

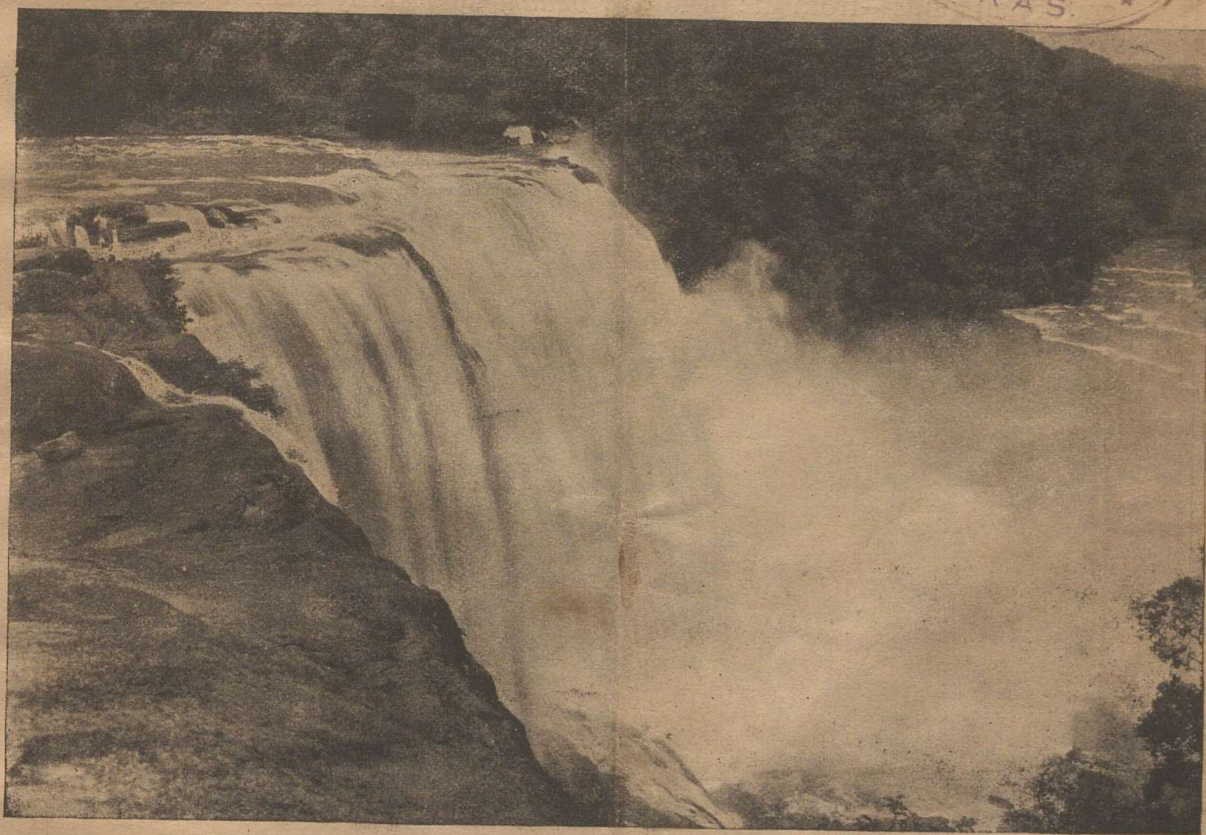
# COCHIN INFORMATION



VOL. III ]

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1944

No. 8-9



How the water comes down the Adirappilly Falls

Issued by the WAR PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

# “COCHIN CALLING”

## VISIT COCHIN

FOR

## A REAL HOLIDAY

### COCHIN IS, ADMITTEDLY, A LAND OF BEAUTY

It has a rich variety of splendid scenery, the like of which few places in India can boast of.

Its many miles of backwaters, alive at all times with picturesque craft of all kinds—from the primitive *vallam* laboriously pushed along by a long bamboo pole to the most modern launch driven by steam or motor—and fringed on both sides by ever-green groves of luxuriant coconut-palms, constitute a sight that is as rare as it is refreshing.



Cochin Waterways

*For additional information, please write to.—*

THE INFORMATION OFFICER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COCHIN,  
ERNAKULAM

## FOREST RESOURCES AND WAR SUPPLIES

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72 DECEMBER 1944

THE financial year 1119 M. E. (15th August 1943 to 15th August 1944) was the busiest period for the Forest Department of the State since its organisation. The programme of work planned for the year 1120 M. E. is but a further intensification all-round of what has been designed and executed during 1119 and is mainly directed towards an all-out war-production. The budgetted revenue and expenditure for 1120 are, however, a more conservative forecast than the revised figures for 1119. The revised estimates for revenue and expenditure for 1119 show an increase, being Rs. 22.66 lakhs and Rs. 14.82 lakhs respectively as against the original estimates of Rs. 18.76 lakhs and Rs. 12.58 lakhs. This vast difference between the original and revised estimates was due to the maximum utilisation of materials from the Hill Paddy clearances, taking advantage of the enormous demand of timber for war purposes. In spite of the vast exploitation schemes undertaken and contemplated under the several categories, the Forest Capital, which is the national asset, has not been disturbed. The Forest Department took advantage of the economic conditions consequent on the war, and restricted its exploitation purely from obligatory sources and chiefly of over-mature stock of species which had no market during the pre-war days. Owing to the blocking of timber imports, there has been intensive utilization of the lesser known species of timber. Out of the total quantity of about 20,000 tons of timber supplied for war purposes, the proportion of teak has been merely a fractional percentage. It is mostly species like vellapine and kalpine kara, punna, nedunar etc., and other junglewood species that had only a doubtful market that are in great demand.

Apart from the utilization of inferior species, the thinnings from plantations

below ten years of age were also successfully carried out. The thinning operations used to be unprofitable and were being undertaken in the interests of the crop at a very heavy cost. This most important work had been held up for financial reasons; but after the declaration of war, and when the demand for timber became great, the Forest Department got a chance of silviculturally benefitting the crop and that along with the most attractive monetary returns by being able to get a supply order for lakhs of small sized batties. The thinning operations saved the plantations from fire-risk, enhanced their chance of development under scientific management, brought a substantial revenue by the disposal of undesirable material therefrom and supplied for Defence Works at the shortest notice imaginable a commodity that was greatly in demand.

In the selection of areas for Hill Paddy cultivation, as far as possible, the more accessible areas were alone cleared. These areas have practically all been denuded areas in the sense that the proportion of the so-called structural timber has been very meagre. These clearances were carried out over an area of 10,000 acres. These areas required rehabilitation, and the Hill Paddy scheme, coupled with the demand of timber for war supplies, gave the Forest Department an excellent chance to resuscitate those regions within the next three years, an operation which under ordinary conditions would take full two generations and involve heavy financial commitments. During the year 1119 one thousand acres of cleared forests was regenerated either artificially or by cultural operations designed to foster the existing advance-growth thereon. The other item of exploitation was the salvaging of windfallen timber—the result of the devastating cyclone of 1116—which was an

obligatory one. There has not been any exploitation of mature teak from the plantations or other sources except the small quantity from the areas cleared under the Hill Paddy scheme. The interests of posterity with regard to Forest Resources have been kept in tact and considerably improved with the formation of new plantations or regeneration areas and intensive tending operations.

An undertaking which created a severe strain on the Forest Department during 1119 is the supply of firewood for civilian consumption. The Department handled and delivered at the consuming centres over 50,000 tons of firewood a year. The so-called firewood scarcity had nothing to do with the dearth of firewood but had been created by labour and transport difficulties outside the control of the Forest Department. The

export of firewood has not depleted the stock here. It saved firewood from going to waste and procured very attractive wages to thousands of workmen and a substantial revenue to the Department.

Over and above the areas put under cultivation under the Hill Paddy scheme, 4,000 acres of forest area was leased out under the Food Production Drive. Advantage has been taken wherever possible to simultaneously plant up these areas as under the "Taungya" system without in any way interfering with the food-crop cultivation.

The total quantity of timber deliveries made for war-supplies directly by the Forest Department has exceeded one million cubic feet. Today Cochin can legitimately and with pardonable pride claim a front rank in war supplies for defence purposes.

## ATTACHAMAYAM

(By Mr. K. R. PISHAROTI)

ONE of the royal functions discharged by His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin is the ceremony of Attacamayam—an archaic function of great historical and political importance. The beginnings of the ceremony are lost in the mists of time, and available clues would indicate that they are coeval with the beginnings of the Ruling Family itself.

The ceremony itself is very simple. His Highness dons the regal robes and wears the traditional state jewels and then accompanied by all the insignia of royalty comes out in a stately procession, seated in a palanquin carrying in his lap the family crown, received from the legendary Parasurama and symbolic of all Kerala-kingship. His Highness is accompanied by all the officers of State and by the representatives of the traditional families

who have done yeomen service to the State in olden days and of the various castes and creeds in the State. The procession is heralded by the instrumental music of the different communities and is accompanied by Vedic chants as well as orthodox music, both vocal and instrumental. It is made further imposing by the well-captioned elephants and the State Forces, both infantry and cavalry. On the whole, it is a quaint and picturesque pageant, to witness which people from far and near come. The more orthodox among the subjects come not so much to see the *Tamasha* as to have a vision of the Maharaja in his ceremonial dress, for this is held to be as sacred as visualising *Visnu* himself—that, indeed, is the version of the ancient folk of the land.

A couple of interesting features connected with the ceremony may be

mentioned here. The ceremony is not conditioned by place: it may be conducted anywhere—wherever His Highness happens to be on the day. In the second place, the ceremony knows no postponement on any account. There is in fact no circumstance at all which would justify a non-performance or postponement: why, even a death pollution is no bar to the performance. According to one version, handed down by floating tradition, the only fact which might justify a non-performance is the health of the Maharaja. And, so far as we know, there is no record of its ever having been undischarged. And lastly this function can never be discharged



H. H. Sri Ravi Varma, Maharaja of Cochin

feature which deserves to be pondered over and which was probably the basis of the statement made by earlier writers that the Maharaja of Cochin was hailed as the *King of the Jews*, as the *King of the Christians*, as the *King of the Hindus* and as the *King of the Foreigners*. May this spirit of equality of treatment to all alike continue for ever and for ever!

What does this function symbolise? There are no records on which one can come to any definite opinion. One tradition would have it that the function symbolises the Maharaja's starting to participate in the annual festival at Trikkakkara temple, but half way through it was reported that enemies had occupied the temple and, therefore, the Maharaja

returned disappointed. This is on the face of it a very grotesque story and it could not explain the peculiar features associated with the ceremony. According to the writer, the function is symbolic of the original position which the king of Cochin occupied in Kerala politics in ancient and medieval ages; the acclamation in public of his position as the Emperor of Kerala. It is the annual levy convened by the imperial Overlord of Kerala—a position that is evidenced by local traditions, inscriptions and literature as well as by the early reports of the Portuguese.

by proxy. Either His Highness himself discharges it or it is not discharged. An observer would be struck by one fact, namely that the assembled host is a conglomeration of the different elements composing the subjects of the State. Every section of His Highness' subjects has its representative, participating actively in the function—all castes, creeds and religions, the different categories of trades and merchants, sons of the soil and foreigners—all are there to do homage to the Head of State. And all representatives & officers of the State receive a moneygift directly from His Highness the Maharaja according to a graduated scale. Here is an important

The ceremony was performed this year by H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin on the 22nd August with the usual pomp, pageantry and paraphernalia.

## “A SOUND POLICY”

“SO long as the present Diwan guides the administrative policy of the State, robust individualists in that State have little to fear from advocates of totalitarianism. Speaking at the first Provincial Conference of the Kerala Board of the All India Manufacturers’ Organisation, Sir George Boag said: “Planning may be necessary, to place each unit in its proper place, where it can serve to the best advantage but it is very difficult to reconcile the freedom of the individual with adherence to a Government plan. . . . I confess quite frankly that my inclination is to leave rather more to the freedom of the individual and to stress in a lesser degree the importance of demanding compelling adherence to a plan laid down by Government.” In these words the Diwan of Cochin has indicated a policy which, if wisely followed, will make Cochin one of the happiest, because one of the most free, countries in the world.” Thus wrote “The Mail of Madras.”

Addressing the Conference Sir George Boag said that much good might come from industrial development but the population of the State could never all be employed in industries. Agriculture must, in the future, as it had been in the past, continue to be the principal industry of the State. Much as industrial development might contribute to the well being and prosperity of the country, he believed that an even greater contribution could be made by scientific development of agriculture. Therefore he asked them not to conclude from the fact that he had agreed to inaugurate the conference that he regarded industrial development as the one hope of increasing the prosperity of the country. With that caveat, he liked to say that industry could play a large part in improving conditions, raising the standard of life and increasing the wealth and prosperity of the people. Industrial

development was important as it provided the means, in some cases the only means, of making full use of the natural resources with which this part of the country was endowed. If there were natural resources, if there were facilities and conditions which favoured industrial development, then it would be wasteful and uneconomic not to develop and development became not only desirable but necessary to make full use of these resources.

Discussing the conditions required for industrial development, Sir George said that he had heard it said many a time that the people of the State had not availed themselves of the opportunities which had been offered to them to take part in industrial development. There might have been special reasons why the financial support required was not forthcoming, but the fact that it was not forthcoming itself suggested the question whether the people of the State did really understand the importance of industrial development. That was a question to which the conference might devote attention. To establish an industry successfully, the promoters must make certain that there would be adequate demand for the goods they proposed to manufacture. It was no good starting an industry simply for the sake of employment or for using materials available locally. They must be sure of a market for their products at competitive prices. In starting an industry they must see that the process of manufacture was designed on an economical plan so that it would be possible for the factory to place its products on the market at a competitive price. As a member of the Indian Tariff Board some years ago, he had had occasion to study the workings of a good many industries. In some cases, they found the claim for protection unfounded, because the factories were not working in an economical manner.

After assuring the Manufacturers' organisation of Govts.' support and help wherever possible, Sir George referred to the remarks made about planning and said that planning alone, unless there was force behind to see that the plan was put into effect, would not take anybody very far. "Planning may be necessary, to place each unit in its proper place, where it can serve to the best advantage, but it is very difficult to reconcile the freedom of the individual with adherence to a Govt. made plan. The adjustment between the two is a very delicate matter and I confess quite frankly that my inclination is to leave rather more to the freedom of the individual and to stress in a lesser degree the importance of demanding, compelling adherence to a plan laid down by Government."

## BEGGAR HOMES



*Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin and the Chairman of Ernakulam Municipality with the inmates of the Beggar Home, Ernakulam*

**P**ENDING the introduction of permanent measures based on the report of the Beggar Relief Committee, Government made temporary arrangements in the three main Municipalities of the State for giving relief to beggars. Homes have been opened at Ernakulam and

Trichur and nearly 200 beggars have been lodged in each of these homes. Protection, food, cloth and medical aid are given to deserving cases—the old and the infirm, women and small children. Occasional treats are given to the inmates by philanthropic gentlemen and arrangements

are being made to provide manual labour to those who are physically fit, such as weaving, mat-making etc. To stop begging in all parts of the State an elaborate scheme is under the consideration of the Government and will be put into operation when the Vagrancy Bill, now before the Legislative Council becomes law.

## COCHIN AND THE NAVY



*Rear-Admiral Godfrey who addressed a large audience in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam*

**V**ICE-ADMIRAL J. H. Godfrey C.B., R.N., Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, addressing a large audience in the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, said that anyone who had studied the history of India knew that the sea-borne trade of India had been controlled by successive powers who had naval supremacy. All these years Cochin Port had played a supremely important part and, as things had turned out, he said, it was playing and would continue

to play in this war an even more important part due to the great fore-sight and "cunning" of statesmen and engineers who had made the Cochin Harbour what it was. Speaking of the training of the various branches of the Navy, he complimented the men drawn from Cochin and other parts of South India, particularly those working in the wireless stations. They were extremely accurate and reliable men.

## FOOD PROBLEM

**A**NSWERING the various criticisms made by the members of the Legislative Council at the last Budget Session the Director of Food Supplies said :

I may be permitted to make a few general observations and also a brief reference to some of the specific points raised in the course of the debate on the working of the Food Control Measures. Our State is a deficit area in regard to most of our essential foodstuffs. So we have to depend for the supplies mostly from what we can import from outside. One supreme difficulty we experience in importing the foodstuffs is to secure adequate shipping space for imports. Our quota of rice from 1st December 1943 to 1st November 1944 is about 42,706 tons. Out of this we have been able to import only about one half. Of the remaining quantity, a substantial quantity has been purchased but could not be brought to the State for want of shipping and wagon facilities. Large quantities of foodgrains purchased for Travancore and Cochin are now lying at Karachi for want of shipping space. Similarly we could not transport, in time, from the Central Provinces, a large quantity of pulses purchased for the States due to difficulty to get wagons. The unfortunate fire accident in Bombay during the year added to our difficulties in this respect. But in spite of all these difficulties the food position of the State has on the whole been better than that of last year. We have been able to secure larger quantities of foodstuffs of various kinds from outside. Our local purchases also have been larger. Our purchase last year amounted under the procurement scheme to 33,93,705 paras of paddy (about 16,968 tons of rice) whereas this year up to 7th Karkadagam 1119/22nd July 1944 we have purchased nearly 53,79,298 paras of paddy (about 26,900 tons of rice). It has to be remembered

that there was partial failure in regard to some of the crops. Our virippu crop suffered damage to an extent of about 40 per cent. The Kuttadan crop was almost a complete failure. Again the Kole and Puncha crops though it escaped the devastating floods of 1118 suffered some damage due to drought, infection of pests and ingress of salt water. The total damage on this account is roughly estimated to be about 30 per cent.

As a result of the increased quantities of rice our stock position has slightly improved and we have been able to create a small reserve also this year. This time last year our stock as regards rice had run very low. But it has to be remembered that we are still living on a very meagre ration of rice, the staple food here, for want of adequate supplies. In regard to wheat we are in very safe position. We have large stock of it in reserve at present. Last year though we got a large supply of wheat towards the end, the supplies of wheat products were not adequate. We have now an increased supply under this item also.

Again, sugar was another item for which we have got acute scarcity. Our quota of sugar for last year was only about 2,200 tons. As a result of the repeated representations made to the Government of India and through the kind efforts of the Resident for the Madras States who is taking a keen interest in our food problem, it has been possible to substantially increase our supplies of sugar. The present quota is more than double that of last year. Though this is not adequate to meet our needs, it has been possible this year to meet the minimum requirements of the people to a greater extent by a most judicious use of the stock at our disposal.

Jaggery is another article for which we had scarcity last year. The quota of jaggery has been considerably increased. The quota for this year is about 7,000

tons. This, with the local supplies available, would, it is hoped, be enough to meet our minimum requirements. Madras Government has promised also to supply us further quantities of this commodity if it is found to be necessary.

Another fact which I may refer to in this connection is that, along with some of the unfamiliar foodstuffs we have been getting, we were able to secure one product of maize, *viz.*, maize-meal, which is found to be very popular among all classes of people and it is found to be almost equal to rice for purposes of consumption. We were able to secure only comparatively a small quantity of this article. We are making all possible efforts to secure larger imports of the stuff.

Before I proceed to reply to some of the points raised in the course of the debate, I wish to express my thanks to the House for the appreciation shown for whatever success we might have achieved in tackling this difficult problem of food and price control. The Government are aware that there is scope for improvement in various directions and that perfection has not been reached as yet in the working of the several schemes we have attempted. I can assure the House that we have been making, and shall continue to make, honest and strenuous efforts for successfully working out the various schemes so that maximum possible supply of foodstuffs may be secured and that it may be equitably distributed throughout the State at reasonable rates.

One criticism made in regard to the working of the department is that we have not yet been able to place all the accounts of 1118 before the House. The House may kindly remember that we have been dealing in lakhs. The volume of transactions must necessarily have been huge but it should not be thought for a moment that we have not kept accounts for these transactions as has been apprehended by some of the Hon'ble Members.

We have accounts to show how we have spent every pie of the amount advanced to the Department. We have been making the most careful use of the money placed at our disposal and have taken infinite pains to check and supervise the handling of money by the subordinate officers to whom we had to entrust it. I can assure the Hon'ble Members that there is no cause for apprehension or alarm. Out of the huge advances of over two crores of rupees for the purchase of food-grains in 1118 we were able to remit back the major portion of it by the end of the year, the balance being only about Rs. 38 lakhs. It may also be added that there was a physical verification of the stock in our custody at the end of 1118. It may then be asked why there is so much difficulty and delay in the audit of the accounts of 1118. One difficulty is to settle the accounts regarding our foreign purchase for which information has to be obtained from outside. Another difficulty is to check and trace out the movement of foodstuffs within the State from surplus areas to deficit areas and from one Government depot to another. The cash accounts for 1118 and also for the first 9 months of 1119 have been completely reconciled with the Comptroller's figures. In other words, figures regarding drawals from and remittances to the Treasury have been checked and found to be in order. In view of the acute scarcity during last year it was necessary to constantly divert foodstuffs intended for one place to an entirely different destination, almost at the eleventh hour, and sometimes even after it was booked at the station of despatch. Sometimes commodities which arrived in the station had to be diverted immediately after it was entered in the accounts of the depot but before it was utilised there. In regard to such movements of such stocks there have been in some cases overlapping entries in the accounts of the Depots concerned so that it has become necessary

to trace and identify the particular stock to which each entry related.

Another subject which has come up for discussion is about the control over tapioca. The only criticism is that the control measures are rigid. I may be permitted to state that, when the tapioca control was introduced, there was a loud demand from the public for such control and it was supported by this House also. The control was necessary because last year we had to face acute scarcity in rice. The only cheap and useful substitute that was available in the country for the people in place of rice was tapioca. Since then we were able to secure large quantities of wheat to meet the deficit in rice. When the food situation began to improve slightly this year, we have also been relaxing the provisions of the Tapioca Control Order in various respects. The alleged glut of tapioca had appeared only recently with the advent of the present season. The Government are aware of the development and are taking urgent steps to relieve the situation. Government are taking steps to convert tapioca to sago or flakes under Government supervision. The Government have also removed the tapioca control with regard to movement from taluk to taluk and also for lifting and sale. The Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudy had pointed out that huge waste has occurred in regard to tapioca that was brought to the Ernakulam bazaar. I enquired into the matter and, so far as my information goes, the statement is a bit exaggerated. The merchants have been able to sell most of the quantity imported by them as was being done before. For some time the Officers of this Department have been allowing open sales also, according to their discretion, where it has been found necessary.

Egg is another matter about the control of which there has been some complaint. The Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi has been pointing out that the

egg is a minor item in order to minimise its importance. I may state for the information for the Hon'ble Members of the House that the eggs referred to are fowls' eggs and you all know it is one of the most nutritious foods that is available for us. Now, the State is a deficit area with regard to eggs also. We depend for our consumption from imports from Travancore to some extent. When Travancore recently put a ban on the export of eggs from that country we had to take steps to conserve a sufficient quantity of eggs for the same reasons here also. We have taken as much care as possible to see that persons who were importing large quantities of eggs from Travancore were allowed to re-export a reasonable portion of it after leaving a sufficient quantities for consumption here. There was then a suggestion from the Hon'ble Member that we could have easily avoided damage to the eggs if we had given previous notice that we were going to introduce such a ban. This could not be done for reasons obvious. If we had given such notice, it would have driven away suddenly large quantities of eggs out of the country.

Before I close I may also say a word with regard to the observations made by the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri as to why the Government thought it fit to introduce control measures thereby suggesting that control was unnecessary. The circumstances which necessitated the Government to adopt control measures now enforced are well-known to the public and to the members of the House who are almost in close touch with their working. It is enough to state here that the Government were forced to adopt the present control measures because all other attempts had failed, grievously failed. That this was a very prudent and necessary step has become evident from the distress and suffering that has been caused in regard to food in the countries which hesitated and delayed to adopt control

measures in time. It is now too late in the day to think of going back upon the policy adopted by the Government which, if done, will be retrograde and suicidal.

Government are firmly of opinion that the present control measures should be continued to be enforced with strictness and vigour till conditions materially alter.

## COCHIN STATE LABOUR UNITS

**T**HE services rendered by the Cochin State Labour Units have been praised both by high Civilian and Military authorities. "Statesman" of Calcutta wrote as follows early this month.—

Behind the lines in Burma and Assam thousands of Indian civilians are playing a part in the war against Japan. They are men of South Indian States, and although little has been heard of their work it is vital in the war effort.

Drawn at present exclusively from the States of Travancore, Cochin and Pudukkottai, these men are employed on road and rail construction, loading and unloading freight planes for China, ditching and jungle-clearing in connection with anti-malaria precautions, and handling depot stores.

As a high Indian Army Officer has said of them; "We should not get very far without this labour force. They have



*Radish Beds formed in terrace fashion by the Cochin State Labour Gardening Unit in Ceylon*

been invaluable as a complement of the Indian armed forces."

In May 1942, when the Jap manace was unpleasantly real, an appeal was made to Indian States to provide labour for essential defensive construction works.

The response was magnificent; large States and the small States raised anything from complete units to gangs of 10 men.

Later due largely to the energetic co-operation of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar,

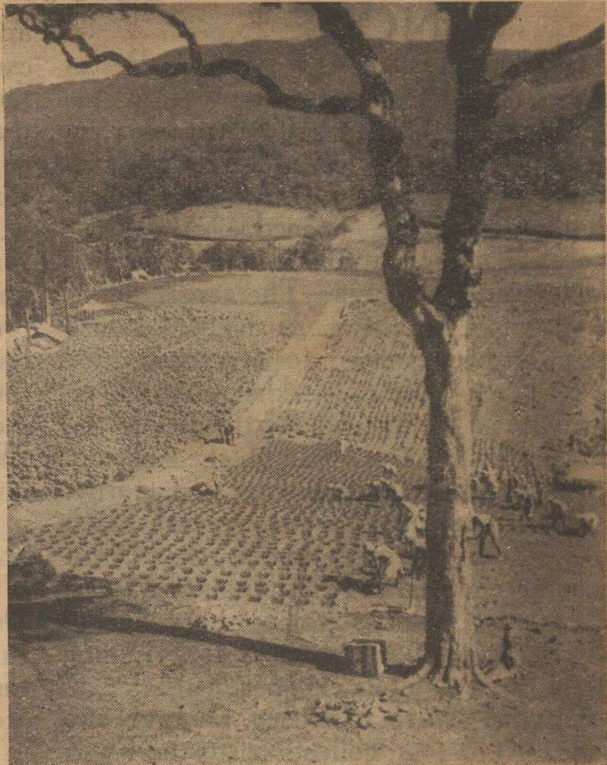
Dewan of Travancore, and Mr. Dixon, Diwan of Cochin at that time, recruiting organizations were set up in each of these States and there has been a progressive increase in the labour supplied by them.

In October, 1942, men supplied by Travancore and Cochin numbered 17,000; today nearly 50,000 men are serving with the labour force, about equal numbers coming from each of the two States. Part of the Cochin Force is recruited for service in Ceylon.

While serving with a unit the men receive the same rations as Indian troops, and are fully clothed and equipped. The pay is one rupee a day for labourers, and all personnel receive a bonus of one month's pay after a year's service at the site of work. Compensation is payable for death and injury or death from disease while in field service areas.

Each unit is under the command of a British officer assisted by supervising staff from the States. An agreement with the States provides that the men shall not be exposed to ground attack though they have stood up well to occasional air attack. In the original agreement there was also a stipulation that the men should not serve out of India, but a few months ago the States withdrew that condition, and the men have worked in Burma close on heels of the fighting men."

On the recommendation of the Government of Cochin, Mr. R. Walker, Manager of the Malakiparai Tea Estate, Cochin State, and Chairman of the Anamalais Ropewat Company, was appointed by the Government of India in May 1942 as the Labour Liaison Officer for the Labour Units raised and sent by the State for defence works in Assam and Bengal.



*The Cochin State Labour Gardening Units at work in Ceylon planting vegetables*

He was in charge of the Units till 27th of July 1944, and during this period of twenty-seven months, as many as 59 labour units, numbering in all about 50,000 men were raised and sent by the State to Assam and Bengal. These units worked willingly and well and have earned universal approbation. The smooth working and success of the scheme are due to great extent to the untiring efforts of a Mr. Walker and his experience and understanding of labour. The Government of Cochin have been pleased to place on record their appreciation of the work done by Mr. Walker in the interests of the State Labour Units.

29 units have been recruited for Ceylon and the sixty-second unit for Assam is being recruited.

## NOTES

**Cochin Restaurants**—Cochin Restaurants have become very popular institutions in the State. The number of customers visiting the Restaurants is daily increasing. Recently a few new Restaurants were opened. Altogether there are now ninety in the State.

**National Savings**—The target figure fixed for Cochin was 25 lakhs. It has recently been raised to one crore for 1944-45. Above 21 lakhs have been invested in Bonds and Certificates in the State after the launching of the Scheme. Investments are progressing satisfactorily.

**Recruitment**—For the eleventh batch of trainees selected under the Bevin Scheme one Mr. C. P. Kunjukutta Menon of Chittur (Cochin State) has been selected. One cadet has been selected for training at Adayar at State's expense.

**Cochin State Military Benevolent Fund**—The total collections to the Fund amount to Rs. 1,10,221. Amounts are being paid out of this fund to the families of diseased soldiers on the recommendation of the Cochin State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board.

**Greek Relief**—As a result of the

appeal issued for this noble and deserving cause a sum of Rs. 6,614—11—2 was received by way of contributions. The thanks of the War Publicity Department are due to all those who have paid contributions.

**Donations**—The Cochin State Central War Committee has donated Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of a mobile canteen to be presented to the Indian Army and Rs. 3,000 to the St. Dunstons' Fund for the Blind whose Indian Branch was recently opened at Dehra Dun.

**War Propaganda Meetings**—Twenty-nine war propaganda meetings were held in the month in various parts of the State.

**Amenities for Troops**—The Liaison Department of the Government is continuing its amenities work in an organised and systematic manner. There are excursions for troops and entertainments in the Civmil Club and other places. Recently a party of about 50 men including the British Amenities Officer was taken to a picnic camp near Cranganur. Those that formed the party enjoyed the function and were satisfied with the arrangements.



*Some of the Military who went to Cranganur on an excursion organised by the Liaison Department*

**Bifurcation of Departments**—The Department of Village Panchayats was amalgamated with the Public Health Department and placed under the Director of Public Health and Panchayats in the year 1935. After the amalgamation, within the last nine years, the responsibilities and activities of both the departments increased considerably. For the better and more efficient administration of the two departments the Panchayat Department was separated from the Public Health Department in August and was placed under an independent Head of Department.

**Veterinary Services**—One of the most vital problems now engaging the attention of the Governments and the public in India is the improvement and development of agriculture. In the post-war scheme the scope of the Agricultural Department of the State will have to be widened and the sphere of its activities to be enlarged. The Director of Agriculture under whom are the veterinary services may not then be able to give to the Veterinary Department that care and attention which that department requires. There is now a greater appreciation of the necessity and usefulness of the veterinary service and a larger demand for the services of that department. With a view to develop this department and to achieve the desired results the Veterinary Department was bifurcated from the Agricultural Department with effect from the 16th of August and placed under an independent head designated Director of Veterinary Services. This department was strengthened by the appointment of additional hands.

**Industrial Planning**.—There have been representations more than once, both in the Cochin Legislative Council and outside, that Government should equip themselves with a planned scheme for the industrialisation of the State. It is admitted that industrialisation plays a very

large part in post-war reconstruction and many schemes have been formulated in various Provinces and States by industrial experts for promoting and developing large scale industries. Government considered it necessary to have a scheme drawn up by an expert with considerable experience of industrial development in India. Through the kind intervention of Sir Visweswarayya, they have been able to secure the distinguished services of Mr. Manu Subedar M.L.A. (Central) in this matter. He has been appointed the Chairman of the Cochin Industrial Planning Committee consisting of the following gentlemen: Kerala Varma Thampuran, M.A., R.A., President, All India Manufacturers' Organisation Kerala Board, Dr. R.M. Alagappa Chettiar, Mr. K. Achyutha Menon, Retired Secretary to Government, Mr. A. K. Menon, Managing Director of Victory Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Ltd. and Mr. K. S. Raghavan, Deputy Secretary to Government. The Committee has been directed to advise how far the industries now established in the State are capable of development and on the measures necessary to secure that development, to examine the possibility of starting new industries, to advise the Government how best they could encourage that development, to consider and advise whether the Government themselves should undertake the establishment of new industries or whether it would be wiser to provide facilities for private enterprise and in the latter case the nature and extent of the facilities to be provided and to consider and advise whether the existing means of financing new industries are adequate and if not how the Government can help to secure better facilities. The Committee has already started work.

**Tapioca Control.**—The developments that necessitated the relaxation of the provisions of the Tapioca Control Order of 1118 are explained in the following Press Note issued by Government: It has been brought to the notice of the Government that there is an accumulation of tapioca in certain areas of the State especially in the northern taluks and that all facilities should be rendered to the producers for its free transport within the State. To avoid waste and also to make it available to the people for purpose of consumption, Government have taken note of the situation and already relaxed some of the provisions of the Tapioca Control Order, 1118, as a result of which there is no restriction now in regard to the lifting or sale of the commodity or of its transport from one place to the other in the State. Representations have been made that the relaxation of the rule fixing the maximum selling prices of tapioca would facilitate further the free and speedy movement of the stuff within the State, without at the same time causing any increase in its present price. Government are inclined to consider this request favourably and remove the restrictions as regards its price as an experimental measure. Government would impress upon those concerned in the production and sale of tapioca that it is imperative that this commodity should be made available to the people of the State at a reasonable price. Government will be watching the situation carefully and if any tendency is noticed for the price of this article to go up, Government will be constrained to re-introduce the price control which has been lifted now.

**Salt Situation.**—Government have issued the following Press Communique on the salt situation in the State.—

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that the public are put to much difficulty by the absence of sufficient quantity of salt in the market for bonafide consumption in the State and there is an apprehension gaining ground among the consuming public that there is scarcity of salt at the Government Depot at Malipuram. Government wish to make known to the public in this connection that the apprehension about the stock of salt in the depot is baseless and that there is sufficient stock in hand to last till the next storing season begins.

Salt is a commodity, and the only one among the other essential commodities which has not yet been brought under a rationing system by the Government till now. Government have been noticing of late, that due to inflation there has been a tendency among the merchants to purchase large stocks from the Depot and to hoard them for profiteering purposes. Government, therefore, thought it advisable to restrict the issues from the depot to the minimum requirements of each purchaser so as not to give room for hoarding and this measure probably created a misunderstanding among the merchants that the stock of salt is running out. Government wish to impress upon all dealers in salt that there is absolutely no cause for any such misunderstanding and that their requirements will be met in full if and when they get rid of their hoarding tendencies and serve the public wants properly. Government would also like to warn them that if they persist in hoarding and profiteering at the expense of, and inconvenience to the public, Government will have to resort to very stringent measures regarding the sale of salt to the public.

(August)

## GALLANT COCHINITES



*Cochinites in the 14th Army who have returned on leave*

**A**ROUSING reception was given to the Cochinites in the famous 14th Army who recently arrived at Ernakulam after a victorious campaign in Burma. On arrival they were received by the officials of the War Publicity and Liaison Departments of the Government. Many leading officials and non-officials and the relatives of the troops were present in the station to accord them a fitting reception. From the station the troops were taken to the Durbar Hall where they were

entertained at tea. Refreshments prepared in the Cochin Restaurant were served and the new dishes made of dry grains were much appreciated. After tea the troops left for their homes. Similar receptions were accorded to those who got down at Trichur and the intermediate stations. Arrangements are being made by the War Publicity Department to entertain the troops in all the Taluk Head-quarters before they leave the State after the period of their leave.

## COCHIN STATE FORCES

**T**HE departure of a company of the Cochin State Forces for active service under the Crown is an important land-mark in the history of the Cochin Militia. Never before has the Cochin

troops left the State for service outside the State.

Till a year back the Cochin State Forces was an irregular Unit known as the Cochin Nayar Brigade. The latter was

recently converted into a cosmopolitan force. Before the treaty with the East India Company the Cochin Militia, which was many thousands strong, was a cosmopolitan army fully equipped and trained in the warfare of those days. The names of non-Nayars in the army are found recorded in a cadjan leaf document preserved in the Central Records Office. There were Ezhuvas or Thandans and Christians; but the Nayars preponderated. This cosmopolitan army was disbanded and disarmed after the abortive rebellion of 1808 against the British led by the Diwans of Cochin and Travancore without the knowledge of their Rajas.

After this, only a few men were retained for ceremonial purposes, for accompanying the Raja to temples, for guarding treasuries etc. Though the diminished force contained Brahmins and Kshetriyas, it came to be known as Nayar Brigade. After the recent conversion of the Nayar Brigade into State Forces training in modern warfare is being given in the new head-quarters where there are adequate facilities and extensive grounds for training and recreation.

On the eve of the departure of the Forces early this month for service outside the State, the troops were given a grand sent-off by the citizens of the State. H. H. The Maharaja was graciously pleased to send them an inspiring message of congratulations and good wishes.



*The Company of the Cochin State Forces that recently left the State for service under the Crown*

## FOOD SITUATION

**S**IR Jawla Prasad Srivastava, Member for Food, Government of India, visited Cochin in the last week of September to study the food condition. The Hon'ble Member attended a meeting of the Cochin Food Advisory Committee and met many leading officials and non-officials at the Tea Party given by Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, in his honour.

Before his departure the Hon'ble Member said:

"I am much impressed by the very good work which is being done by the Governments of Travancore and Cochin, to save the people from starvation."

"It was singularly fortunate that these two States had, at a critical juncture like this, two able and far-seeing administrators, Sachivothama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar and Sir George Boag. There is no doubt that if they had not husbanded their food resources, as they have done, Travancore and Cochin would have been in the grip of a famine as bad as, or even worse than that we saw in Bengal last year.

**Rationing saved Starvation.**—There can be no two opinions, but that countrywide rationing has saved these two States from outright starvation, I have, however, no hesitation in recognising that the scale of rations, which these States have been able to provide for their people is too meagre and should immediately be increased. Cochin with 5 1/3 oz. of rice a day has to be put right forthwith, and I hope I will be able to ensure sufficient supplies of rice to raise this very insufficient ration to at least 8 oz. a day immediately. The main difficulty is in

regard to transport, but I am in touch with New Delhi and have done everything in my power to accelerate despatches so that there may be no delay to allot a larger ration. In connection with next year's Basic Plan, I will do my best to increase supplies to both these States, so that they may each be able substantially to raise their ration from the present scale. My difficulty is our enormous commitments to Bengal. If only Bengal could stand on its own legs, which it is trying hard to do, the problem of meeting requirements of rice of other parts of the country will become comparatively easy.

**Cattle Shortage.**—Other matters to which my attention has been drawn during my tour are the shortages of milk and plough cattle. The question of adjusting the points of view of the neighbouring Provinces and States in regard to the free movement of cattle in these parts has received our attention, and the Government of India have just set up a committee, composed of representatives of these States and Provinces, under the presidency of Diwan Bahadur Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner. I hope, this committee will be able to adjust differences and thus provide an adequate number of cattle for Travancore and Cochin".

Sir Henry French, the Permanent Secretary of the United Kingdom, Ministry of Food, who visited India to study food conditions in the country, came to Cochin on the 8th September. Cochin and Travancore were included in his programme in view of the special difficulties experienced in these States consequent on the cutting off of imports of rice from Burma. He saw rationing arrangements in the State and inspected storage depots and the Cochin Restaurants.

## NOTE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES IN THE STATE

THE open sea along our coast and the extensive backwaters and lagoons, if properly tapped and husbanded, will increase our supply of fish to a considerable extent. The independent fisherman of to-day with his small country craft, supplying petty local markets, should be replaced by a fleet of large boats doing team work and catering to wider markets. Development is possible only then. We should aim at working slowly upwards, through small sailing boats and indigenous fishermen, and not attempt revolution by introducing power-craft and highly mechanised methods. A certain amount of capital—not very big—will have to be invested. Such a course, besides placing the fishing industry on a firm basis, will also provide the background for other industries like boat-building, net-making, fish-curing and manure manufacture.

There is no need for us to concentrate on fresh water fisheries, because the sea and its branches at our doorstep will repay our efforts to a much greater extent than the restricted stretches of fresh water within our borders.

The work projected may be considered under two headings:

**Purely Scientific.**—A field study should be undertaken of the important food fishes available. Their habits of life, breeding, spawning grounds, life-history and possibility of intensive cultivation under controlled conditions should be investigated. (തീരത, കണമ്പ്, നരിമീൻ, ചാള, അയില &c., are a few of the valuable food fishes contemplated.) Regular collections of these fishes have to be made from definite localities at definite periods and the specimens examined. Laboratory facilities exist in the Zoology Department of the Maharaja's College, but a few essential volumes like Day's Fishes of

India and Malabar Fishes are wanted. Facilities for regularly going out and making collections, from both the sea and the backwaters, are also required.

**Economic and Commercial.**—This is certainly the more important aspect. This may be examined as follows.—

(A) **Catching.**—Small boats that cannot stay out at sea for any length of time are now in use. Much time and labour are wasted in daily travel to and fro. They cannot go about in search of the large shoals. If they come across any it is purely by accident. Only small nets are used and the catches are correspondingly small. Again, the fish are dead many hours—often more than a day—before they reach the market.

All these can be remedied by the use of larger boats, of the "PATTAMAR" type. Ten or 12 men can stay out at sea in these for a week or ten days. They can carry much larger nets, and different types of nets. By working as a team, as in the West, big hauls can be made. Waste of time in daily travel to and fro is avoided.

The fish caught should be placed in the market or cured as rapidly as possible. A fast motor-launch, or "carrier" can visit the Pattamars every day, collect their catches and transport them to the curing yard straightaway. This procedure, however, may not be feasible now as there may be difficulties in getting a proper launch. So, the fish have to be kept alive for a few days till the Pattamars return to shore. For this purpose, "live boxes"—i.e., boat shaped boxes, of some strong light wood, closely perforated all round—can be used. They can be towed behind the Pattamar, and the fish dumped into them alive. The sea has free access into these boxes, and there is very little risk of the fish dying. Live

boxes of strong bamboo splices may be tried. These may perhaps be more satisfactory than wooden boxes.

(B) **Curing.**—Under present conditions it is not possible to place fresh fish in any considerable quantity in the inland



*Fishing in the back-waters*

market. Refrigerator cars and other equipment are necessary, and even if these were available, a plentiful supply for the ordinary man would not be possible. At best, the rich man can have a luxury, and this would not justify the labour and capital that will have to be expended.

Curing is therefore the only device whereby the fish can be made available to the wide public in an untainted state. The method of curing now in vogue is rather primitive and capable of considerable improvement. Now, the fish are dipped in strong brine and sun-dried on the ground. Again, the fish are dead long hours before being treated, which means decomposition would have set in to a greater or less extent.

First of all, the fish should be killed rapidly, instead of being allowed to die slowly in the air. In the latter case decay sets in far more rapidly than in the former. Immediately after killing they should be gutted and cleaned—the head,

tail and fins removed, body cut open and intestines, etc., removed—. It is the soft internal viscera that initiate decomposition which spreads rapidly to the muscles. This should be rigorously avoided. The next step is the removal of the excess of water from the tissues, which can be done effectively by using a drying plant of the centrifugal type. This is a very simple piece of machinery, and can be worked either by hand or power. Then the preservative is to be added. This should be cheap, easily available and harmless. The best available is common salt, with a slight admixture of borax, if necessary. The salt should be clean, without grit or other foreign matter, and in a finely powdered state—not as crystals. The fish should not be allowed to get bruised at any of the above stages.

The next stage is drying. For this artificial heat is preferable to the Sun. Direct exposure to the Sun's rays will cause more rapid decay. Again, the heat

is neither steady nor continuous. The best technique would be to use a drying room, in which the fish are exposed to a steady stream of hot air at a controlled temperature. The setting up of such a room is not very costly or complicated. The fish should be kept in wire or bamboo-trellis trays, so that both sides get uniformly treated. The trays may be placed on scaffolding, so that much space is saved.

**(C) Smoking.**—This method of preservation is found highly satisfactory in places where it has been tried. It consists essentially in subjecting the salted fish to the effects of wood-smoke in closed chambers. The smoke is highly antiseptic and even disinfectant. The flavour, however, may not be quite liked by our people who are not used to it, but the commodity will find a great market outside. The marketing of smoked fish, is therefore worth a trial.

**(D) Canning.**—The process is comparatively simple. It consists essentially in putting fresh cleaned fish in boiling oil in tins and sealing off the tins hermetically. A big market is always assured, where the product can be placed at very cheap prices. But this may have to await the post-war period, as the requisite machinery and tins (containers) may not be available at present.

**(E) Experiments worth trial.**—(1) Fresh cleaned fish, either whole or sliced (if big), may be smeared with tamarind paste or a paste of salt and turmeric, and dried. Tamarind and turmeric are well-known for their preservative and antiseptic qualities, and the taste is sure to be palatable to our people. (2) "Mealing"

i.e., fish, after salting and drying, is torn into shreds, the big bones alone being discarded. The product may be marketed as such, or compressed into cakes for ease of transport to distant markets. (3) It will be really worth while if some of the larger food-fishes are cultivated under controlled conditions. This is done in the case of fresh water fish elsewhere. With our wide stretches of lagoons and sheltered backwater opening into the sea, we have every advantage to start culture stations of marine fish. A few acres can easily be bunded or fenced in, and fish reared in the area. Only, each such tank should contain but one species of fish; or else there will be the risk of different species eating up each other.

**(F) Prawns.**—The prawn fisheries of our State are a very valuable asset. The curing and preparation of the prawns for the market can be done on exactly the same lines indicated above for fishes. Prawn meal, prepared under hygienic conditions by the Travancore Government, has a very large market in India, and it is said that they cannot cope with the demand. We might, with profit, emulate them.

A development of our fishing industry on a large scale will automatically create a valuable manure industry also. Those parts of the fish not of use for food can be turned over to the manure maker.

A visit to our curing yards, and a few stations in Madras and Travancore, by a Zoologist and Chemist would be extremely helpful in the practical implementing of the above tentative suggestions and particularly in the preparation of details and estimates.

P. Narayana Menon, M. A.

## WAR PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES

**Cochin Restaurants.**—The total number of Cochin Restaurants now existing is 93 and the total amount of subsidy comes to Rs. 1,200 per month. During the month under review, the Hon'ble Mr. Butler and Sir Henry French visited some of the Cochin Restaurants at Ernakulam and Cochin and were much impressed with the idea of this new venture. The selling price of sweets, as advised by the Food Advisory Committee has been fixed and all sweets made of sugar are to be sold at 2 as. per dish and are not to weigh less than three tolas. In all ways, the Cochin Restaurants are rendering great help to the public in these days of fluctuating prices by giving delicious and palatable things at moderate rates.

**Emergency Commissions.**—There was a sitting of the Cochin War Recruitment Committee on 30th August 1944 to select candidates for the Emergency Commissions. Only 21 candidates appeared for interview. The "matrix test of intelligence" was conducted by Major Dignam, a member of the G.H.Q. Selection Board, Bangalore. Out of the candidates present for interview, 7 candidates were selected.

**Recruitment.**—With a view to accelerate recruitment to the Technical Training Scheme, the Superintendent, Civil Centre, Trichur is now permitted to select candidates from "open market" and send up to the A. T. R. O., Ernakulam for medical examination and enrolment.

The T. R. O., Bangalore has empowered the A. T. R. O. Ernakulam to enrol direct entry candidates in this case. A new method is going to be applied in furtherance of Officer Recruitment termed as Direct Contact Methods, adopted by the G. H. Q. Selection Board, Bangalore. The State is also interested in the Scheme. The starting of a Pre-cadet Training Course in the State is under progress.

**National Savings Campaign.**—The Target figure for the last financial year was Rs. 24 lakhs. The Government were pleased to order that the Scheme should be continued till the duration of War and the target was now been fixed at one crore up till the end of this year.

The total up collections till the end of September was over 25 lakhs the proportion between National Savings Certificate Collection and other forms of investments here is 50—50, which is a very creditable record.

**War Propaganda Meetings.**—During the month under review, out of the 29 meetings programmed, 7 first class and 9 second class meetings were conducted.

**Other Public Functions.**—The Musical Boat Party has, after a two months' tour, successfully terminated. It conducted 30 meetings and the total expenditure incurred was Rs. 500 approximately.

The party visited the coastal areas in a special boat and carried out propaganda for the use of dry grains. Cooking demonstrations were given in all the centres visited by the party. (September)



*The Musical Boat*

## THE PAST & FUTURE OF RUBBER IN COCHIN

[H. J. WALMESLEY]

**T**HE first rubber in Cochin State was planted by Mr. K. E. Nicoll at Palappilli in 1905 and during the following year work was started on the Pudukkad and Vellanikkara Estates. During the next 20 years about 10,000 acres was planted and the total is now approximately 11,000 acres in estates of some size and 2,000 acres in smaller holdings. The figures given in the statistics

published by the Government of India in the past showed that the yield in Cochin was higher than in any other Province or State in South India; but in the cyclone of May 1941 about 5,000 acres of the highest yielding rubber was ruined and a further 3,000 acres so badly damaged that replanting will be necessary when labour is available. The climate of Cochin is favourable, but during the dry season in February

to March and during the hight of the monsoon in June/July little crop is harvested. It is open to question if the trees are rested during these periods, if any serious loss of crop need follow. During the very wet weather of the South-West monsoon trees are attacked by the leaf disease *P. Meadii* and unless they are sprayed with Bordeaux Mixture during the season April/May, very heavy defoliation occurs and there is consequent heavy loss of crop. Crops from well managed estates on good soil before the cyclone were some 450 lbs. an acre and the areas planted later which had not suffered from the early experimental and in many cases too drastic tapping systems were producing about 650 lbs. an acre from unimproved planting material. It does not appear likely that large area will be made available for rubber planting in the State, so in considering the future my remarks will apply chiefly to re-planting of inferior areas and to the possible new planting of smaller areas.

It seems likely that immediately after the War there will be a demand for a time for all rubber that can be produced either natural or synthetic for replacement purposes, but it also is fairly certain that later production will catch up with demand. How long this interval will be must be a matter of conjecture. It would appear possible that rubber planted now will be coming into production at a time when no definite shortage will exist and so we must look for cheap production or in other words high yields. Any one who has tested out any area of old rubber in South India will have been surprised at the very small percentage of the trees which give the great bulk of the yield and so in looking for high yields we must look for a method of eliminating the low yielding trees rather than hope to establish an area consisting of solely of very high yielding trees. Yields depend on two things, good planting and treatment in the early years when rate of growth is very rapid and the inhe-

rent capability of the tree to produce high yields given the best treatment. The most important thing is to treat the young tree properly and not to spare expenses or trouble for at least the first five years. A badly treated young tree will never recover and it is useless to spend money trying to improve young trees which have suffered from neglect. They will never come into the class fit to produce in maturity 10 lbs. of dry rubber a year and I think we can safely fix this as our standard if we want to be fairly sure of a fair return for our time, trouble and expenditure in future years. After deciding that careful treatment in the early years is absolutely necessary, the next decision to take is regarding the planting material to use. We have 3 options, either to select from any ordinary good seed, to bud from the so called proved clones, or to buy special selected seed usually collected from areas planted with budded rubber. If it is decided to select from ordinary estate seed, plant a nursery and thin out the weaker plants progressively until you have discarded at least 80 per cent. Use the remaining plants the following July to plant your garden at two per pit and discard one of these six months later. We cannot say that results from such selection is certain but all indications are that results will be very good and coupled with good treatment and some manuring. I feel confident high yields will be obtained.

The second option is to bud and though some doubts are now being thrown on budding, the fact remains that budded clearings are now actually yielding over 1,000 lbs. per acre in South India. The chief draw-back to the small grower is the additional attention budded plants require for some years and without this attention failure is certain. If budding is decided on, it would probably be best for the small grower to try and by budded stumps of the clone T.J. 1, which does well everywhere, from some large estate. These

should be available at a moderate price. The third method is to buy special selected seed. If really proved seed was available for purchase in South India, this would be the most attractive proposition of all but unfortunately the demand is greater than the supply. Such seed as could be purchased even if it came from a purely budded estate would all be illegitimate in that only one parent would be known and it is quite certain all the plants grown from such seed would not be high yielders. A certain proportion would be poor and might be very poor. Even growth is uncertain and the cost of the seed would not allow the selection on appearance and size suggested for ordi-

nary estate seed. I think it is fairly certain that trees averaging 10 lbs. of rubber a year can be raised by any of these methods and under conditions in Cochin it is probable that this rubber will be produced at a cost which will complete with any other country.

I would add one word of advice to the small owner of rather inferior rubber trees and that is to take advantage of present conditions and harvest his maximum crop at present prices and then replant. I am confident that under conditions that are coming the ordinary low yielding rubber will have very little value and the days of export quota values greater than the value of the rubber itself will never return.

### Village Centre

"The Village Centre which I am opening to-day under the auspices of the National War Front, has immense possibilities before it. This child which the National War Front presents to this panchayat area will, I am sure, prosper with the proper attention and co-operation of the local people" observed the Hon'ble Minister Sri. T. K. Nayar, the State Leader of the National War Front, when performing the inaugural ceremony of the Village Centre at Kallettumkara at a large public meeting held on 27th September 1944.

Continuing, he said—"The activities of the Village Centre are mainly the promotion of Adult education, Scientific cultivation by agricultural demonstration and Public Health activities. It is not always possible for villagers to visit the Central Farm and take advantage of the experiments and scientific cultivation carried out in the Central Farm. It will, therefore, be extremely useful if suitable demonstration plots are opened in the Village Centre and the villagers are

brought in close contact with the experiments carried on there. By closely studying the results of the experiments and the several modes of scientific cultivation and manuring, a large number of villagers are likely to follow these scientific modes of cultivation. This great purpose is sought to be achieved by the Village Centre and the publicity which the National War Front will be giving to the experiments carried out in the Demonstration plot opened here. I need hardly say that the Adult Education Classes and the publicity which will be given to topics of public health, will greatly facilitate the promotion of rural welfare in this place. It is my hope that with the co-operation of the general public, this Village Centre Scheme will prove a great success."

Dr. C. C. Mathew, M.A., Ph.D., Principal of the Training Institution, who spoke next, dealt at length on the possibilities of the Adult Education scheme envisaged by the National War Front. He expressed the hope that this scheme would enable the villagers to pick up literacy quickly and would facilitate the growth of culture to a large extent.

Mr. C. Unnikrishna Menon, the Agricultural Inspector, Mukundapuram Taluk, also spoke on some of the methods of scientific cultivation.

After the public meeting, the agricultural demonstration plot was also opened by the Hon'ble Minister in the presence of a large gathering to whom the demon-

strations in manuring were explained. The Hon'ble Minister himself planted a seedling.

A Model Class in Adult education was conducted by Dr. C. C. Mathew. The class was well-attended and highly interesting.

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# 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) **Victory Loan** 3 per cent Victory Loan Redeemable at par on 1st September 1944. Issue price on any date from 1st April to 8th April Rs. 100—2—8; 10th April to 15th April Rs. 100—3—4 and thereafter at prices increasing by 8 pies per cent weekly until further notice. Interest payable half yearly on 1st September and 1st March. Liable to income-tax and surcharge.

(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**