government appointed a committee to investigate the whole question and make recommendations. The Committee originally consisted of:

Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta, M.D., M.R.C.P., L.M., & S., F.C.P.S., M.L.A. (Chairman).

Principal D.G. Karve, M.A.

Mr. S.B. Tyabji, I.S.E. (Retired).

Sir Ivon Hope Taunton, C.I.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to Government; and

Mr. J. Santos, M.A., I.A.A.S. (Retired), Financial Adviser to Government (Secretary).

On Dr. Mehta's appointment as Director-General of the Indian Medical Services, Principal

Karve, was appointed Chairman of the Committee.

DRIVE FOR ECONOMY

The Committee has been requested to give special consideration to the demands of the various important and nation-building reconstruction and development plans which the Government has launched. It is also to examine generally the increase in expenditure both of a temporary and permanent character since 1938-39. It is also to examine generally the increase in expenditure both of a temporary and permanent character since 1938-39 so far as administrative machinery is concerned. It is carrying out a thorough inquiry into the various aspects of the entire administrative machinery with a view to suggesting concrete measures for reducing expenditure and increasing its efficiency. The Committee has similarly been asked to explore avenues of absorbing the surplus staff that might have to be sent away

under the retrenchment programme in the requirements of personnel of the various reconstruction and development plans.

The other terms of reference include consideration of methods of recruitment of additional staff and the question whether the field of recruitment is unduly limited by lack of facilities for training and if so, the measures necessary for the extension of these facilities. Although the Government has been carrying out the examination and revision of permanent pay-scales independently, the Committee is not precluded from suggesting broad principles of pay-scale revision and organisation. Apart from the question of policy, which is an exclusive concern of the Government, the Administrative Enquiry Committee is competent to indicate the economy in expenditure

that can be achieved if particular policies were abandoned, modified or adopted in place of others.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Since the Committee started functioning in December 1946, it has already made its interim reports on certain branches of the Civil Supply Department which had been created under war-time conditions and pressure of the rationing and controls that had to be introduced. The report also covers the general principles on the basis of which post-war revised pay-scales should be fixed, the pay-scales and allowances of the Housing Organisation, the age of compulsory retirement and the question of absorption of temporary or retrenched staff and such other questions of administrative reorganisation as are from time to time referred to the Committee for advice.

RELIEF TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS



The Congress Ministry, since it assumed office in April 1946, has throughout taken a keen interest in the problem of extending relief to low-paid Government servants who have been hard hit by the prevailing price inflation and its direct and indirect repercussions.

In an effort to solve the problem of hardship caused to its employees, the Government adopted several short-range measures of relief which are described below. It has also decided, as a measure of permanent, long-range and substantial relief, generally to follow the Central Pay Commission's recommendations regarding the basic pay-structure, dearness allowance, house rent and

compensatory allowances as modified by the orders of the Government of India on these recommendations and subject to such further alterations as may be dictated by the special conditions obtaining in the Province of Bombay. **The revised pay-scales when introduced will be applied retrospectively from January 1, 1947. But the Commission's recommendation regarding dearness allowance as further liberalised by the Government of India has already been adopted with effect from August 16, 1947, except that persons drawing a pay of Rs. 400 and above upto Rs. 1,000 have been allowed to draw the former cost of living (war) allowance till such time as their pay-**

scales are revised when the allowance is to be taken into account for purposes of computation of arrears.

TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL PAY & BONUS

The Government has sanctioned from August 1, 1946, a temporary additional pay of Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 to persons drawing (i) pay below Rs. 40 p.m. and (ii) pay between Rs. 40 and Rs. 250, respectively. Besides this, interim relief in the form of bonus at the rate of Rs. 60 and Rs. 120 to the two categories of persons mentioned above was sanctioned in January 1947. A second bonus of Rs. 30 and Rs. 60 was similarly sanctioned in July 1947. The monthly interim relief earned since January 1, 1947 and the second bonus are to be computed when retrospective effect is given from January 1, 1947 to the revised pay-scales and allowances.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

One of the first acts of this Government on assuming office was to sanction a uniform increase of Rs. 4 p.m. in the dearness allowance paid to low-paid Government and grant-in-aid establishments with effect from April 1, 1946. The dearness allowance scheme has been further liberalised

with effect from August 16, 1947 in accordance with the Central Pay Commission's recommendations.

COMPENSATORY WAR ALLOWANCE

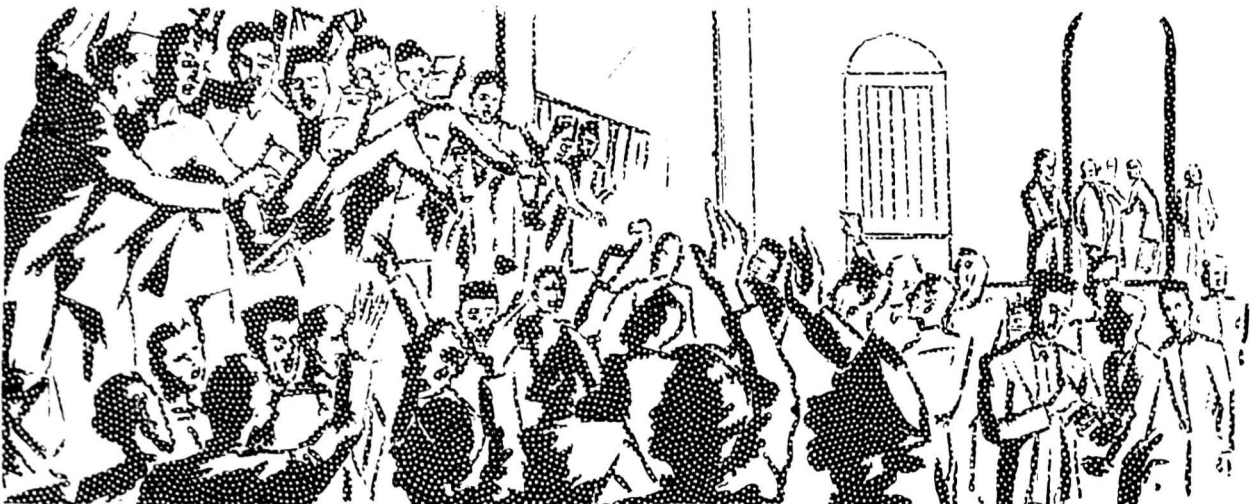
This allowance has been granted and further liberalized with retrospective effect from August 1, 1945, with a view to equalising the emoluments of clerks on Bombay scales of pay with those of clerks on mofussil scales of pay serving in Bombay and drawing the Bombay Compensatory Allowance.

LEAVE CONCESSIONS

Terminal leave has been sanctioned to temporary Government servants whose services are terminated on their becoming surplus to the requirements of staff. Formerly, they did not get leave to their credit on the termination of their posts.

The grant of maternity leave had so far been restricted to permanent women employees. The benefit of this leave has now been extended to such temporary employees as have put in at least one year's continuous service according to the scale prescribed.

CONTROL OF FORWARD TRADING

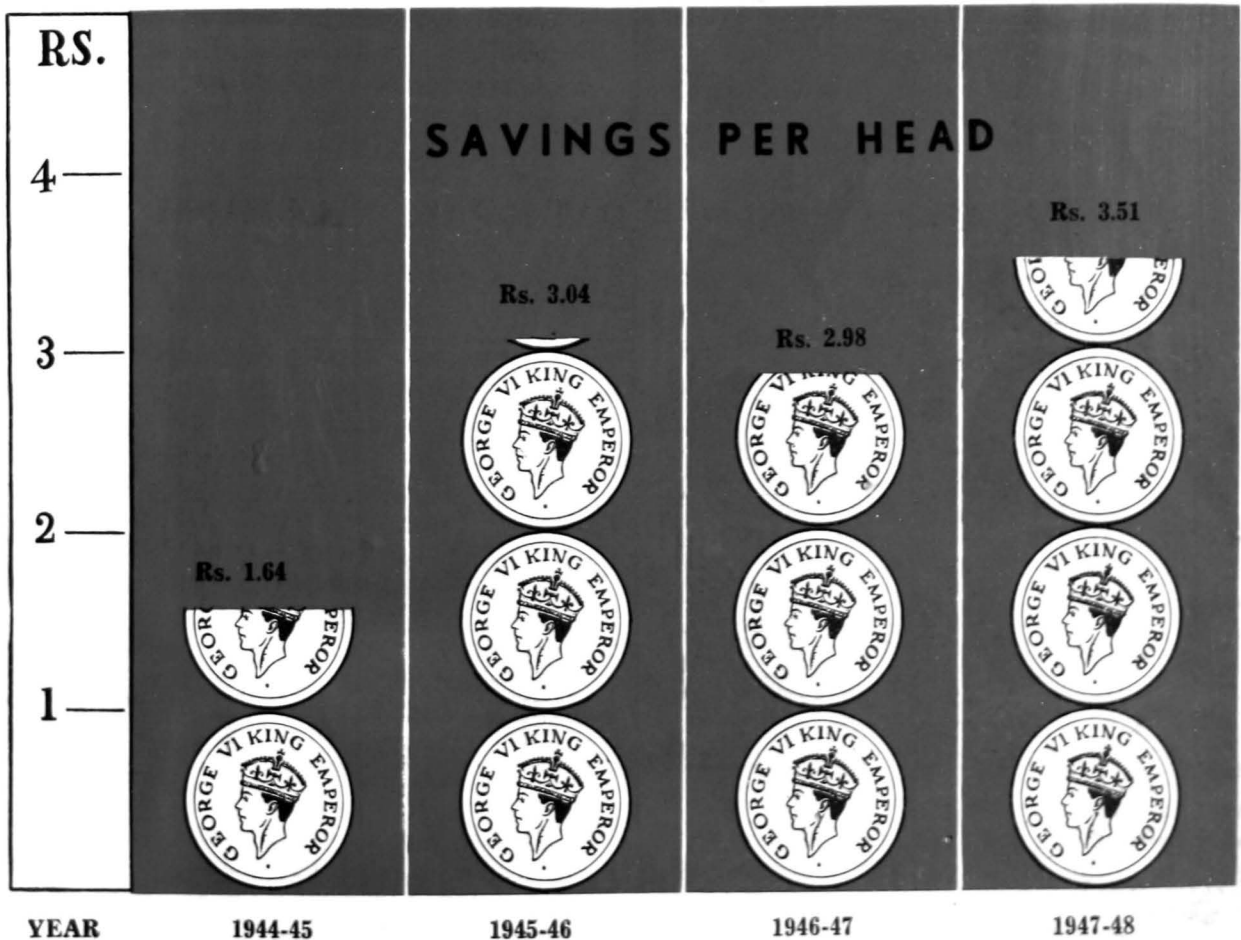
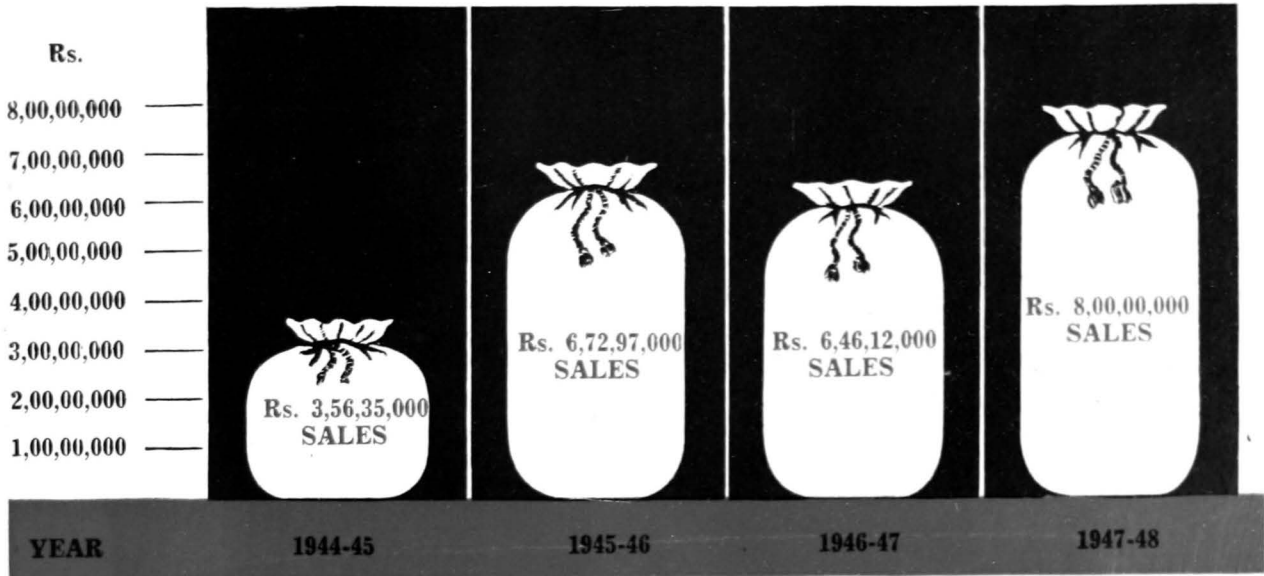


At present, the Government has no control over forward markets in commodities other than cotton and stocks and shares. The complaint has frequently been made that, in view of this lack

of control, there is often excessive speculation in commodity markets, the effects of which have proved disadvantageous both to producers and genuine traders.

BOMBAY'S PROUD RECORD

SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME



Bombay Province showed a steady progress in Small Savings and annexed several prizes. Full account will be found in the section entitled "Miscellaneous" of this brochure.

Another popular complaint is that such control as the Government exercises over the cotton and stock markets under the Bombay Cotton Contracts Act, 1932 and the Bombay Securities Contracts Control Act, 1925 has proved ineffective. These Acts provide that forward contracts other than those made through recognised associations are void in law. But experience has shown that such a provision does not go far enough to be effective in actual practice. In fact, forward trading takes place outside recognised associations and in a manner which is detrimental to genuine trade interests.

PRINCIPLES OF CONTROL

The report of the Committee of the Cabinet on the control of forward trading in cotton in this Province contains the recommendation that Government should, in order to make its control more effective, take powers to impose bye-laws on a recognised association in all matters, nominate the President or one or more members of the Board and to supersede the entire Board of such an association if and when necessary. The Committee had also recommended that contracts not in accordance with the bye-laws of a recognised association should not merely be void as at present but also be made illegal and parties entering into such contracts rendered liable to punishment. The Report further recommends that it should be a penal offence for any person to organise, or assist in organising, or be a member of, an unrecognised association.

The Government has accordingly introduced the Bombay Forward Contracts Control Bill, which while consolidating the present law regarding control of forward markets, incorporates provisions on the lines recommended by the Committee of the Cabinet for tightening up Government control over such markets. Further, the draft law enables the Government to extend the Act or certain parts of it not only to cotton and stocks and shares but also to other goods and to such areas as it may from time to time specify in a notification. The Bill was introduced and passed in the September sessions of the Legislative Assembly and Council and will shortly be enacted.

HELP TO INDUSTRY

The legislative measure introduced by the

Government is one of the greatest importance and far-reaching effect in helping healthy and nationally beneficial industrial and business development in the Province. It not merely safeguards but immunizes, as best as could be done with the existing administrative and legal machinery, the genuine investment operations from the risks and dangers to which they are usually exposed. In other words, it eliminates the aspect of speculation verging on reckless gambling that is found to involve the investing public in the difficulties and dangers of uncertainty of the stock and commodity markets, violent and manipulated movements and fluctuations with consequent losses and even ruin to important sections of the investing and trading public.

MODEL LAW

The measure has also been welcomed as unique and comprehensive in its scope and character. It has been hailed by all responsible industrial, trade and business interests as well as the 'bona fide' investing public as calculated to protect and help them in their legitimate industrial and business expansion and other socially useful activities.

BOMBAY SALES TAX

Since the Bombay Sales Tax Act was introduced by the Government, the various interests affected by it have been offering criticism and suggestions. It was, therefore, decided to have the various aspects of the taxation measure examined by a non-official committee and the Bombay Sales Tax Enquiry Committee was appointed in 1946 with Mr. D. R. Gadgil, M.Litt., as Chairman and Mr. Mahomad Husein Hasham Premji, B. A. and Mr. Shantilal Shah, B.A., LL.B., M.L.C., as members.

SALES TAX REFORM

The Committee submitted its report in January, 1947 and the Government accepted most of its recommendations and suggestions for effecting improvements in the Act. These have since been incorporated in the Bombay Sales Tax (Amendment) Act, 1947. Under the provisions of the amended Act, the possibilities of unfair competition between registered and unregistered dealers have been eliminated through the provision of limit of turn-over in the registration of importers, manufacturers and processors.

Similarly, a system of voluntary registration has been introduced which enables dealers with medium-size turn-overs either to register themselves or not as they individually consider more advantageous. The certificate of registration has now been simplified so that it is no longer necessary to specify the goods other than the goods required in the manufacture or processing of other goods which can be purchased tax-free by holders of the certificates. Contractors are now excluded from the definition of "dealer" since their charges mainly represent labour and services and, only in an insignificant fraction, goods. With these improvements, the Government has been able to meet the legitimate demands of the interests affected by the original Act.

ELICITING PUBLIC OPINION

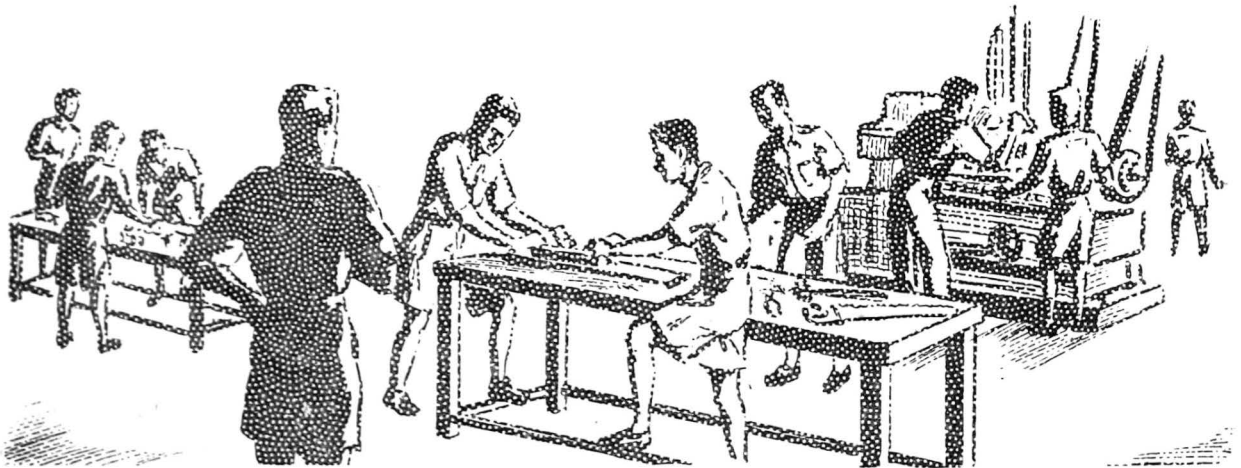
The Committee has recommended unanimously that the existing list of exemptions under the Act should be curtailed. The majority

recommendations also favoured the general turn-over tax. In view, however, of the far-reaching repercussions involved in the acceptance of these recommendations, the Government decided to elicit the opinion of the various associations, chambers, unions and other trade organisations concerned and invited them to forward their views to the Government. These are at present under scrutiny and any action that may be necessary to amend this legislation will be taken after full consideration.

APPEALS TO TRIBUNAL

A Bombay Sales Tax Tribunal has been established from September 1, 1947 for dealing with appeals and revision applications against the decisions of the Commissioner of Sales Tax, Bombay Province. The Tribunal consists of a President and two members and exercises all the powers conferred on it under the provisions of the Bombay Sales Tax Act, 1946.

RESETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN



The Government's programme of resettlement of ex-servicemen combines the features of solution of the problem of demobilisation and

utilisation, in the most profitable and socially useful manner, of the training, disciplined habits and wide experience of ex-servicemen by getting

them absorbed in the various development schemes included in the Reconstruction Programme.

50% POSTS RESERVED

As it became necessary to provide employment to demobilised soldiers and other ex-servicemen, 50 per cent. of vacancies in the Government offices which occurred since September 1942 have been exclusively reserved for ex-servicemen. The remaining 50 per cent vacancies are also shared by them along with civilian candidates. Further, with a view to giving equal opportunity for re-employment to ex-servicemen who will be demobilised later on, it has been decided to extend the period of the 50 per cent. reservation up to the end of March, 1949. All persons who belong to the Indian National Army (INA) and are qualified by having "approved war service" are held eligible for appointment to posts in the reserved and non-reserved vacancies.

RESETTLEMENT CONCESSIONS

The Government has not accepted the principle of preferential treatment to ex-servicemen and has decided that they should not be treated differently from the rest of the public. Some concessions have, however, been extended to them in order to help them to settle down to civilian life, turn themselves into useful citizens and thus share the labours and responsibilities of the general population.

The concessions are:

(1) **Free House Sites & Land Improvement:**—Free house sites on Government land or land acquired by Government are granted only to such ex-servicemen who do not possess houses of their own. But they are required to build their houses on such house sites within a specified period. The contour-bundling and field embankment charges incurred on land held in the name of an ex-serviceman or his father are foregone.

(2) **Land For Cultivation:**—In certain cases, lands are granted to ex-servicemen without their having to pay their auction price. They have only to pay the occupancy price up to a maximum of three times the assessment on new and impartible tenure. Certain conditions are attached to this concession.

(3) **Training and Employment Facilities:**—The Government has established facilities for ex-servicemen of admission to the existing vocational, technical and training schools in the Province.



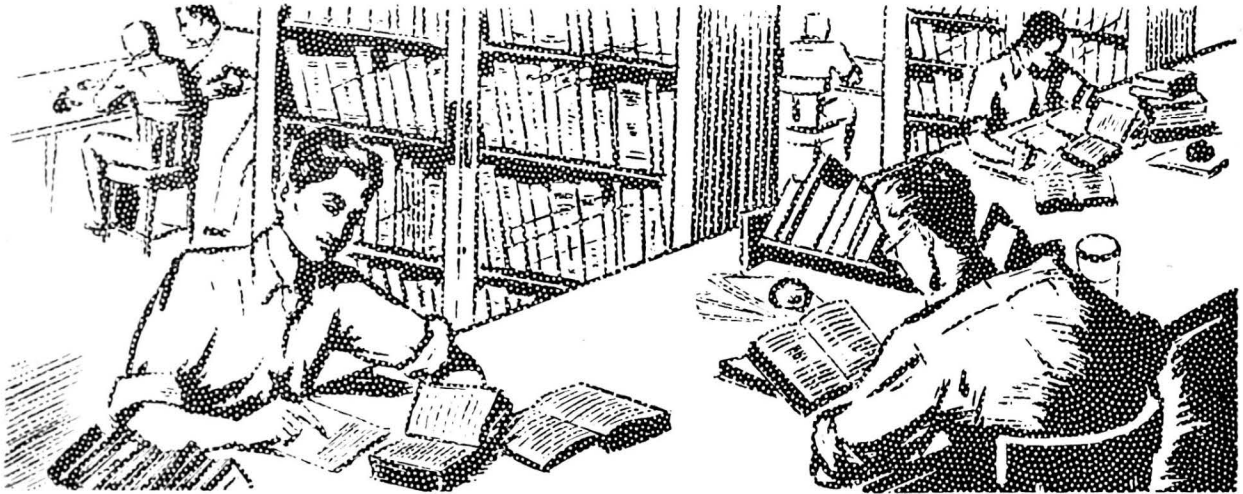
Training of Ex-servicemen

Arrangements have also been made to start more schools for imparting training to them. If, after undergoing their training at these institutions, they are found fit for appointment to posts in Government departments and express their willingness to take up such employment, they would be absorbed in Government service.

(4) **Rewards For Distinguished Service:**—The members of the Defence Services domiciled in this Province who have been awarded decorations for gallantry in the field are entitled to cash rewards and such rewards have been made to them.

(5) **Educational Concessions:**—The children and dependants of ex-servicemen, whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 300 and who are domiciled in this Province, are given certain educational concessions. These include remission of fees and grant of allowances in pre-primary, primary, secondary, middle and high schools and industrial and technical institutions as well as free studentships in Government arts and professional colleges including medical training institutions.

STATISTICS & RESEARCH



While the plans for establishing a centralised statistical office in Bombay had been discussed earlier, the Bureau of Economics and Statistics was actually set up in November 1947, and it marked the beginning of a scientific, reliable and useful organisation of statistical compilation and study so vital to the administration in evolving the economic and social policy of the Government.

CENTRAL LABORATORY

The Bureau is intended to serve as a guide to the various departments of the Government in the work of collection of statistics in the sphere of various departmental activities. It is also concerned with improving the methodology employed in the collection of statistics and exploring and improving new methods in the field of inquiry. It functions, in other words, as the central laboratory in which the work of both direction in investigation and synthesis and analysis of the data collected through departmental agencies is carried on.

ASSEMBLING DATA

The Bureau itself handles independently the more important assignments requiring specialised approach and assembles the data required by the Government for policy-making and gauging the results of administrative policy. It is, therefore, expected to be associated with all the socio-economic inquiries ordered by the Government. In addition, it provides liaison between the Central Government and the Government of Bom-

bay in all matters affecting statistical studies. It also organises in the provincial sphere any statistical surveys that might be required as part of approved all-India plans.

“THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN”

The Bureau also publishes a quarterly statistical bulletin which presents results of statistical enquiries and studies conducted by the Bureau, a digest of Provincial Statistics and other miscellaneous statistical statements of immediate interest. During the last year, the following inquiries were conducted by the Bureau: 1. Operation of the Grain Levy Scheme—A Survey; 2. Clinical Nutrition Survey and (3) Survey of Agricultural Holdings.

In addition, studies of already published administration reports, e.g. Public Health, Co-operative Movement, etc., were undertaken. The results of these appear in the issues of the Bulletin.

The Bureau has been functioning with a Director, two Deputy Directors and a modest staff and is capable of development into an adequately staffed organisation carrying out with speed and efficiency all the useful functions of a modern, up-to-date department of statistical studies. Although the science of statistics has yet to be developed in this country, considerable public interest has been aroused in this organisation and students of economics and sociology find the activities and publications of the Bureau of considerable use to them.

Review of Activities for the Period from October, 1947 to March, 1948

Owing to delay in producing our brochure for the period of one year from October, 1946 to September, 1947, we have appended this brief review of the Government's activities from October, 1947 to March, 1948—which will bring the account of the Ministry's administration up to the beginning of the current financial year.

The many-pronged progress made in the various departments of nation-building activities was maintained during the six-monthly period from October, 1947 to March, 1948. Emphasis continued to be laid on the socio-economic aspects of the Government policy as before.

In presenting the budget for 1948-49, the Finance Minister of the Government of Bombay surveyed the entire field of the nation-building activities and programme of reconstruction and development launched by the Government of Bombay. The following statement of provisional allotments announced by the Minister should provide a fairly good idea of the Government's progressive policy :

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------------|
| Agriculture | .. .. | 850 |
| Veterinary | .. .. | 50 |
| Forests, Co-operation, Cottage Industries, Land Records | .. .. | 315 |
| Minor Irrigation | .. .. | 100 |
| Khar Lands | .. .. | 20 |
| Education | .. .. | 1,338 |
| Medical | .. .. | 525 |
| Public Health | .. .. | 100 |
| Public Health Projects | .. .. | 224 |
| Village Water Supply | .. .. | 221 |
| Town Planning and Valuation | .. .. | 4 |
| Industries and Fisheries | .. .. | 70 |
| Labour and Labour Welfare | .. .. | 200 |
| Housing | .. .. | 400 |
| Roads | .. .. | 500 |
| Buildings | .. .. | 300 |
| Road Transport | .. .. | 400 |
| Backward Classes | .. .. | 100 |
| Milk Supply | .. .. | 300 |
| Other schemes already approved | .. .. | 54 |
| Balance for new schemes | .. .. | 121 |
| | | Total. .. 7,500 |

| Subject | Allotment (in lakhs of rupees) |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Electric Grid | 675 |
| Major Irrigation | 633 |

EDUCATION

During the period under review, the Government introduced a number of executive measures

to implement its progressive educational policy covering the entire field of education.

So far as primary education is concerned, a rapid survey of educational facilities and conditions in the Ratnagiri and Kolaba Districts was ordered to be made.

The five-year scheme in respect of village schools costing Rs. 28,36,000 was launched during the year and a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs was earmarked for the construction of 6,000 buildings for primary schools during the next 15 years. An amount of Rs. 20,00,000 was placed at the disposal of the District Building Committees. The District Local Boards were also encouraged to undertake their school building programme and the Government's contribution towards the costs of building was increased from two-thirds to three-fourths. The primary school teachers' pay-scales were revised and liberalized with retrospective effect from January 1947 and compulsory primary education was introduced in several districts.

A scheme of adult education costing Rs. 53 lakhs with a target of 665,000 literates between the ages of 15 and 40, beginning with 900 classes, in the first year, and increasing gradually to 1,780 in the tenth year, was sanctioned. Under this scheme, each taluka is to have a centre at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,400. Special provision has been made for equipment and other grants in the backward areas. One of the features of this scheme is that children are employed to teach adults. Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Labour, was appointed President of the Bombay City Adult Education Committee.

Basic Education

A Graduates' Training College in Basic Education was established at Belgaum and trainees were given stipends and freeships. After completing the course of training, they would be

given the Diploma in Basic Education (D.B.E.) which would be equivalent to the B. T. degree.

Physical training was reorganized with the introduction of a revised and improved diploma course, consisting of Indian games and all modern features. Some of the measures adopted by the Government are special pay for teachers holding the P. T. diploma, appointments of 12 Assistant Deputy Educational Inspectors for P. T., recognition to private institutions holding P. T. short-term courses, grants to gymnasia and grants for the library and laboratory at the Kandivli Institute.

The Technical Advisory Board for Visual Education and the Visual Education Advisory Board were appointed to advise the Government in organizing audio-visual education in the Province and a five-year scheme of visual education costing Rs. 14,60,000 was sanctioned. Under this scheme, projectors are to be purchased and educational films purchased and produced to meet the demands of audio-visual education.

Among the other administrative measures adopted may be mentioned the bill for the establishment of the Secondary School Certificate Examination Board. A recurring annual grant of Rs. 7,500 was sanctioned to the Mumbai Marathi Grantha Sangrahalaya for research in Marathi literature. A Central Library Advisory Board and Advisory Boards for Regional Libraries were also formed.

LAND, FORESTS & AGRICULTURE

The Government pursued with vigour its well-defined policy of drastic reform in all matters affecting the interests of agriculturists and 'ryats' generally and relief to the under-privileged and exploited masses. The land and administrative policy continued to be dictated by this fundamental consideration and the programme of progressive reform was carried out with a number of

administrative measures aiming at ameliorating the social and economic conditions of tenants, cultivators and the bulk of the population of the Province.

A new policy in respect of the tenure of waste lands was formulated during the period under review. Preference was given, in accordance with the Government's policy, to co-operative societies, while the terms of tenancy were refixed with a view to preventing misuse, exploitation and neglect of potentialities of the land for improved food production. Twenty thousand seven hundred and eighty acres of land were given out for growing more food. A five-year scheme for growing vegetables was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3,00,000 and subsidies were offered to encourage cultivation of sweet potatoes. A nucleus seeds scheme was similarly sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 59,000, covering a period of five years.

Another scheme for the purchase of ammonium sulphate and its supply to agriculturists was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 4,00,000. Agricultural implements were frozen and then distributed to needy agriculturists, and legislative action was taken to deal with the problem of agricultural pests and diseases, as some landlords appeared to be pathetic towards the vital need for controlling them.

During the period under review, the Government appointed a committee to investigate the economic and social conditions of the Halis in the Surat District and organized legal aid for tenants. Action was taken to end effectively all unlawful levies of cess, rate, veros, huk, etc., imposed in alienated villages by talukdars and inamdars and they were warned that they would be prosecuted under the provisions of the Tenancy Act and fined up to Rs. 1,000 for breach of Government orders.

Revenue Remission

A 10% remission in land revenue was granted

in celebration of the achievement of Independence by India. This concession was intended to benefit all agriculturists and tenants whether they paid rent in cash or kind or by way of a share in the crop, and administrative action was taken to see that no cultivator was cheated of the benefit of the remission. The maximum rates of interest were fixed under the Bombay Moneylenders' Act, 1946, and suitable machinery was set up and perfected for the administration of the Bombay Tenancy Act.

A committee representing the Deccan sugar factories and agriculturists was appointed to investigate the existing agreements between the parties with a view to securing reasonable rentals for the agriculturists in modification of the terms of the agreements, and the Tenancy Act made applicable to the leases. The rates of sugar were, at the same time, refixed and liberalized in view of the decontrol of sugar and gur to enable the irrigators to sell their sugarcane more profitably, without, however, producing undesirable repercussions on the prices of sugar and gur. The wells subsidy scheme was modified and an agriculturist who was a cultivator, whether smallholder or not, was made eligible for the Government subsidy. The 'bagaitdars' operating outside the sugarcane crop areas were enabled to have surplus water of the Girna Canal and the scope of tagai loans was extended to cover potato production in several districts. A potato scheme costing Rs. 73,32,000 for implementation during the Rabi season was also sanctioned.

Compost-Making Scheme

A five-year compost-making scheme was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 5,00,000. The scheme is expected to yield 5,00,000 tons of compost manure sufficient to meet the needs of 1,00,000 acres of irrigated land with a corresponding crop production of 3,90,000 maunds of additional foodgrains.

The wages of agricultural labour in the Than-

District were fixed in the interests of labour. Agriculturists were exempted from taking out licences for their carts. In addition to the release of frozen agricultural machinery to agriculturists, the prices of such machinery were fixed to prevent profiteering and its disastrous effects. Agricultural machinery of indigenous manufacture was exempted from the purview of control orders and the Rural Development Boards were entrusted with the work of distribution of iron and steel needed for agricultural purposes.

LABOUR: SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

While the Government was considering the recommendation of the Industrial Court for the setting up of a Standardization Committee, the Court had already appointed an 'ad hoc' committee to deal expeditiously with the points relating to the interpretation of the terms of the award and the aggrieved workers were asked to approach this Committee.

The Bombay Industrial Relations Act was also applied to the whole of the Province. The Act covers a much wider field and reduces the period of notice for terminating an award, settlement or registered agreement from 6 months to 2 months. The Act provides for the setting up of Labour Courts, approved unions' substantial privileges as well as obligations, collection of union subscription dues in the employers' premises, etc. The Act also curtails the period of conciliation and the Government has taken powers for obtaining information regarding the plant and previous transactions and dealings with employees. Arrangements were made to have the cases before the Industrial Court transferred to a Tribunal with a view to having adjudication expedited.

The scheme in respect of four Workers' Literacy Boards for Ahmednagar, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, East and West Khandesh and Dharwar for making industrial workers literate was sanctioned

and Rs. 1,81,000 allotted during the year to finance it. Twenty-seven charkha classes at the Labour Welfare Centres were established to impart training to the wives, children and dependants of industrial workers who could utilize their leisure usefully and adopt spinning as a subsidiary occupation.

The Government appointed the Industrial Conditions Inquiry Committee with Mr. Purshotam Kanji as Chairman and Mr. P. V. Gillespie and the Director of Labour Information as members. The Provincial Labour Advisory Board has welcomed the proposed legislation to create the wage board machinery to enable the Government to take appropriate action in implementing, in the provincial sphere, the terms of the industrial truce resolution. The Committee also hopes that a labour code would be formulated. The Board recommended decasualization in the textile industry with a view to eradicating bribery, corruption and nepotism in the recruitment of labour in the industry.

The Government also decided to strengthen the adjudication and arbitration machinery with a view to having the industrial disputes decided as expeditiously as possible. While the demands for the fixation of a minimum wage and the standardization of wages of textile workers in various places were referred to the Industrial Courts, a standing committee was appointed to study and advise the Government on the various problems arising out of labour-management disputes.

HOUSING

The Government generally approved the recommendations of the Provincial Housing Advisory Committee and adopted the programme of housing in all industrial cities with a target of 125,000 tenements within 5 years at a cost of Rs. 7½ crores on the assumption that the Central Government and the employers of labour contributed Rs. 2½ crores each. The programme pro-

vides for liberal loans repayable within 25 years to co-operative societies. Applications for land for building purposes in Bombay City and the Suburbs and other industrial towns were invited by the Government.

At the same time, the Bombay Land Requisition Ordinance, 1947, was promulgated partly to make the fullest possible use, on a basis of priority in need, of the available vacant premises under the conditions of acute shortage of houses and partly to check the 'pugree' evil which had assumed scandalous proportions. The Ordinance was subsequently replaced by an Act. It provides for requisition of houses or land and notification to the Government of vacant premises by landlords with a provision for penalties including jail for landlords' malpractices. Special executive machinery has also been set up to enforce the provisions of the Act which has exercised an effective check on the malpractices.

Other suitable measures were adopted to solve, as far as possible under the difficult conditions that have continued to exist, the acute problem of housing shortage in Bombay City. The building rules have been suitably relaxed and permission given for the construction of an additional storey to the buildings in the City and the Suburbs. Legislation was also introduced to prevent misuse of valuable building material for non-essential buildings. Building materials are controlled and their prices have been fixed to facilitate their best use for easing the existing building situation in the interests of the people directly affected by the housing shortage.

In addition to these measures, the Government has taken over the military hutments in Bombay City, the Suburbs and the Thana District, reconverted and repaired them for civilian use and allotted some of them to the public for residential purposes. A large number of them have been turned into refugee camps and are in

the occupation of refugees from
The work of construction of tenements in accordance with the ambitious building programme which the Government has also been in progress. The tenements will be let out to the needy people very soon. No effort has been spared to encourage the building activities of both private investors and co-operative societies which have been given a number of facilities to stimulate building activities.

THE BACKWARD CLASSES

The Government's policy of promoting the uplift of Harijans and other Backward Classes was implemented with a number of schemes and reforms as well as increased activities in the programme of aid and encouragement to these classes both in the educational and the socio-economic fields.

Facilities for primary education were made available in the tribal and other areas inhabited by the Hill tribes and other Backward Classes. Hostel accommodation, technical and industrial training, training in improved methods of agriculture, free supply of slates and books and regular attendance scholarships constitute some of the Government measures. Fourteen peripatetic parties toured the various districts and imparted training in cottage industries. Bias classes and model agricultural projects supported these activities and eight training demonstration centres carried out the training programme.

A large number of scholarships in addition to freeships were offered for the exclusive benefit of the Backward Classes in order to encourage and help them to obtain every type of education including collegiate and higher technical education. The collegiate scholarships are tenable for five years. Special scholarships were granted to induce Backward Class women and girls to obtain nursing and health visitors' training.

pupils were awarded to encourage the Jinal and Hill tribes to avail themselves of educational facilities established by Government. Additional stipends were similarly granted to Backward Class teachers.

Increased and additional grants were given to several voluntary organizations engaged in welfare work amongst the Backward Classes. Supply of milk powder at a concessional price was sanctioned and other amenities calculated to help the Backward Classes specially were offered.

CIVIL SUPPLIES

During the period under review, the Civil Supplies Department continued to function as before in imposing or removing controls over essential commodities, fixing prices and regulating and restricting the movement of articles of food, necessaries of life and essential commodities as the need arose to adopt such action in the best interests of the people throughout the Province.

The various controls were suitably modified to improve the supply facilities and ensure free movement of essential commodities necessary for agriculture, such as groundnut cake, etc. The

Government, despite the handicap of limited and short supplies, did everything possible in adjusting the policy of controls to the needs of the situation as it was created with a view to minimizing hardship to the people and encouraging improved agricultural production.

Thus, the licensing system for cloth and yarn dealers was introduced and the hawkers' licences were cancelled to prevent malpractices and deal with profiteering and blackmarket activities. The prices of cement were fixed and the available supplies of steel and iron were distributed with a view to encouraging building activities with special preference to those who needed them for the construction of residential premises.

The control on sugar was removed, while the use of milk in restaurants and other establishments was banned even outside Bombay with a view to conserving the milk for purposes of consumption by the public. Coal and coke prices were fixed in various places and firewood and charcoal were decontrolled when it was found necessary to do so in public interest. The restrictions on imports of oil engines were removed and frozen oil engines of low horse power capacity were ordered to be released for the use of the public.

The End