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# COCHIN INFORMATION



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## “THE NATION THAT SAVED US”

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ON 28th October 1940 Italy assaulted Greece without provocation. At that time, other great nations in Europe had been overwhelmed by the Fascists and everybody wondered how such a small nation of 8 million people—including women and children—would stand up against the Duce’s “8 million bayonets”. Yet, the world knows how the gallant Greeks, not only resisted Italian aggression but actually drove the Italian enemies back into Albania with no help from outside, beyond a little air support from Great Britain. It was only when the Germans came to the rescue of the Italians, five months afterwards, that the Greek armies were overwhelmed. This victory, even according to their own conservative estimate, caused the Axis 14,653 men killed and 42,520 wounded.

MORE important than the casualties inflicted was the time gained by the Allies. It was the small nation of Greece which gave breathing time to the Allies including India to perfect their home defence.

FOR thus frustrating the Axis plans, Greece was not left free by the enemies. For the heroes of Greece the penalty imposed was death—death by starvation. Systematic looting of food-stuffs and robbery of seeds and live-stocks left Greece, the land of liberty and plenty, without enough food to feed the people. A pound of bread costs more than Rs. 100/-. Famine, starvation and disease take a heavy toll. It is authoritatively estimated that at least 5,00,000 Greeks have died of starvation. Infant mortality is as high as 50 per cent, possibly even higher. Unless relief measures are rushed through, on a large scale, the Greek Nation will be exterminated.

HEAR the pathetic appeal from King George of Greece:—

“FOR the sake of the mothers and wives and particularly of the children of those men who so courageously fought and are still fighting the invaders, I appeal to you in India to give all the help you can to get food, clothes and medicine for GREECE urgently.”

Is this appeal to go unheeded by us? All contributions, however small, will be welcome and will be acknowledged. The fund will be open only for 6 weeks and the contributions may be sent to:—

**The War Publicity Officer,**

*DURBAR HALL, ERNAKULAM*

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# “UNION IS STRENGTH”

“CO-OPERATION should have no limits at all. It should seek to embrace the whole population, all classes, creeds and communities; it should seek to bring all these people together within its fold and it should always show that society, a combination of people, a union of people has a greater strength and can exert a greater influence than its individual members each exercising his power or his influence by himself”, said Sir George Boag, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., during the course of his speech at the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Cochin Central Co-operative Bank, Limited.

He said, “The object of our meeting this afternoon is to mark the successful achievements of the Bank during the 25 years of its existence. The Bank may very properly take credit on this occasion for having passed its infancy and childhood, having attained its majority and giving promise of a vigorous maturity. Accordingly this should be an occasion, first of all, for rejoicing on the part of those who attach, as I do, value to the co-operative movement and who in consequence feel great satisfaction as they look back upon the past 25 years of this Bank’s existence and mark the progress it has made and the great service which it is now in a position to render to the Primary Societies and their members and by that means to increase the happiness and well-being of the Agricultural population of this State. Your President, Directors and all those connected with the working of the Bank are entitled to feel gratification on this occasion, gratification at the success achieved, of which we have had a summary placed before us this evening, a summary which gives us the story of steady progress, of difficulties met and overcome, of development, consolidation

and expansion attained. But while this, as I have said, may properly be regarded as an occasion for rejoicing, congratulation and gratification on the part of those connected with the management of the Bank, I think it should also be regarded as an occasion for a more serious enquiry into the position which the Bank has reached.

We may well compare this occasion from this point of view, with a stock-taking or an audit which not only marks the progress which has been made and the advance achieved, but also considers whether that advance, that progress, is as great as those interested in the Co-operative Movement could wish, or as in the circumstances of the time, the Bank might properly have been expected to make. Has the Bank, in these 25 years of its existence done as much for the co-operative movement in the State for the benefit of the Primary Societies and their members as it should and as it ought to have done?

Now, in looking forward, I have no doubt that the Management have kept closely before their minds those most important principles which must, in my opinion, condition all co-operative work whether in this State, or in any other part of this country or indeed in any other part of the world. First of all, as your Bank’s report which we have heard, has stressed, your Bank has in these 25 years won the confidence of the Government and the people of this State. Now be careful in laying down the lines of further development that you do nothing to alienate that confidence which in this 25 years you have won. And then again, be careful that in all future developments, you continue as you have done in the past to foster, to maintain and to cherish the true spirit of Co-operation.

I propose later to enlarge for a few minutes on that subject, but in the meantime, I would mention one other principle which I think is most important for you to bear in mind in considering the future development of the co-operative movement and that is, "Never forget that the life of the co-operative movement is in the Primary Societies and in their members." Without these healthy Primary Societies, I venture to suggest that your Bank could not exist at all; it certainly could not have advanced in the manner it has done during the past 25 years. You have the Primary Societies as well as your own good management to thank for the success that you have so far achieved. Therefore it is your bounden duty in considering the future to consider the Primary Societies and their members, and now I propose to enlarge for a few minutes on what seems to me some of the essential principles of co-operation. In the first place, the value of this co-operative movement seems to me to lie in the influence it exerts in bringing people together. We have heard slogans to the effect that "Unity is strength"; "We must unite to be strong" and so on and so forth. Very excellent maxims. But unfortunately few of the people, fond of giving expression to these maxims, put them into practice. Their unity or the union which they advocate is imperfect. They advocate a union which is often designed for the purpose of attacking somebody else. Now that is not the sort of bringing together that I admire in this co-operative movement. Co-operation should have no limits at all. It should seek to embrace the whole population, all classes, creeds and communities, it should seek to bring all these people together within its fold; and it should always show that society, a combination of people, a union of people, has a greater strength and can exert a greater

influence than its individual members, each exercising his power or his influence by himself. The association of a number of individuals not only pools the experience and strength and the character and knowledge of these individuals, but adds something of its own to that common experience. This is where the co-operative movement derives its strength. Not only is the movement valuable in the tendency which it exerts to bring people together but it also accustoms people to help one another. It inculcates the virtue of unselfishness. It teaches people to be thoughtful and considerate for others. In the case of a business concern such as your Bank, the co-operative spirit should teach all those connected with the Bank that business is not necessarily competitive or cut-throat. A co-operative business can be no less profitable and no less successful than a competitive business; and I venture to think, Sir, that that is one of the lessons which is most needed to-day. Some of the messages read just now refer to the great need for a special co-operative spirit at this present time. And I believe that if we analyse the need for the co-operative movement now, one of the main reasons why it is so necessary, is to teach people to get away from this idea of competition—away from the idea that a man cannot be successful unless he tramples somebody else under foot. That is the sort of spirit that this war is being fought to kill; and our co-operative movement here and elsewhere throughout the world, should, if it is worked properly, help to destroy that evil spirit. Then I believe also that this co-operative movement is valuable, because people, having once learnt how much better they can achieve their objects by working together for one purpose, will surely be ready to apply the same method to other purposes. Having learnt that by combining and pooling their resources, they can borrow money

at cheaper rates and utilise it to better advantage, surely, they will apply that lesson to other spheres of activity. And what a different place this world would be, if men engaged in finance and commerce, men whose life work lies in the sphere of economics or in politics, even in matters of culture and religion, would so conduct themselves, as to act in co-operation with one another instead of in competitive rivalry and emulation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these are the things which I value in the co-operative movement. And it is because I believe in the value of these lessons which the

co-operative movement is teaching, that I am proud to occupy the Chair at this meeting, this evening, when we are marking the successful starting of the Cochin Central Co-operative Bank and are congratulating it on having, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, attained a promise of full maturity. We congratulate it on having reached this stage of development and we have the confident hope that by making a fresh start to-day, it will, during the next 25 years of its existence, when it should be in its full powers, extend its influence and exert it for the greater good of all the people of the State."

## COCHIN, 100 YEARS AGO

### HER PETITION WRITERS; AND PETITIONS

[RAO SAHIB K. ACHYUTA MENON, B.A., B.L.,

*Retired Secretary to Government*]

“**P**ETITIONING” is a fine art, and, as in all other arts, the professional is easily distinguished from the amateur. Its votaries even at the present time, when people know or ought to know, the utter futility of addressing petitions to those who have already made up their minds, number in thousands. The beginning of the nineteenth century, when English was slowly filtering into our correspondence, both official and private, was the hey day of petition-writing. Petitions and petition-writers were everywhere. No man in power was safe from their unwelcome approaches. It speaks volumes for the patience and fortitude of the early administrators, that they did not make petitioning a penal offence. Nobody would have blamed them if they

did, when they had the power. More curious offences are not unknown, even now; but anything would have passed muster in those unsophisticated, old days.

In point of picturesqueness and variety, petitions of a century ago are hard to beat. They were drafted for the most part, not by qualified and overpaid people as to-day, but by half-starved and seedy scribes, who loitered about the premises of the courts and other public offices and preyed on the illiterate and simple villagers to their hearts' content. The requests embodied in these old-time petitions, addresses to the British Residents in Cochin and Travancore and to the Diwans, ranged from requests for service under Government to official help in finding out a suitable bride for the applicant. Not a bad

job this last one for a Government servant, with plenty of leisure, when you come to think of it. To the former class belongs the petition of the year 1816 from "Cochin Sumsthanam Hernacolum Poroverthy Ouepililveetil Gochunny Keymal" to "Colonel John Munro, British Resident in Travancore and Cochin". The petition runs thus:—

Most humbly showeth,

That your petitioner in the year 990 (M.E.) till Chingam, the month of Malabar, was imployed moosundy at Cochin Sumsthanam in Tripanatory Court, at that time Kutten. . . . was the first person has wrote a complaint against Ramakistna Sastry and your petitioner that we were receiving bribes and presents and then by order of your generosity was to be investigated in the Huzur Court of Cochin and placed an other person in the situation of your petitioner and the Sastry in the Huzur Court and after investigating they found that the Sastry was guilty and your petitioner was not in the least guilty of anything for which they had already made a decision; after which your petitioner was a little ill, therefore your petitioner had to reside in the house and now your petitioner has recovered from the sickness; now come to your generosity with the hope of being the Judge of the Tirupontory Court, as there is no judge in that court now. If your generosity will give that situation or the former situation, your petitioner will give a good security and will continue the duty without any blame and according to the orders of your generosity. For which act of kindness, petitioner will in duty bound shall ever pray".

History does not record whether the 'Moosundy' got the post of the Judge. The heroic indifference to the rules of grammar and syntax are no doubt regrettable but the compensatory concentration on facts is noteworthy—and that is not a

bad thing in a prospective Judge. We should not also forget that he must have signed in the petition, blindly trusting in the capacity of the petition-writer to adequately portray his sentiments and that he was no more responsible for the state of his pleadings, than is the average client to-day in the law courts.

Somewhat in the same strain was the petition of another person who bore the name of "Barkey" (evidently Varkky, the "B" being the precursor of the tendency to anglicise the name) an inhabitant of Anjikaimal in Cochin. The petition bears date 6th of May 1816 and was as follows:—  
"Most humbly sheweth,

That with due subscription and humble respects, your petitioner begs leave to leave his sentiments at your honour's feet, that is to say: That your petitioner came to Quilon in Makara Masom, purpose to be employed as Judge within the Cochin Districts or other and from which station if your petitioner is employed that he would collect through his ability, without injuring any persons and pay to the Sirkar the sum of Rs. 5,000 Cochin Puthens and perhaps more, as your petitioner intends to get the said employment to discover all such tricks and bribes that others had received from the people of the said Districts and report the same to your honour and that your petitioner will serve faithfully in the said capacity. May it therefore please your honour to take the above facts to your serious consideration and be pleased to grant him the said employment or as your honour shall thank fit.

And your petitioner shall as in duty bound ever pray."

The change from "your generosity" in Keymal's petition to "your honour" in Barkey's is refreshing and serves to link the past with the present. Mr. Barkey

must evidently have been sorely disillusioned when he received Colonel Munro's reply, the nature of which can easily be surmised. That brilliant administrator was the last person to be taken in by the offer to provide "5000 Cochin Pathens or perhaps more" to the Sirkar treasury or the promise to do duty as a blood-hound pursuing and tracking down delinquent predecessors in office; but I feel sure that the great Colonel would have made his "No" as mild as possible, for it was he who made the following observations on two petitions which he received a few days later and which he forwarded to the Diwan for enquiry. "I enclose two papers of complaint. I beg that you will enquire into the circumstances connected with them and let me know the result. I know well enough the propensity of some people to make false and frivolous complaints, but at the same time it is the duty of the public servants to administer justice in a mild and considerate manner." Evidently the complainant must have referred to some acts of alleged high handedness on the part of the State officials and the last observation must have been prompted by the desire to do justice without encouraging at the same time, a slighting of official authority.

The applicant who wanted the Government to find out a bride for him and to have the marriage ceremony conducted at Government expense was a Brahmin. The petition is of 994 Malayalam year and is hence a century and a quarter old. The unfortunate man had lost his wife, while he was away in distant places. The death was in circumstances which did not call for enforced widowerhood on the part of the husband, even for the customary one year. Another Brahmin had usurped his place while he was away and the death was in very suspicious circumstances. The husband had rushed to court with a complaint against the interloper and had to stay at Trichur for a number of days

in connection with his petition. Misfortunes never come single, for during his absence at Trichur, burglars broke into his house and carried away all his other belongings. This, he contended, was the direct and proximate result of the court at Trichur not deciding his petition as expeditiously as possible. He could, of course, have claimed damages, but he was content, he said, with the more modest demand that the Government should provide him with a second wife. It would be interesting to speculate on what would have happened, if the second wife had been provided by Government and if she also went the way of the first wife.

In a more pompous vein, as befits the rank and importance of the applicants, was a petition by some of the leading Nambudiri Jenmies of Cochin and Travancore in 1869 to Lord Napier, the then Governor of Madras. The subject matter of the complaint was an order of the Government of Madras, expressing their whole hearted disapproval of the "Ghee-test", which was an ordeal in use among the Nambudiries, as a test of innocence or guilt in cases of suspected adultery. The petition belongs to the class of what Pope calls "petitionary epistles half a yard long" and cannot, out of considerations of space, be reproduced here, although a verbatim quotation would, having regard to its contents, be excused. The petition bears evident traces of having been drafted by some one, who would justly be called an aristocrat among petition writers. The memorialists, as they called themselves, were very careful to set out in extenso, in the opening pages of their memorial, the high status, rank and standing of the petitioners in Malabar. They then proceeded to state as follows in paragraph 5 of their memorial:—

"That none can be more sensible than your memorialists of the numberless

blessings diffused by British rule and arising likewise from British neighbourhood and example and that while deeply grateful for the humane and Christian but mistaken idea concerning our benefit, as hereinafter indicated. Your memorialists would most earnestly and becomingly solicit the generous consideration of your Lordship in Council for our early ideas and practices and religious prejudices and beliefs; since in a few social and religious particulars as in the instance under advertence your memorialists are still unfitted to receive and have not been prepared to participate in the superior enlightenment of Europe." This last sentence, one is inclined to think is an instance of Nambudiri humour or possibly satire. However the memorialists did not rest content with this general reasoning but proceeded to point out more specifically that "the misconception adverted to above is the erroneous belief that the Ghee-test (for adultery) of the Brahmins of the Malabar coast is compulsory, which it is not; and in the first place a mode of torture and in the next that it is wholly unconnected with their religion." "They must" they further pleaded "be allowed to state and to engage to prove that while the Ghee-test is of greater holiness, it is certainly no more a torture and decidedly less long in healing than the Vishnoo Brand, so frequently received to this day by your Lordship's Vaishnava Hindu subjects in Coimbatore, Combaconam, Tanjore or Mangalore and throughout the Madras Presidency and even in the city of Madras itself, in the immediate vicinity of your Lordship." After which piece of astute logic, the memorialists drew up a drawing of the vessel for the Ghee-test and in enclosing it along with the memorial further stated that "an accurate description of the Ghee-test and a correct representation of the quantity of ghee used will be found appended, from which it will doubtless be clearly perceived that

the tips only of the accused's 2 fingers have to be dipped for considerably less than a second to extract the golden bull in the centre of the vessel". The memorial ended with as fine an out burst of manuscript eloquence as can be reasonably expected in a document of that sort. "That time" records the memorial, "has so far been unable to reconcile the population of the Malabar coast to European ideas respecting the abolition of the said ancient and religious custom; that the intense longing for its renewal is daily more vehemently felt; that however the feeling was to be despised in countries of a higher civilisation, its existence is here cherished by Hindu minds as at once holy and pregnant with usefulness; and under such circumstances your memorialists would deferentially submit a slight burn at the worst cannot for a moment be compared with the mental torture that at present awaits the accused in time as a prelude of the torments of eternity, not to dwell on the sorrow too powerful for utterance thus unavoidably occasioned to our families by the exclusion per chance of a dear friend or happily a beloved member alike from the enjoyment of domestic happiness and from all temporal and eternal felicity."

This impassioned appeal which would have melted most susceptible hearts, proved as ineffectual with the Government of Madras, as forensic tears before a cold and dispassionate Judge. The order on the memorial was short and sharp. "The opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council with respect to the ghee ordeal is the same as that of his predecessors in office. He would regard the re-establishment of this observance as equally injurious in its consequences, as it would be repugnant to true humanity and civilisation." And so ended the Ghee-test. There are numerous petitions of this sort, each a

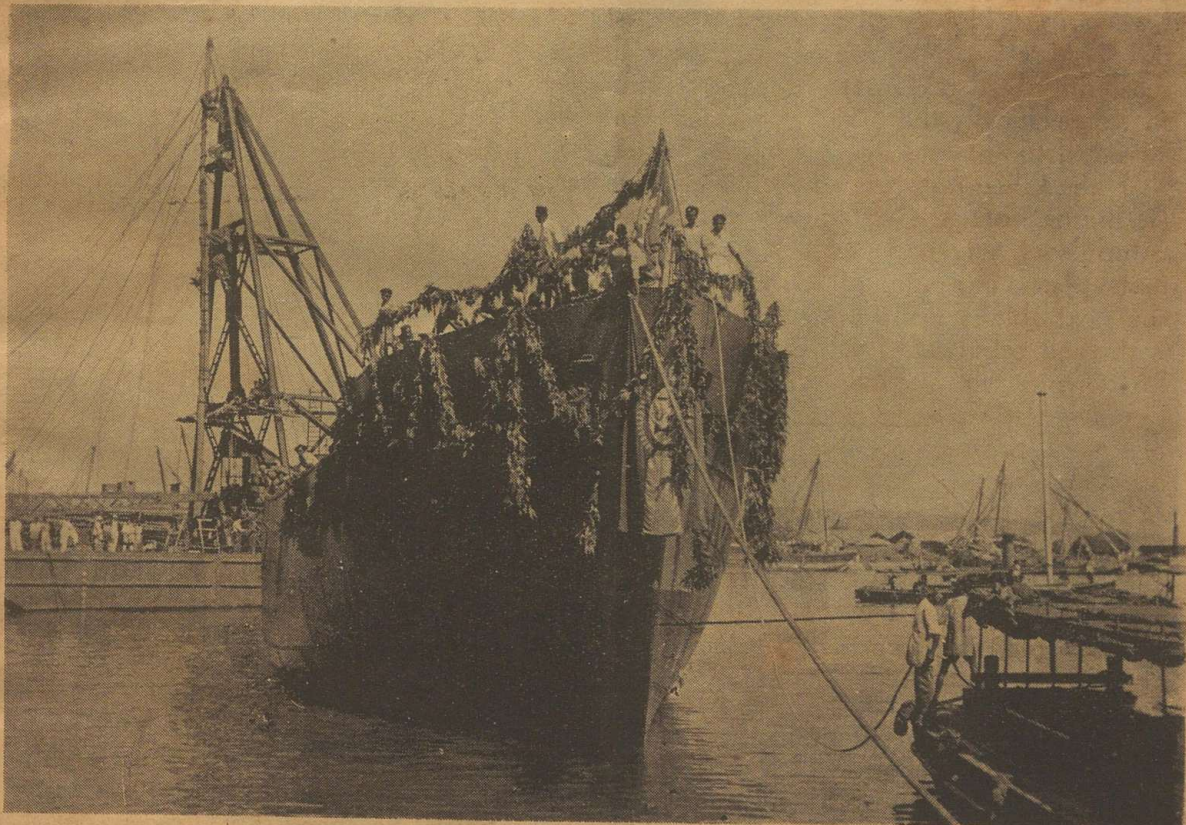
gem in its own way, still reposing in quiet slumber in the Government Record Room. They give a faithful mirror of the age which gave birth to them. Their historical value deserves concrete acknowledgment by reproduction in some

authoritative publication. A publication entitled "Vestiges of old Cochin", after the manner of that brilliant book "Vestiges of old Madras" would be welcome to all lovers of the past.

## CENTRAL WAR COMMITTEE

**I**N his address to the Central War Committee held on the 26th January, Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, said, "In the early days of the war, when things were not going well, it was sometimes a

very uphill task to inspire confidence in the ultimate success of the United Nations; nor was it always easy to secure a sufficient number of recruits for the different branches of the armed Services or to



*H. M. I. S. Cochin recently launched*

collect the money required for war purposes of various kinds. With the turn in the tide of the fortunes of war these difficulties have largely disappeared; but they

have been replaced by a serious danger to which I desire to call your attention. When things are going well, there is always a danger that we may be tempted

to relax our efforts. I wish to impress upon you with all the seriousness that I can command, that we must not relax any of our efforts until final victory is achieved. Until that day comes it is the duty of each of one of us to strain every nerve and to put forth every effort in support of the cause which we all have at heart.

I take it that the object of this Committee is to guide, direct and inspire the

war efforts of the State. One of the most notable of these efforts has been the collection of money for the War Purposes Fund. It is a great pleasure to me to acknowledge the generosity with which the people of the State have contributed to war purposes. The recent launching of H. I. M. S. COCHIN, presented to the Royal Indian Navy by the people of this State, affords ample proof of this generosity. In this connection I should like to



*H. H. Ravi Varma, 4th Prince of Cochin, performing the launching ceremony of H. M. I. S. Cochin by breaking a coconut on the bow of the vessel*

suggest for your consideration that at the present time the reports which we receive from all parts of the world indicate that the material resources of the United Nations are now superior to those of the enemy; and for this reason it would appear that there is no longer such a pressing need for gifts of weapons of war as was the case two years ago. I hope that this

remark of mine will not discourage any one who feels a desire to offer a gift earmarked for such a purpose. Such gifts will always be thankfully received. I merely put it to you as my personal view that the immediate need for gifts of that nature has passed. At the present moment I suggest that money is most urgently needed for the provision of comforts

and amenities for troops stationed either here or in other parts of India or in other parts of the world. The Government provides the members of its fighting services with bare necessities. It is for the public to provide, in addition to these necessities, those amenities which provide some relaxation and enjoyment for men in health and for those laid aside by sickness or by wounds additional comforts and luxuries over and above the essentials which are provided in hospitals. There is a great and growing demand for money required for purposes of this sort and I hope that every member of this Committee will do his best to see that the War Purposes Fund is kept supplied with the resources necessary to meet all demands of this nature.

I hope within the next few weeks to see a strong and active branch of the Indian Red Cross Society established in this State; and I have no doubt that as soon as this branch is able to get busy it will have numerous demands to make on our financial resources for the supply of comforts and amenities for members of the services laid aside in hospitals. I should like to see a regular flow of monthly subscriptions pouring in to the War Purposes Fund. I think the time has passed for the special appeals, which have been the practice in this State. There is nothing very spectacular about the provision of comforts for troops in hospitals; but there is a standing need for the provision of these amenities and comforts and therefore, I should like every member of this Committee to exert his influence as best he can to secure regular monthly contributions to the War Purposes Fund. I may say that the fund is now very nearly exhausted. There is little more than Rs. 20,000 in it, and if we meet all the demands that are going to be placed before us at this meeting we shall practically drain the fund dry.

I should also like to remind you that there is still a great need for recruits for all the fighting services, more particularly perhaps for the Air Force and still more particularly for Officers. Yesterday afternoon I spent interviewing a number of candidates for Emergency Commissions, and I am sorry to tell you that the proportion of the candidates whom we were able to recommend was deplorably small. I am quite sure that in this State there are a number of young men admirably suited to be Officers in one of the Services. Why is it that these young men are not coming forward in larger numbers to apply for commissions? I put this question to you, Gentlemen, in the hope that you will use all your influence to persuade the right type of young men to come forward in large numbers to offer for this national Service."

The committee resolved to donate £100 to King George's Fund for Sailors, Rs. 2,500 to the R. I. N. Welfare Directorate, Rs. 1,000 for the expansion of War Exhibition, Rs. 1,500 per annum, as long as the war lasts, for providing amenities to the crew of the newly launched H. M. I. S. Cochin and a lump contribution of Rs. 521 for the purchase of a Radio set, and Rs. 5,000, as first instalment, to the Cochin State Military Benevolent Fund.

The committee resolved to extend its whole-hearted co-operation to the National Savings Campaign whose object is, as pointed out by the Diwan-President "to take away the temptation from people to spend money unwisely when they have a surplus and to persuade them to invest so that it may be available to them for expenditure when prices come down". The committee was of opinion that the target figure for this State might be provisionally fixed at 20 to 25 lakhs.

# COCHIN GEOLOGICAL SERIES NO. 2

## Ilmenite sand deposits

[T. SUDHAKARA MENON, M.Sc., *State Geologist*]

**ILMENITE.**—Ilmenite or titaniferous iron ore is the oxide of iron and the rare metal titanium. It is a black mineral with submetallic lustre. Its hardness is 5 to 6 according to Moh's scale of hardness and its specific gravity 4.5 to 5. It is a common accessory mineral in many igneous and metamorphic rocks. It is often found associated with the ore of iron, magnetite. It is magnetic and is readily attracted by an electro-magnet. Its chemical composition is  $\text{Fe Ti}^{\text{O}_3}$ —Iron 36.8, titanium 31.6, oxygen 31.6.

*Titanium.*—Although titanium was discovered as a new metal by Mc.Gregor in 1791, the name "Titanium" was first proposed in 1795 by Klaproth. The most important ores of titanium are rutile, ilmenite, brookite and octahedrite. Titanium resembles polished steel in appearance. It is brittle when cold and malleable at low red heat. Its specific gravity is 4.5 and it melts at 1794°C.

*Distribution of ilmenite.*—Large quantities of ilmenite are found at the Ilmen mountains, Bay St. Paul in Canada, Kragero in Norway, Florida, Virginia, Connecticut, Adirondack region and other places.

Considerable quantities of ilmenite sand are found in the coastal tracts of Travancore. Mr. I. C. Chacko has thus remarked in his "Geology of Travancore" (1921)—"By far the greatest constituent of the heavy sands found on the Travancore coast is ilmenite. Extensive deposits of this sand may be found near the mouths of rivers. For three or four miles north from Neendakara Bar the coast dunes consist almost entirely of ilmenite with small percentages of monazite, zircon and other heavy sands. There is thus an

almost inexhaustible supply of ilmenite sand in Travancore. But no use has yet been found for this vast deposit." A more detailed account of the ilmenite sand deposits of Travancore is found in "A note on ilmenite and its uses" by Mr. (Dr.) Charles S. Pitchamuthu (Travancore Department of Industries Bulletin No. 25—1926). According to him, the most important ilmenite sand deposits are those of Chavara, Neendakara, Kozhithottam, Muttam-Kolachel, Cape Comorin-Lee-puram, Kolachel-Pattanam, Kovalam-Vizhinjam, and Warkalay-Anjengo. Dunes of ilmenite sand occur near Kozhithottam north of Quilon and between Muttam and Kolachel. The dunes at Kolachel and Chavara are more than twenty feet in thickness.

*Mode of separation of ilmenite.*—The black heavy mineral sand found on the seashore contains, besides ilmenite, small quantities of magnetite, monazite, sillimanite, garnet, rutile and zircon. For the separation of ilmenite from this mixture of sands, the sand is first of all dried and sieved to remove shells, stones dry leaves and twigs, etc. Magnetite has to be first removed from this sieved sand by means of ordinary magnets. The ilmenite is then separated by means of electro-magnets. On a commercial scale, a wetherill electromagnetic separator may be used.

*Uses of ilmenite and titanium.*—The value of ilmenite as an economic mineral has been much emphasised by Dr. J. A. Dunn, Superintending Geologist of the Geological Survey of India, in his presidential address at the section of Geology of the Indian Science congress held at Calcutta in 1943. The following passages

from his speech are noteworthy—"India is indeed the world's dominant source of at least two minerals mica and ilmenite ..... At least four of our minerals—mica, manganese ore, ilmenite and monazite—are of great importance to the world's industries, but to date almost their entire production has been exported in the unmanufactured state."

Ilmenite is an important ore of the rare metal titanium. Titanium is used in the manufacture of certain types of steel like ferro-carbontitanium and ferro-titanium. The addition of titanium increased the toughness and durability of the steel, and a small quantity of titanium can be used for the final purification of every grade of steel. Titanium is also alloyed with copper to produce cuprotitanium. The oxide of titanium, titania, is a valuable white pigment and is used as a good substitute for white lead and zinc white. Titanous sulphate is a strong acid reducing agent and is used to decolourize paper and dyed fabrics. Titanium tetrachloride is used for the production of smoke screens in modern warfare.

*Cochin State Deposits.*—The occurrence of monazite in Cochin State has been referred to as early as 1919 by Mr. C. W. E. Cotton, I.C.S., in his "Handbook of commercial information for India". As the monazite is found associated with ilmenite, it is quite possible that he might have overlooked the importance of ilmenite.

In a letter to the Diwan Peishkar, dated 30th June 1942, Mr. E. Masilamoni, Retired State Geologist of Travancore, has stated that he had found ilmenite and monazite at Pallipuram beach in 1919.

In 1941 a sample of ilmenite sand collected by the Diwan Peishkar from Pallipuram beach was analysed by the Professor of Chemistry, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. In a letter to the Diwan Peishkar, dated 20th March 1941,

a following analytical results of the sample are Titanium—Calculated as titanium oxide	.. .. .	23.6 per cent
Total iron—Calculated as ferrous oxide	.. .. .	50.9 „
Silica—Calculated as oxide	.. .. .	19.4 „
Other metals like sodium, calcium, etc.	.. .. .	6.1 „

The Director of the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta, has reported the presence of about 98 per cent ilmenite in a sample of mineral sand collected and sent by me from Cheriya Kadavu, south of Cochin.

The investigation of the ilmenite sand deposits was taken up by me in September 1942. A preliminary Geological survey of the whole seashore revealed the presence of ilmenite sand throughout the seashore of the State.

For purposes of convenience, the seashore of Cochin State can be divided into three divisions.—

1. Chellanam—Mundamveli.
2. Malippuram—Pallipuram.
3. Azhikode—Kathiyalam.

The largest deposits of ilmenite sand are found in the sea-shore extending from Chellanam to Mundamveli, particularly at Andikadavu and Kandakadavu. This tract, situated to the South of British Cochin, is bounded by British territory on the north and Travancore territory on the south. It is comprised of Chellanam, Maruvakkad, Kandakadavu, Andikadavu, Cheriya Kadavu, Manasseri and Mundamveli. Scattered portions of Mundamveli and a portion of Manasseri are British territories. A number of pits dug in Manasseri beach revealed alternating layers of ordinary sand and black ilmenite sand. The ilmenite sand is a seasonal deposit, appearing in large quantities during the monsoons. The periodical erosions and accretions and

the resulting changes in the configuration of the seashore from year to year and from season to season, make, even an approximate estimation of the quantities of ilmenite sand, extremely difficult.

The seashore extending from Malippuram to Pallippuram forms the major part of the seashore of Vypeen Island, situated between the opening to the sea at Cochin and the Periyar mouth at Cranganur. This tract is bounded by the Travancore territory of Munambam on the north and the British territory of Vypeen on the south, and is comprised of Malippuram, Elankunnappuzha, Narakkal, Nayarambalam, Edamanakkad, Kuzhupilli, Ayyambilli, Cherayi and Pallippuram. A small portion of the coast between Pallippuram and Cherayi is Travancore territory. A very conspicuous feature of this region is the Pozhil (back-water) situated between the sandy beach and the mainland and extending from Munambam to Kuzhupilli. This Pozhil is shallow in most places and full of soft mud. The deposits of ilmenite sand are confined to the narrow sandy beach situated between the Pozhil and the sea. But, south of Kuzhupilli, there is no Pozhil and the beach is broad. Compared with the Chellanam-Mundamveli tract, the Malippuram-Pallippuram tract is considerably poor in ilmenite sand deposits. Here the ilmenite sand is found mixed up with large quantities of ordinary sand, but during the monsoons, local segregations of ilmenite sand are found all along the high water mark. A number of pits dug in the beach at Pallippuram revealed alternating layers of ordinary sand and ilmenite sand.

The Azhikode-Kathiyalam seashore extends northwards from the Periyar mouth, and comprises of Azhikode, Eriyad, Kara and Kathiyalam. The first two belong to the Cranganur taluk and the last two to the Mukundapuram taluk. North of Kathiyalam is the British territory of Manappuram belonging to the

Ponnani taluk of South Malabar. Ilmenite sand deposits, as rich as those of Chellanam-Mundamveli, are found at Azhikode and Eriyad, especially on the southern and western sides of the sand-bar at the Periyar mouth. At Kara and Kathiyalam, the ilmenite sand is found mixed up with large quantities of ordinary sand, but, during the monsoons, local segregations are found here and there.

*Conclusion.*—The ilmenite sand deposits of Cochin State are not so extensive as those of Travancore. The best deposits of ilmenite sand are those of Kandakadavu, Andikadavu and Azhikode. All these deposits are seasonal deposits and the largest quantities are found during the monsoons. The mineral sand accumulates during monsoons as a result of strong breakers and alteration of littoral currents. The sources of the mineral sand are the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Sahyadri range (Western ghats) and the innumerable foothills constituting the eastern zone of the State. The sand, formed by the weathering and disintegration of these rocks is carried down to the sea by the rivers and streams, and the heavy mineral sand is deposited on the seashore by the waves and the littoral currents of the sea.

We can be assured of a large and periodically renewed supply of ilmenite sand on the seashore of our State, and it will be possible to exploit these deposits on a commercial scale. But, before steps are taken to start the industrial exploitation of this sand, it will be necessary to collect all the available ilmenite sand from time to time and conserve them as heaps in suitable places, as is done by the mineral sand factories at Chavara and other places in Travancore. Attempts may be made in the State to separate ilmenite from the mineral sand and to manufacture titania and titanium tetrachloride.

## AN ACT OF GALLANTRY

A ceremonial parade was carried out in Cochin Unit No. 50 stationed at Assam on Sunday, the 16th January 1944 and a gold medal was presented to Naick K. K. Karappan for his act of gallantry in rescuing a labourer of an Indian Auxiliary Pioneer Battalion from drowning. It appears that "on the 4th June 1943 when the.....River was in full flood a labourer of an Indian Auxiliary Pioneer Battalion attempted to swim across the stream, but on reaching the far side he found that he could not climb the bank. So he started to swim back. In midstream he got into difficulties and shouted for help. Upon hearing the shouting and seeing the man in difficulties K. K. Karappan, a sentry of a Cochin State Labour Unit, immediately jumped into the river and went to the man's assistance. Hampered as he was by the weight of the struggling man and by the speed of the flood water, Karappan only brought the drowning man to the shore with considerable difficulty. His prompt action saved the life of the labourer, although by so doing he placed his own life in jeopardy, thus showing courage of a high order". The presentation was made by Major-General Ranking, C.B.E., M.C. in the presence of the following officers.—

Brigadier Gordon, Sub Area Commander, 252 Sub Area.

Major Johnson, Deputy Assistant Director of Labour 252 Sub Area.

Colonel Wilson, American Army Headquarters, and many other senior American officers.

R. Walker, Esq., O.B.E., Chief Labour Liaison Officer, South India States Labour Force.

Mr. V. J. Mathai, B.A., B.L., (M.L.C. Cochin)—Personal Assistant to the Chief Labour Liaison Officer.

Captain J. M. Birkett, O. C., Cochin Unit No. 50.

Mr. T. K. C. Menon, 2nd i/c, Cochin Unit 50, and Supervisory personnel of Cochin Unit 50.

Lt. Purushottan Dev. I.A.M.C., M. O. of Cochin Unit 50.

The turn out of the labourers was exceedingly smart and a march past of the police was held. The proceedings opened by Captain J. M. Birkett, O. C. of the Unit, reading the citation of the act of gallantry. Thereafter, at the request of the Chief Labour Liaison Officer, Mr. V. J. Mathai spoke in English and Malayalam welcoming Major-General Ranking on behalf of the Cochin Government and explaining to the labourers that the splendid bravery of K. K. Karappan should act as an example to them all. He also stressed the importance of the work the unit was engaged on, and advised them to work hard so that an early recapture of Burma would facilitate large quantities of rice being imported into Cochin and Travancore States, with resulting benefit to their families.

Major-General Ranking then expressed his pleasure at having been invited by the Cochin Government to make this presentation, and paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Cochin State Labour Force. Naick K. K. Karappan was smartly turned out and bore himself in a soldierly and efficient manner throughout the presentation.

The proceedings terminated by Captain Birkett thanking Major-General Ranking for his presence and the Chief Labour Liaison Officer called for three cheers for the General and, finally, three cheers for the Maharaja of Cochin.

# THE CITY OF COCHIN

(About 1600 A.D.)

[Prof. K. R. PISHAROTI, M.A.]

**T**OWARDS the close of the sixteenth century Cochin became the most important city in the whole of the East. We get some notices of the city from the works of the court poets of the day, Vedanta Desika and Meppattur Narayana Bhattatirippad. The information is set forth below.—

Naturally well-protected by the ocean on the west and by the backwaters on the other sides, the city was rendered impregnable by a well-planned and strongly built fort, which was fitted with every weapon of defence and offence and manned by a host of valiant soldiers. The fort had four faces, and each face was protected by cannon placed in position in the walls. The waterways around were also made secure, because armed boats always patrolled them. One feature of the city life was the regular military and naval parades and tournaments, which were occasions for merry-making and rejoicing amongst all classes of the population.

Besides the fort and numerous churches with their tall spires shooting up into the sky, there were in the city many noble structures, stately palaces, tall mansions and spacious private dwellings. But the wealth and variety of the life of the city could be seen in their fullest measure only in the public gardens and tanks, parks and recreation grounds, which, serving as lungs, graced the city and which were always full of people, of stately men and women who were, according to a European traveller, "dressed in gold and silver brocades, adorned with precious stones on the head, arms, hands and round the waist, attended by a throng of slaves in gay and fanciful liveries", while the

horses which the men rode "glittered with gold and silver trappings, jingling bells, reins studded with precious stones and stirrups wrought with artistic patterns". Such was the city of Cochin, full of life and vivacity, of wealth and luxury and of grandeur and majesty.

The well laid out bazaars with their throng of buyers and sellers formed another attraction of the city. Always full to overflowing, here were available every article that man would need. The broad streets and spacious business centres were filled with people of all castes and creeds and nationalities—Asiatics and Europeans, including Sakas, Ksapanakas and Parasikas—and all in their national costumes, thus affording a rare opportunity for the study of their customs and manners; and no wonder since she was at the heyday of her commercial prosperity. She was carrying on a very large trade, both coastal and ocean-borne. Big ocean-going vessels of different kinds and of varying tonnage rode at anchor in her spacious harbour. Ships came there from different places laden with different cargoes such as gold and silver, pearls and precious stones, silks and cotton goods and weapons of offence and defence. The margin of her waters were filled with small craft, loading and unloading cargo and carrying business men to and fro; and these small crafts are compared to crocodiles airing themselves in the mid-day sun on the bathing ghats.

Such was the city of Cochin as could be made out from the description of the court poets of the day. She then was what she is today, the Queen of the Arabian Sea.

# THE COCHIN STATE MILITARY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Government of India have instituted a fund called the "Indian Army Benevolent Fund" with a view

- (1) to help the families of combatants and non-combatants killed or disabled on active service,
- (2) to relieve distress not attributable to field or foreign service, and
- (3) to help ex-soldiers who have lost a limb on active service or on duty in peace.

2. The grants made from the Indian Army Benevolent Fund are generally small. This Government therefore consider it highly necessary to supplement these grants. With this object, Government propose to institute a fund in this State called the "Cochin State Military Benevolent Fund". The Cochin State Forces also will get the benefits of this fund.

3. The fund is intended to be built up by public subscription and will be administered by Trustees.

4. Cochin can be proud of her magnificent contribution in men to the victories of the Allies and to the triumph of the glorious causes for which the United Nations are fighting. It is only proper that the subjects of this State who are undergoing hardships, difficulties and perils are assured of a secure future. This fund has been started to give them the necessary assurance and it deserves the largest public support. Government expect that every individual and organisation will render all possible help to constitute this fund for the relief of those who are fighting for us. His Highness the Maharaja has graciously donated a sum of Rs. 1 lakh to the fund.

5. All donations may be sent to.—

M. R. Ry. P. V. Raphael Avl., M. A., Comptroller of Finance and  
Accounts, Chairman and Treasurer, The Cochin State  
Military Benevolent Fund, Trichur.

6. The donations will be acknowledged in the Cochin Government Gazette from time to time.

# Save Now—

## ENJOY LATER

### HOW TO SAVE:

A. Invest in any of the following.—

(1) **3 per cent loan 1953-55** (4th Defence Loan)—Minimum unit costing Rs. 100—Additions only in multiples with no upper limit. Repayment will be at par not later than 15th July 1953 and not later than 15th July 1955. Income-tax and surcharge are deducted. Apply to the Reserve Bank or the Imperial Bank.

(2) **Defence Bonds.**

(3) **Interest Free Bonds.**—Minimum Rs. 50—Repayment will be after 3 years or after 1 year or 3 months' notice to the Reserve Bank or even within one year in case of real need.

(4) **National Savings Certificate.**—Units costing Rs. 10, Rs. 50, Rs. 100 and Rs. 1,000. An individual can invest up to Rs. 5,000 and institutions up to Rs. 20,000. A ten rupees certificate after 12 years will fetch Rs. 5 as bonus.

(5) **Defence Savings Deposits.**—Minimum that could be deposited is Rs. 2 and maximum Rs. 10,000. It could be withdrawn only one year after the war. Interest is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent and is income-tax free.

(6) **Defence Provident Fund.**—Any Government servant can join. Payment—Annas eight or in multiples. Income-tax free and interest is 3 per cent. Apply to the Comptroller of Finance and Accounts, Trichur.

(7) **Prize Bonds.**—Interest free Prize Bonds in denominations of Rs. 10 and Rs. 100 in the form of bearer bonds.

On the 15th of January and 15th of July lots will be taken and prizes will be distributed in the manner mentioned below:

Rs. 100 denomination:	One first prize	Rs. 50,000
	Two second prizes	Rs. 20,000 each
	Two third prizes	Rs. 5,000 each
Rs. 10 denomination:	One first prize	Rs. 2,500
	Two second prizes	Rs. 1,250 each
	Five third prizes	Rs. 500 each
	Ten fourth prizes	Rs. 250 each

JOIN NOW. SAVE NOW. ENJOY LATER.

**Information Officer**