

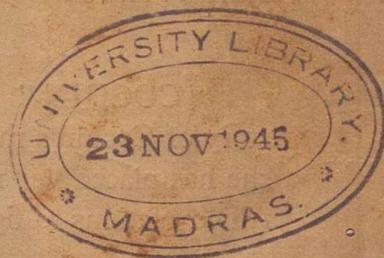
COCHIN INFORMATION



VOL. IV

AUGUST 1945

No. 8



VICTORY

NUMBER

Issued by the WAR PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT

“COCHIN”

“COCHIN” is a profusely illustrated and superbly got up publication graphically describing Cochin’s varied and various war efforts, her distinctive culture and civilisation, her arts and crafts, her customs and manners, her notable advance in industries and agriculture, her striking progress in education and other fascinating features and interesting developments.

“COCHIN” describes in about 400 and odd pictures the full story of Cochin’s magnificent war achievements, the manner in which she has placed her resources in men and material at the disposal of the Allied Nations to fight the forces of evil.

“COCHIN” is a publication which everybody should possess.

“COCHIN” can be had from The War Publicity Department, Ernakulam. Price Rs. 2.

“COCHIN”—Further details can be had from

The Informaton Officer,

Government of Cochn,

ERNAKULAM.

FINAL VICTORY

HIS Majesty the King Emperor has sent the following reply to the congratulatory message sent by His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin on the termination of the war:

"I thank you sincerely for your loyal message on the occasion of the termination of the war against Japan whereby final victory over our enemies has been granted to us. George R. I."



HIS MAJESTY THE KING EMPEROR

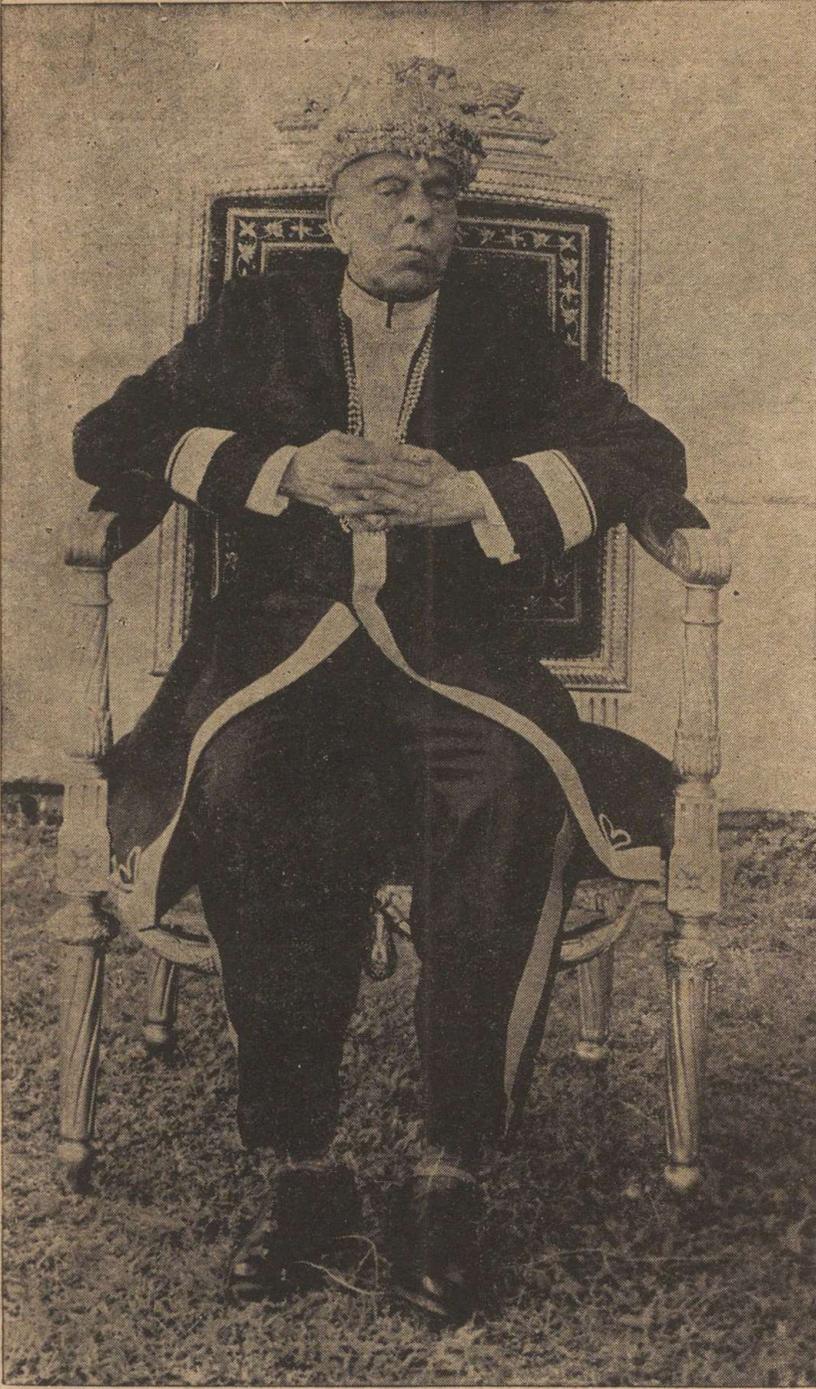


The following reply has been received from His Excellency The Crown Representative:

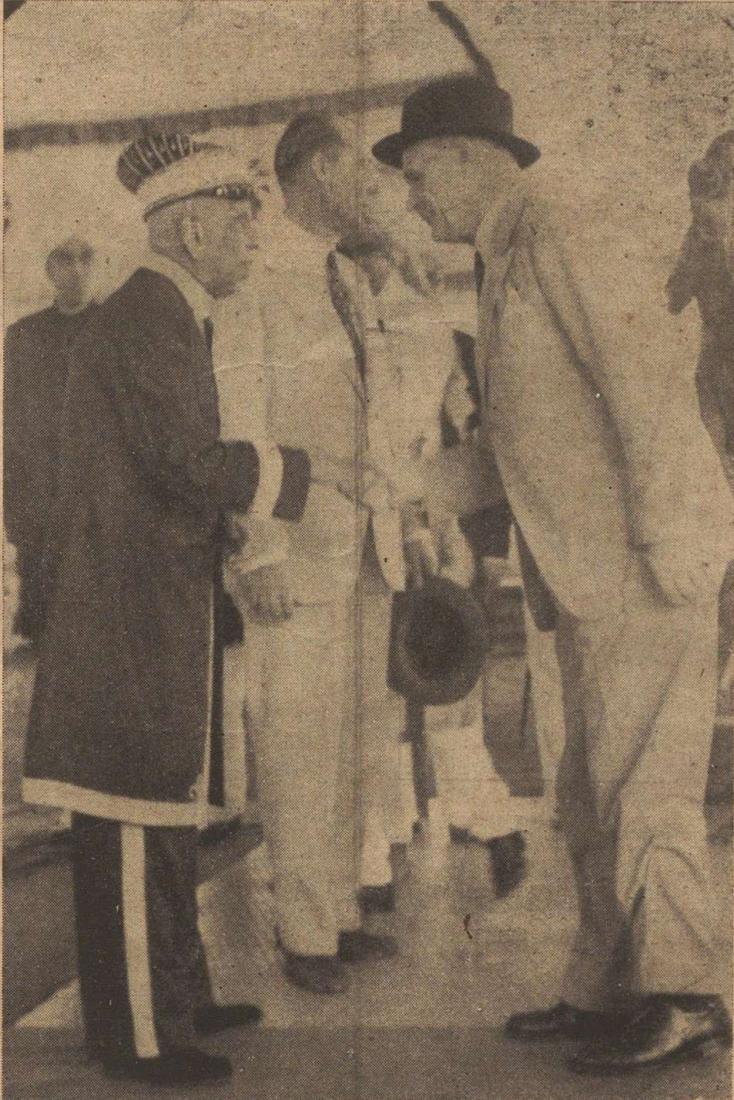
On the cessation of hostilities the following message was issued by H. H. Sri Ravi Varma, Maharaja of Cochin.

"Many thanks for Your Highness' message of congratulations on the defeat of Japan and the end of the war. Am indeed grateful for all the help rendered by Your Highness' State towards the achievement of this great Victory."

"Today peace has come to the war-weary world. On this occasion our foremost duty is to bow down before the Almighty God by whose blessings right and justice for which the Allies stood have triumphed over aggression and tyranny. May there be prosperity and peace in the world here-after."



HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF COCHIN



H. E. The Crown Representative and H. H. The Maharaja



Sir George Boag, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.
Diwan of Cochin

Message issued by Sir George Boag, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Diwan of Cochin.

"The great news of the cessation of hostilities against Japan heralds the restoration of peace to a troubled world. The news fills us with gratitude—first to that Providence which has inspired and enabled us to resist and overcome our enemies, secondly to the skill, courage and endurance of Navies, Armies and Air Forces of the United Nations which have prevailed in battle, and thirdly to the strength and resolution of the people which have withstood all the attacks of the enemy and the hardships which the war has brought in its train. We are also filled with hope that a true and lasting

peace may shortly be established in which the peoples of the world may rebuild their lives free from fear and want. Let us join with these feelings of gratitude and hope a determination to use such influence as we may possess to promote and further all measures calculated to establish and maintain those peaceful conditions in which alone the peoples of the world may find happiness and progress."



Mr. Parambi Lonappen, B.A., B.L.,
Minister for Rural Development

Mr. Parambi Lonappen, Minister for Rural Development, issued the following message:

"Cochin, with her untiring and intensive war efforts, has made such valuable contributions in men, money and materials to the Allied cause that her people can feel a legitimate, genuine pride over this victory. Now that 'out of suffering and sacrifice has born the glory of mankind' it is our privilege to share with the rest of the world the benefits of a lasting peace and play an honourable role in the post-war world order. I sincerely hope that this souvenir will receive an enthusiastic welcome from the public and be regarded as a happy reminder of the glorious part Cochin has played in this great struggle of high ideals against barbarous militarism".

The 15th of August 1945 saw the end of the Second Great War that commenced on the 3rd of September 1939. During this period of six years of intense agonising activity men and women of all the Allied countries were subjected to untold sufferings, trials and tribulations, but they carried on this epic struggle with indomitable courage and unflinching faith in the justice and nobility of their cause, confident in ultimate victory and with encouraging hopes of the birth of a new era of peace, prosperity and unlimited freedom in a world now distracted and distressed and staggering under the inflictions of a global war. This was a period of blood, sweat, toil and tears.

The bells are sounding the tolls of victory, the dawn of a new era, the emergence of a brave new world. Totalitarianism and militarism have been obliterated and the colossal attempts made to enthrone greed have been completely frustrated. That "monstrous tyranny never surpassed in the long lamentable catalogue of human crimes" has been destroyed. The gigantic forces of the United Nations have

swept away all the vestiges of militarism and all the Dictators who had planned to rule by tyranny. It is the hope and expectation of all who have contributed to this great victory that there would be permanent peace and enduring happiness.

The news of the unconditional surrender of Japan was received with great rejoicing. Three days were declared public holidays and one Sunday was set apart for Thanksgiving Services in all religious institutions in the State. Grand processions were conducted in important centres, school children were given sweets and rice was distributed to thousands of poor people at Ernakulam and Mattancheri. There were also dances, hockey and foot-ball matches between military and civilian teams, gorgeous illuminations and grand pyrotechnic displays.

Future historians will paint in glowing colours the great and glorious services rendered by India in this noble crusade for the preservation of our ancient heritages, culture and civilisation. With pardonable pride we wish to briefly record the magnificent contributions in men, money and material made by the tiny State of Cochin with a population of nearly one and a half million men, an area of 1,480 square miles and an average annual revenue of one and a quarter crore of rupees. *Cochin is entitled to the gratifying reflection that her sons and daughters have won credit for themselves and for their State wherever they served.

"I have been called to this ancient gadi at a momentous time in world's history. I request you to assure His Majesty that in the great struggle in which the United Nations are engaged the resources of my State are at the disposal of His Majesty the King"

* Appendix A at page 7.



H. H. SIR SREE RAMA VARMA, G.C.I.E., LL.D.

The late Maharaja of Cochin

announced Sri Ravi Varma, Maharaja of Cochin, at the Installation Darbar held on the 14th November 1943, in reply to the congratulatory message sent by His Excellency the Crown Representative. His Highness' predecessors Sir Sri Rama Varma and Sir Sri Kerala Varma made similar announcements, the former as soon as the hostilities commenced and the latter on the 23rd May 1941 immediately after his ascension to the musnad. These royal messages were accepted by the people of the State as solemn promises on the part of the nation and were fulfilled in a manner worthy of the great naval and military traditions of the people of the State.

For conducting war propaganda, for stimulating recruitment and for mobilising

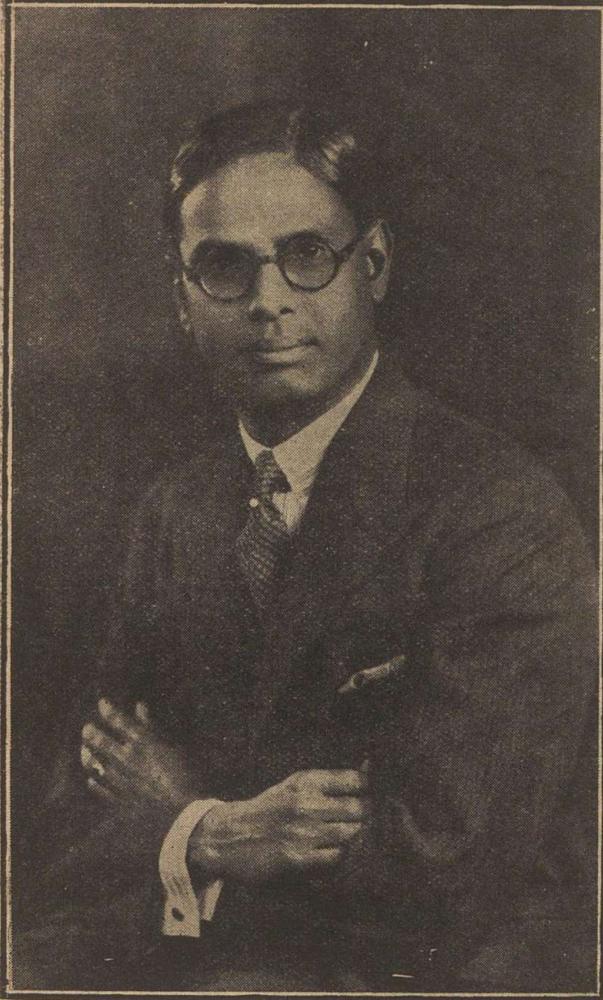
the material resources of the State a Central War Committee was constituted when Sir Shanmukham was the Diwan. A War Publicity Department was established immediately after the assumption of office as Diwan by Mr. A. F. W. Dixon. Nine sub-committees, a Recruitment Sub-committee, an All Cochin Women's War Effort Committee and 181 village war committees were also constituted. The work and activities of all these committees were supervised and co-ordinated by the War Publicity Department. Under the auspices of the Central War Committee 969 propaganda meetings were held in different parts of the State to encourage recruitment and to place before the public the causes and ideals for which the war had been waged and also the constantly

APPENDIX A
Population and Financial Progress

Year	Population	Income Rs.	Name of the Diwan
1835		7,13,329	Seshagiri Rao
1845		8,35,895	E. Sankara Warriar
1865		9,63,006	T. Sankunni Menon
1878		13,91,238	Do.
1885		16,18,336	T. Govinda Menon
1891	7,22,906		
1901	8,12,025	27,20,886	Sir P. Rajagopalachari
1906		34,37,800	N. Pattabhirama Rao
1911	9,18,110		
1913		47,06,999	Sir A. R. Banerj
1918		53,03,643	Sir J. W. Bhore
1921	9,79,080		
1924		76,58,790	P. Narayana Menon
1929		93,67,390	T. S. Narayana Ayyar
1931	12,05,016		
1933		75,32,509	Mr. C. G. Herbert
1938		110,23,268	Sir Shanmukham Chetty
1941	14,22,875	132,75,233	Mr. A. F. W. Dixon
1945		294,25,300	Sir George Boag



H. H. SIR SREE KERALA VARMA, G.C.I.E.
The late Maharaja of Cochin
(May 1941—October 1943)



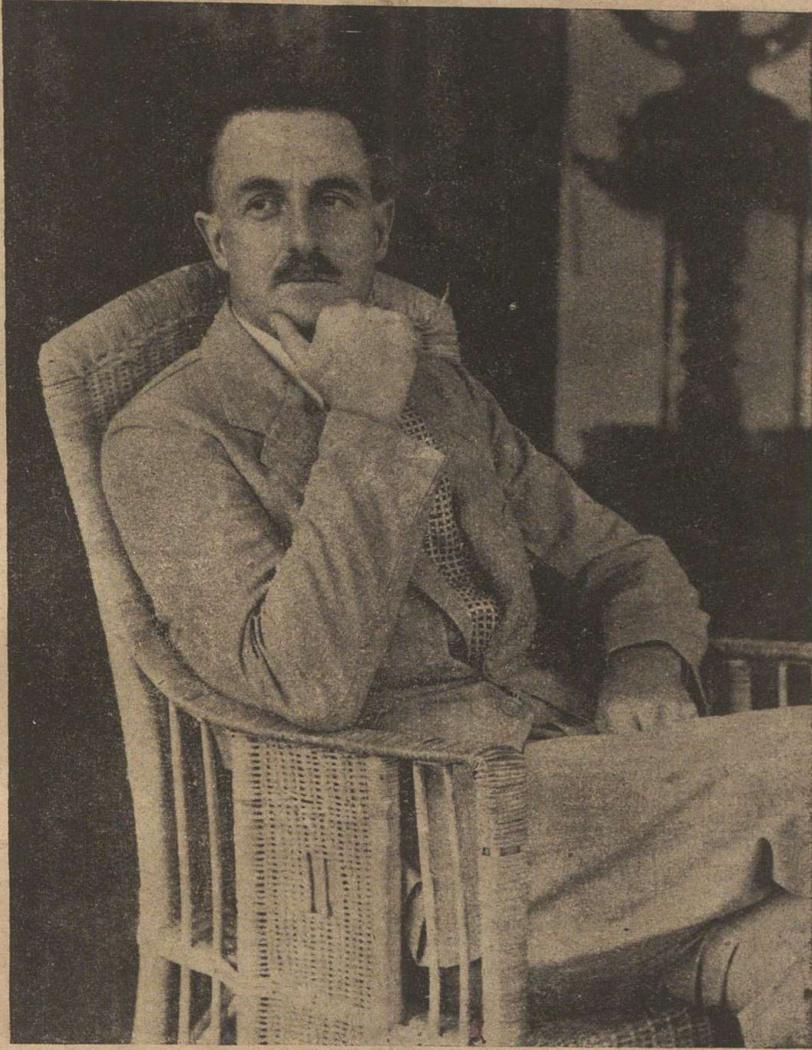
SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K.C.I.E.
Ex-Diwan of Cochin



Mr. A. F. W. DIXON, I.C.S.,
Ex-Diwan of Cochin



The Central War Committee with Sir George Boag, Diwan—President, in the centre

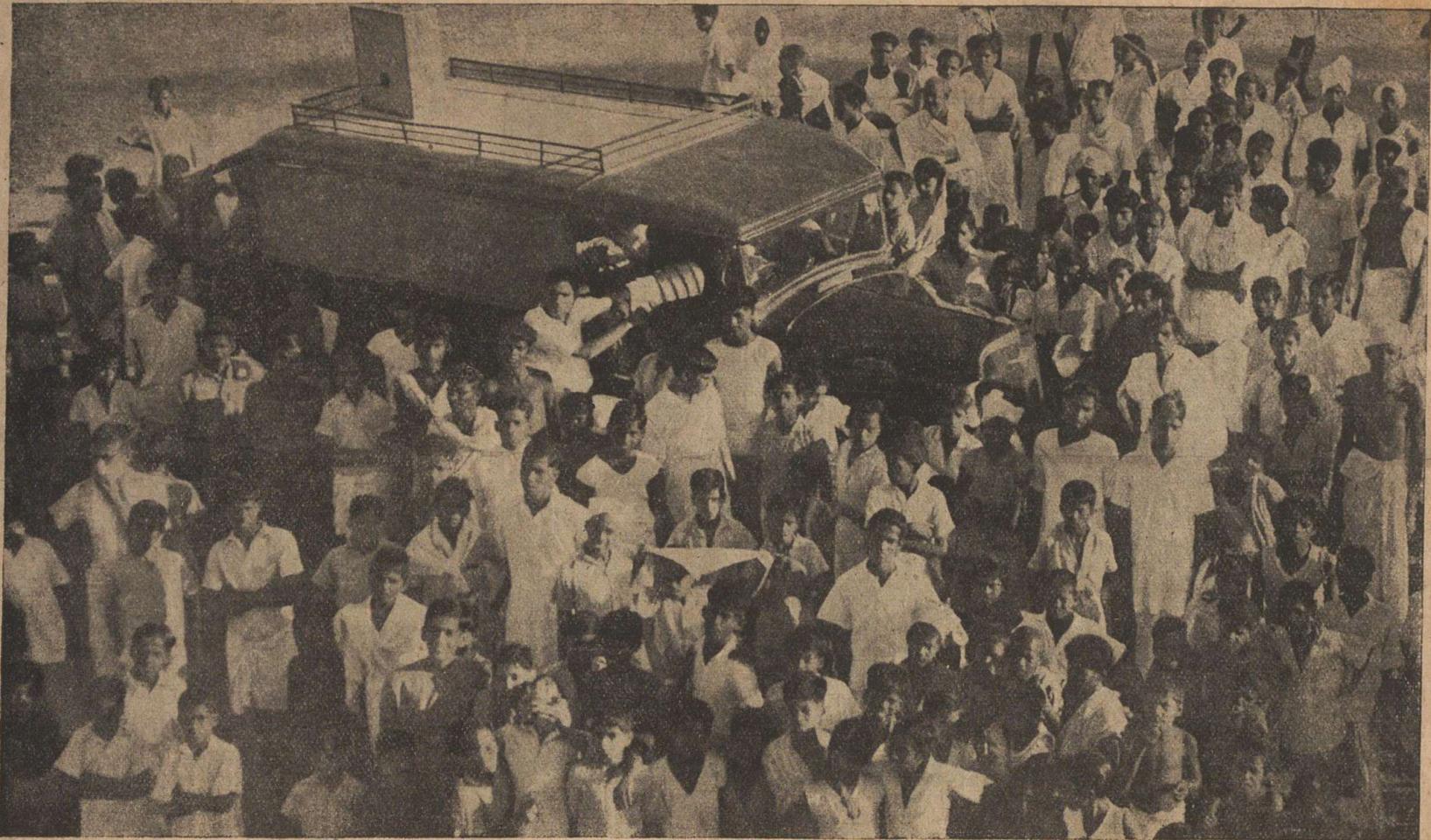


Mr. H. J. TODD, *Ex-Resident for the Madras States*

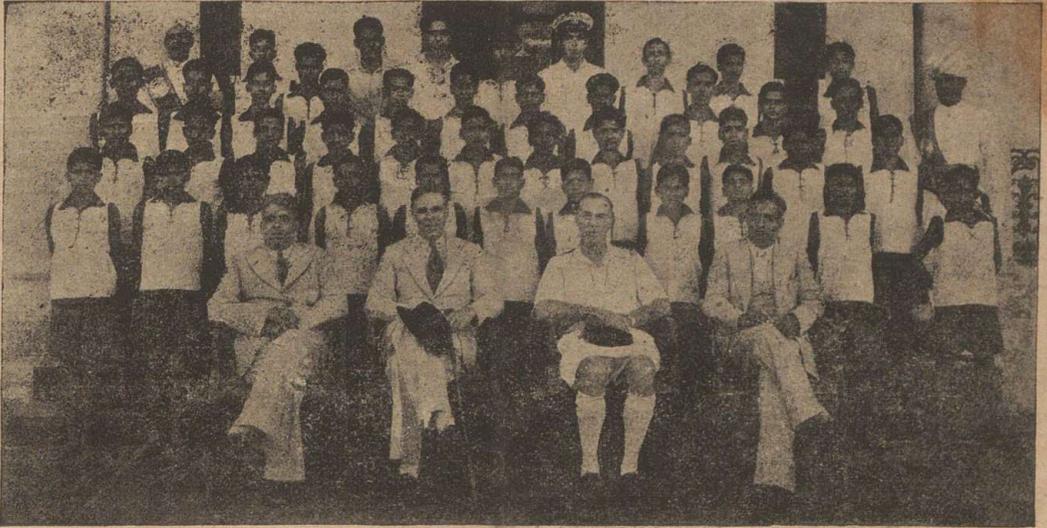
changing needs and aspects of the war efforts. Various functions were held and celebrations conducted under the auspices of the War Publicity Department. A War Exhibition was also organised by the Department.

Recruitment.—Of all the war efforts the one that has been most successful and which has earned deserving tributes from high military authorities is recruitment. In this department of war activity Cochin

stands first in proportion to its size and population and in the words of Mr. H. J. Todd, Ex-Resident for the Madras States, “the Cochin contribution in men and material is outstanding in the whole of India”. To help the Recruitment Sub-committee in its activities, local sub-committees were organised, career masters were appointed in schools, local recruiters were selected and information pamphlets, posters and other literature were widely



Propaganda van was always popular with the villagers



The Naval Recruit Training Camp conducted by the War Publicity Department

circulated. Cinema theatres, propaganda vans, posters, pamphlets, microphone talks, etc., were freely utilised for effective publicity. Information pamphlets were published and were widely distributed. The Press acted as the central pivot of all publicity. The combined effect of these concentrated activities was so encouraging and stimulating that recruiting officers were at times baffled by the response.

Navy.—Cochin has a naval tradition extending to centuries back and this was successfully maintained by the people of the State by enthusiastically responding to the call for men to the Navy. Everything was done to promote and enthuse naval recruitment. A Training Camp was conducted by the War Publicity Department with the approval of the Naval authorities concerned for giving training to candidates before selection to H. M. I. S. Bahadur and Dilawar. More than 100 cadets were selected for these training establishments. The call for men to stocker and seamen branches also had a very gratifying response and in the words of the Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy, "of the splendid

CI-4



Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey
Flag Officer Commanding



Rama Varma (Apan)
Thampuran, Vice-Admiral
Godfrey, Sir George Boag
and Mr. Jacob Kalliath

number of recruits obtained from this area well over 500 have joined the Royal Indian Navy". The boys who have gone out are "on the whole a very willing and cheerful type" and the recruitment of the cadets "was a very splendid effort indeed".

Like the Navy League in England which has been a potent factor in ensuring that the British Navy is of the right standard, a Navy League has also been organised in this State.



H. H. The Third Prince inspecting the Guard of Honour
furnished by the Cochin Ratings when H.M.I.S. Cochin was launched

Army.—The response made by the manhood of Cochin to the call for the Army has been an outstanding feature of recruitment in South India. Despite the very large number of men supplied for the Cochin Labour Units for doing work of great military necessity in the frontiers of India and in Ceylon and the large number engaged in military construction works in the State itself, Cochin stands high in the list of civil districts and states as regards the percentage of men supplied in relation to available population. Were the labour recruitment also taken into consideration Cochin would stand second to none. Over 20,000 men have joined the technical and non-technical branches of the Defence Services. Regarding this remarkable response the Ex-Viceroy of India Marquess of Linlithgow said, "I have followed with satisfaction the admirable progress of recruiting in Cochin State not only to the Defence Services but also to the Cochin Labour Units many of whose members

are at this moment doing work of vital importance on the borders of India". His Excellency Lord Wavell has extended to the State his "congratulations on its achievement" and "his gratitude and good wishes to its men who have joined the services and Labour Units in the cause for which we are fighting." Presiding over the celebrations in connection with the All Cochin Recruitment Day H. E. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, said:

"On behalf of the Government of India—and I think I can speak for the rest of India as well—and myself as Commander-in-Chief and War Member of the Government of India, I can only say that we are fully aware of the great effort that has been made by this State, and we are grateful for it. The many thousands of men that you have sent to the fighting services, that is to say, to the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army have done, and they are



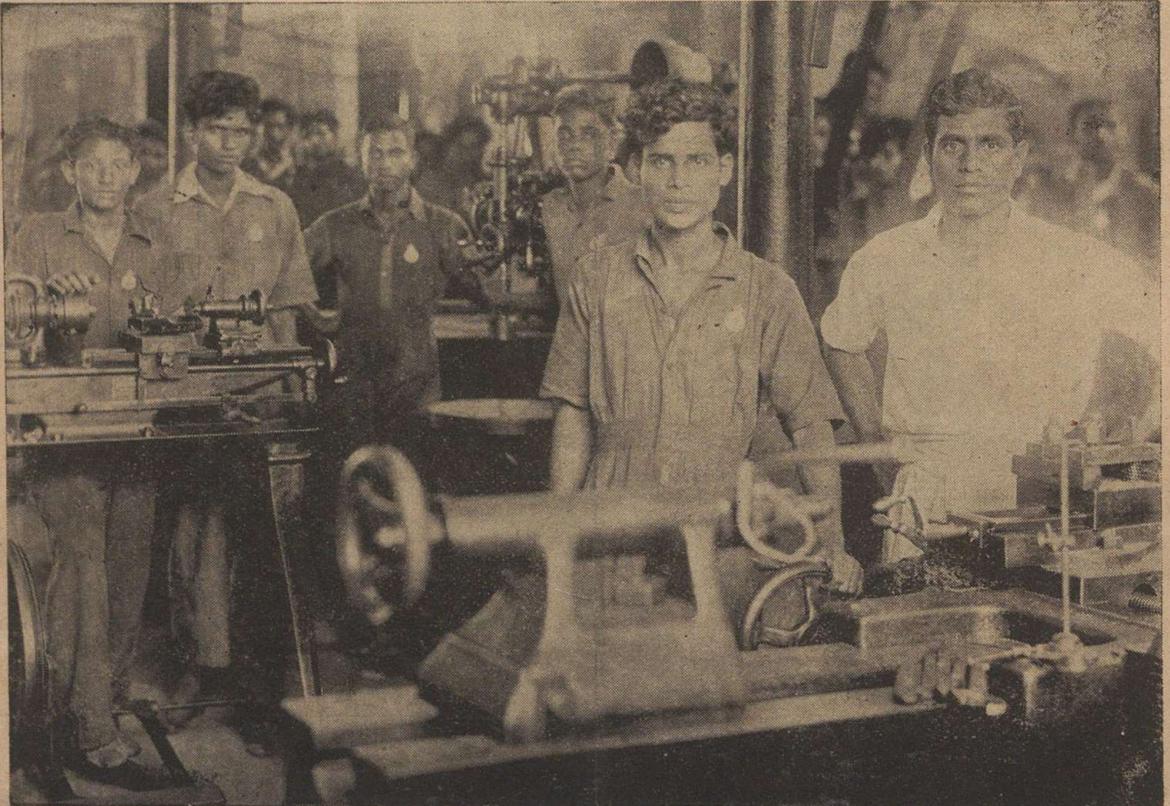
The Commander-in-Chief inspecting the Auxiliary Nurses

doing, exceptionally good work everywhere."

Air Force.—The educated youths of the State have been quick to take advantage of the brilliant future offered by the rapidly expanding Indian Air Force. The technical branches have been particularly patronised by these young men. The thrilling adventure of F/o. P. J. Mathews who with a venomous cobra in the cock-pit of his plane steered his plane to safety and took part in many offensive operations in the Burma Front stirred the imagination and stimulated the response of the youths of the State to the call of the Air Force. The exact number of those who have joined the Air Force is not known. It can, however, be said that many have joined it. To encourage and facilitate recruitment to the officer ranks of the Air Force an Air Training course has been opened in the Maharaja's College.

Medical Men.—In the medical field Cochin's contribution to the war effort has been remarkable. Fifteen Honorary Assistant Surgeons and four Sub-Assistant Surgeons of the State Medical Department and many private practitioners have been recruited to the war service. Each Labour Unit has also been provided with a medical officer. One hundred and fifty nine nurses trained in the hospitals of the State under the Auxiliary Nursing Service are doing work of first importance—restoration to health of the sick and wounded—in different parts of India.

War Technicians.—The training of war technicians in the State has met with admirable and remarkable success. Cochin has contributed one thousand two hundred and eighty-five trade tested men trained in the various centres of the State and these men are playing a leading part in military centres, in ordnance factories and in manning mechanised divisions.



Training of War Technicians

When the technical training scheme was first inaugurated in the State, training was given in nine institutions. When the policy of the training scheme was made one of consolidation and improvement in quality the civil training centres were abolished leaving the Civmil Centre at Trichur in full capacity. Figures reveal that in proportion to size and population Cochin stands first among the Indian States in the training of war technicians. The services of the trainees will be available and will be utilised for post-war industrialisation of the State for which various projects have already been formulated.

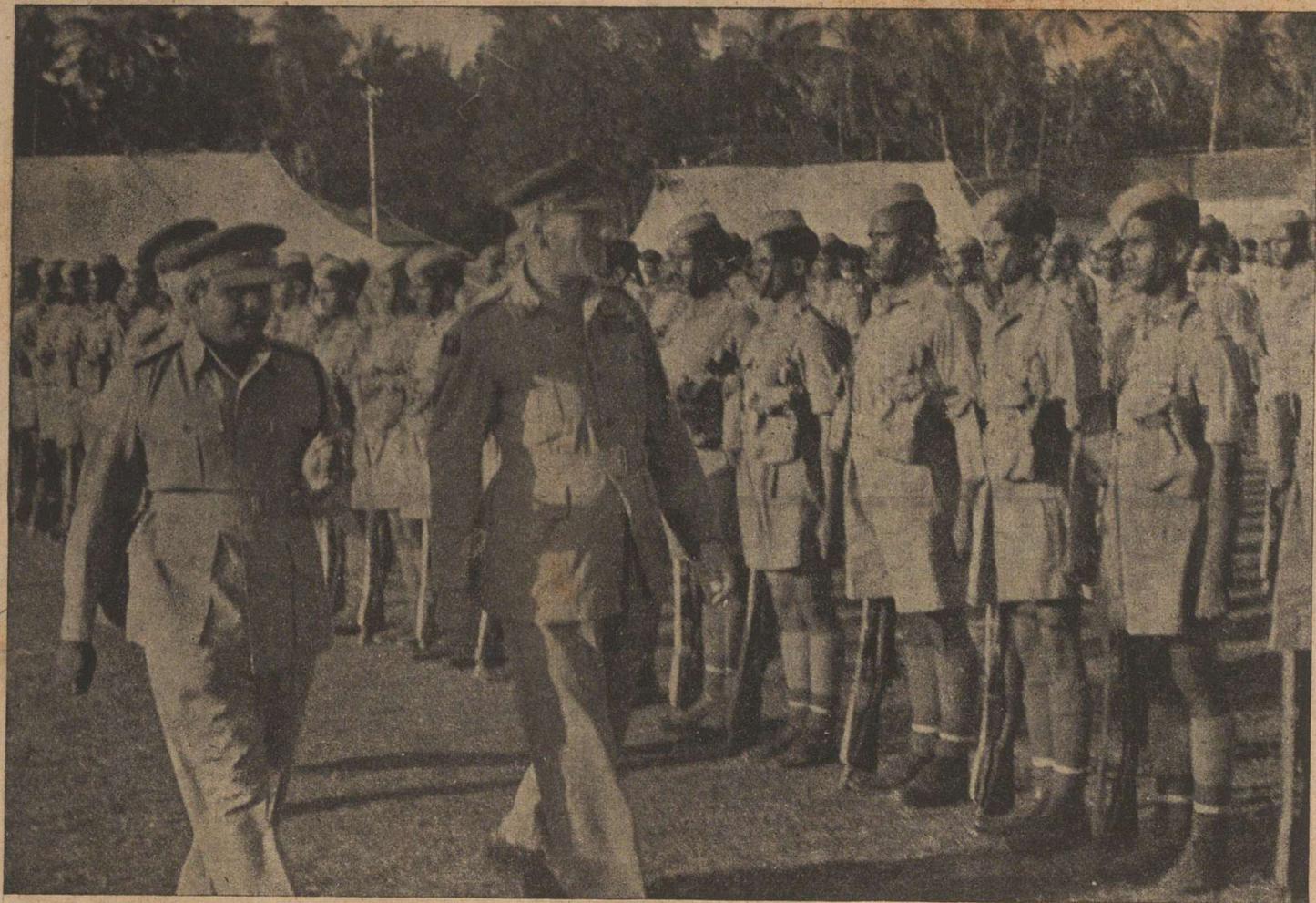
Women's Auxiliary Corps (India).

—From the beginning of the war the

women of Cochin have taken a keen and enthusiastic interest, and have played an important role, in the State's war efforts. In a State like Cochin where female education has reached the highest standard in India it is not surprising that the Women's Auxiliary Corps has attracted educated girls in large numbers. There have been occasions when recruiting officers had been perplexed by the overwhelming response of the candidates to the call of the W.A.C. (I.) In the general service only, 160 girls have been selected; and they have earned the gratitude and admiration of men by doing in their different spheres all that men have done, and endured all that they have endured in all these years of crushing sorrow and splendid achievement.



W. A. C. (I) Naval Wing



H. E. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, inspecting the Guard of Honour furnished by the State Forces on the All Cochin Recruitment Day

Cochin State Forces.—To meet possible emergencies and the difficult situation created by the war the old Cochin Nayar Brigade—an irregular unit utilised for guard duties and ceremonial purposes—was converted into the Cochin State Forces in 1943. The Forces were properly organised, fully modernised and efficiently equipped. After necessary training in modern warfare one company was sent out of the State for active service under the Crown. This Company has acquitted itself creditably.

A. R. P.—Even from the very beginning of the war A. R. P. Services were organised and the A. R. P. system was made effective and efficient with the



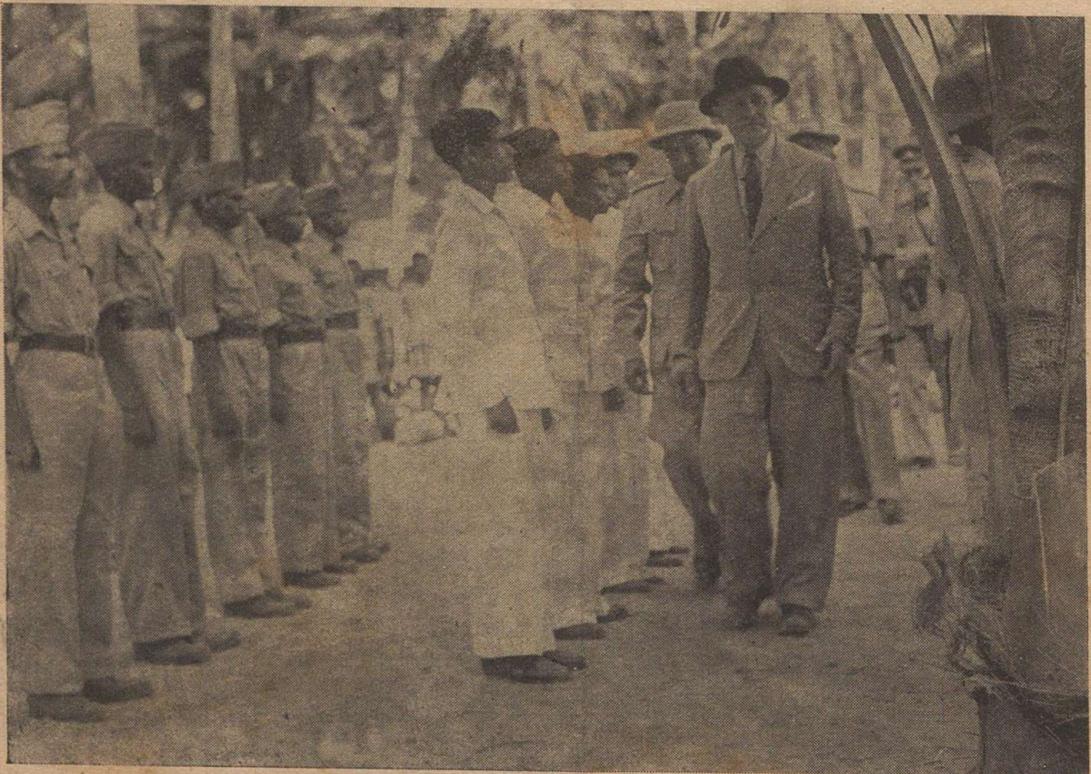
Women in the A. R. P. Services

establishment of fire fighting services, rescue squads, first aid parties, ambulance section, etc. About 600 honorary wardens were fully trained and 900 were given basic training. It is a peculiar feature of Cochin that nothing could be done without the educated and intelligent women-folk getting into the way at one stage or other, of course, for the improvement or betterment of a scheme or movement. A Women's A. R. P. section was formed with a view to carry on house to house propaganda and substantial progress was achieved in this direction. Except the fire fighting service all the other A. R. P. services were disbanded and the A. R. P. restrictions were relaxed when rapid improvements in the war situation were found.

Both the Police and the Military were strengthened and reorganised and a volun-

tary force styled "Special Guards"—similar to the Home Guards of Great Britain—was organised as a precaution against possible emergencies. The strength of the organisation when it was in full working order was 1,200.

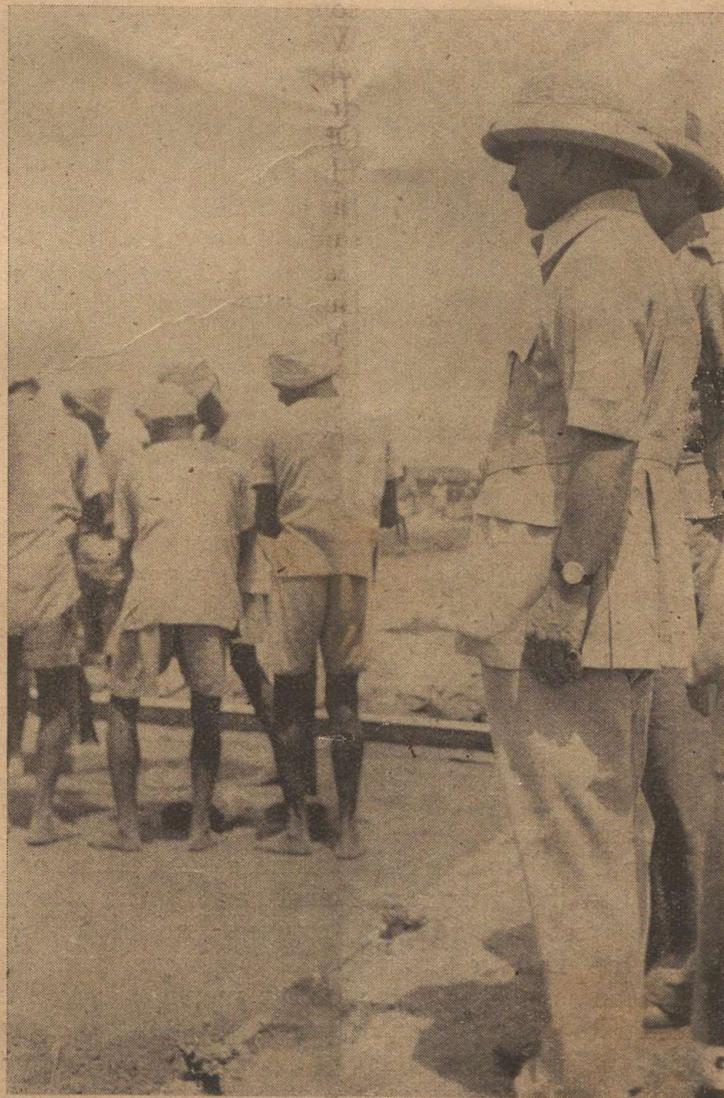
Cochin State Labour Units.—The meritorious services rendered by the Cochin Labour Units have been handsomely acknowledged by H. E. Lord Wavell and the Marquess of Linlithgow when he was the Viceroy of India. Addressing the Chief Labour Recruiting Officer at Vyttila Recruiting Centre when His Excellency inspected it at the time of his last visit to the State, His Excellency said, "Tell your men that I have seen Labour Units doing excellent work in Burma, especially after an air raid. Both the Commander-in-Chief and I have a high opinion of their work".



H. E. The Viceroy at the Vyttila Labour Recruitment Centre.
Behind His Excellency is the Chief Labour Recruiting Officer

Though unspectacular and lacking in all the thrilling excitements of battle, the work of these men have been invaluable. They have carved out roads to be traversed by the fighting soldiers and in doing so have faced the perils of disease and aerial bombing. "Those who have

laid down their lives side by side with the fighting men in fever-invested belts in which so much has had to be done have sacrificed themselves as truly as any fighting soldier for their motherland, and we salute their memory today".



H. E. Lord Wavell inspecting a Cochin State Labour Unit in Assam

At the request of the Government of India during those dark days in March 1942 the State rendered ready and timely assistance by recruiting Labour Units for doing work of vital military importance to the defence of India. The call for recruits met with instantaneous success and the rush exceeded the most optimistic expectations of the authorities. Special recruiting centres were opened; elaborate

arrangements were made for their boarding and lodging and necessary steps were taken to make them disciplined units. Each unit recruited was a compact body under a supervising staff controlled by a central command. The terms and conditions of service were made attractive and the prospects alluring. Each unit had its own Unit Police to maintain discipline at the work spot. Adequate arrangements



A Cochin State Labour Unit at the work spot

were made for the physical recreation and mental relaxation of the labourers. Each Unit consisted of nearly 850 men including the medical, sanitary and supervising staff. Up to date, Cochin has recruited and despatched 126 Units of which 76 were sent to Assam and Burma and 40 (including 3 Gardening Units) to Ceylon.

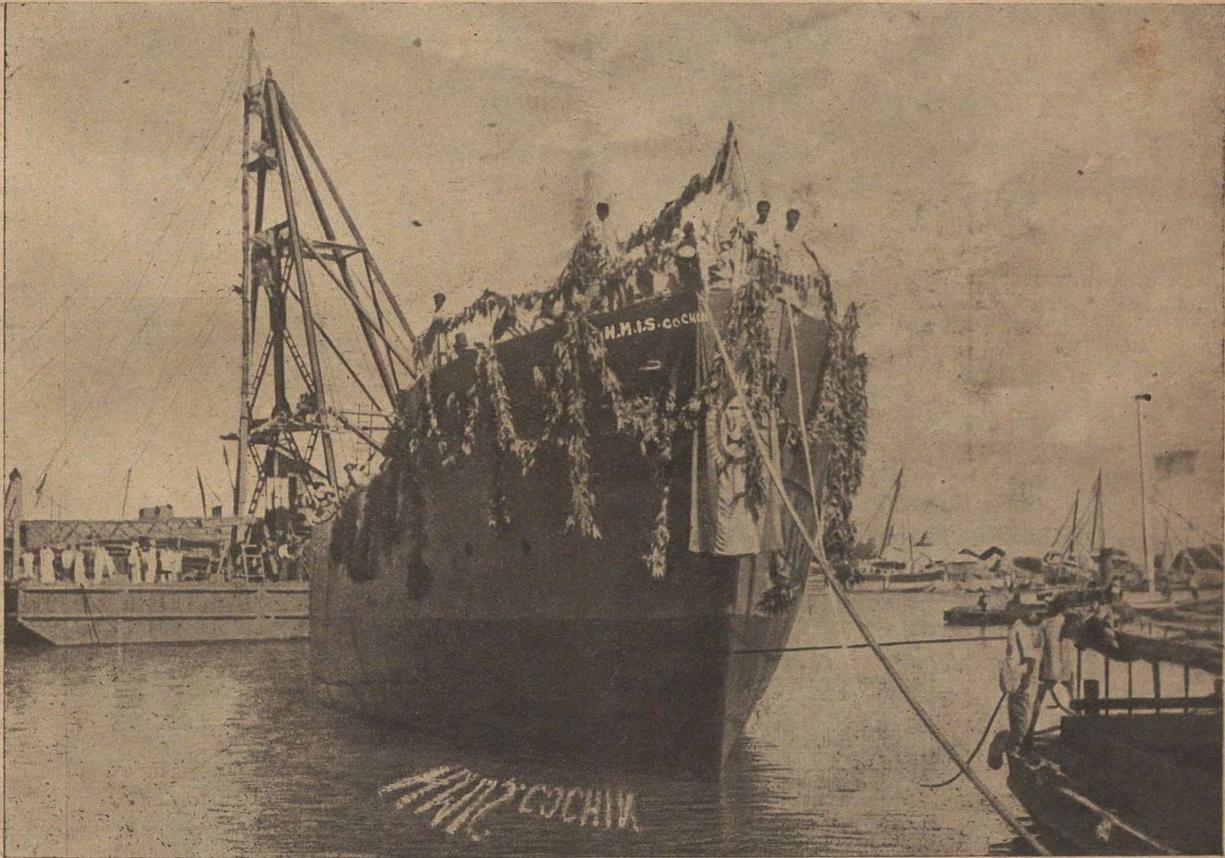
Acknowledging on behalf of the Government of India the great and timely services rendered by the Labour Units the Resident for the Madras States wrote thus: "I am directed to convey to the Cochin Government the thanks of the Government of India for the assistance rendered by the State in supplying the Cochin State Labour Units at a time when these units are so urgently required. The Government of India greatly appreciate the services rendered by these

units." H. E. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India said that the work of the Labour Units "has been invaluable and without them the war against Japan could not be carried on; there is no doubt about it."

The scheme of labour recruitment adumbrated at a time of acute unemployment and great economic depression removed destitution and want and gave relief to many a home in distress. Much of the money received by the labourers as wages has found its way to the homes of the poor and has contributed to their contentment and prosperity. Compensation is also being paid to those who have been disabled and to the dependants of those who have died on account of causes attributable to or arising out of employment on projects in field service areas.

Money Contributions.—The State has provided money as unstintingly as she has provided men and material for the successful prosecution of the war. Collections for war purposes commenced immediately after the commencement of hostilities. Regular and systematic collections began only after the constitution of the War Publicity Department. The proposal to present a war ship to the

Royal Indian Navy caught the imagination of the people who could boast of a long period of maritime activity. Contributions were received from rich and poor for the H. M. I. S. Cochin Fund. In 1943 the ship was launched in an Indian port. The cost of the ship (rupees seven lakhs) was met from public contributions (Rs. 3,60,000) and from the State Funds (Rs. 3,40,000). Amenities and comforts for the crew are



H. M. I. S. Cochin

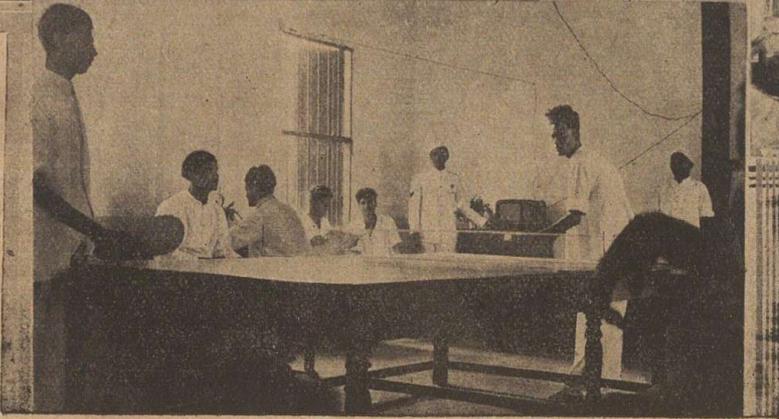
provided by the State as the ship has been adopted by it. The total financial contributions to various war purposes, institutions and causes have come to Rs. 16,99,122 of which the contribution made by Government comes to Rs. 11,92,740 and that made by the people to Rs. 5,06,382. An idea of the nature and amount of

contributions made to various causes can be had from the following list which is only illustrative and not exhaustive:—H. M. I. S. Cochin—Rs. 7,00,000; Viceroy's War Purposes Fund—Rs. 6,90,000; Lord Mayor's Fund—Rs. 10,000; Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance—Rs. 42,050; British Red Cross—Rs. 10,000; Viceroy's Comforts

At Ernakulam a portion of the Irwin Park has been reserved for patients of the Combined Indian Military Hospital
 The Hospital Welfare Committee provides amenities for the patients



In one of the wards of the Hospital



Fund—Rs. 15,000; R. I. N.—Rs. 5,000; St. Dunstan's Fund for the Blind—Rs. 10,000; Defence of India—Rs. 25,000; Mobile Canteen—Rs. 10,000; Comforts of Indian Troops in Africa Rs.—10,000; Greek Relief—Rs. 9,100; Amenities for troops, Hospital for Sick Children, etc.,—Rs. 17,955. Contributions have also been made towards Turkish Earthquake Relief Fund. The State is giving a monthly contribution for the maintenance of a Polish Refugee girl adopted by the Government. Collections realised on the occasion of the China Day Celebrations have also been remitted to China through appropriate channels.

Propaganda to concentrate public attention on the advantages of investing in Government of India securities as part of anti-inflationary measures commenced in the State immediately after the inauguration of the National Savings Scheme in May 1944. The total investments up to date of the unconditional surrender of Japan have reached the high figure of Rs. 64,35,560. Over and above these investments the Government of His Highness the Maharaja have invested Rs. 19,88,000 in Defence Bonds or loans, and the Government-controlled estates and the Palace have invested Rs. 4,14,700. In addition, the State and the public have contributed Rs. 1,21,870 to the Military Benevolent Fund started on the lines of the Indian Army Benevolent Fund to help families of combatants and non-combatants killed or disabled on active service. This Fund is being managed by a Board of Trustees. A Hospital Welfare Fund has been constituted for providing amenities to the patients, for arranging picnics and entertainments and for supplying books, papers and refreshments. A monthly contribution is paid to the Combined Military Hospital by the Government.

Amenities for troops are provided by the Liaison Department of the Government and arrangements for excursions, picnics, dances, tournaments, etc., are

made by it. A Civmil Club has also been started for the recreational activities of the officers.

The welfare of the large number of families from which men have gone out on active service in the Armed Forces is attended to by the Military Welfare Department of the Government, and the Chief Recruiting Officer and the Diwan Peishkar look to the welfare of the families of those who have enlisted in the Labour Units.

Various educational concessions are granted to the relatives of those who are serving in the Defence Services. Post-war schemes calculated to promote the material prosperity and the moral development of the people and to facilitate the re-settlement and re-employment of demobilised men have been prepared and adequate provision has also been made for the orderly re-absorption into civilian life of all those who have gone out on active service.

Women's Role.—From the very beginning of the war the women of Cochin have been taking very keen interest in the war efforts of the State. The direction of women's activities has been in the hands of the All Cochin Women's War Efforts Committee of which Mrs. G.W.N. Edwards is now the President. Special mention has to be made of the collections made by this Committee for the Trinket Fund and other similar causes. Both in propaganda work and in providing amenities for the troops the Committee has played a prominent part. Various benefit performances in aid of the War Fund have been staged by women. In these activities the Committee has received the support and co-operation of various women's clubs and associations. Milk distribution in various parts of the State to under-nourished children and expectant mothers is done by public spirited women and women's organisations who meet the incidental expenses of distribution. Mention has already been made of the great



Mrs. G. W. N. Edwards, wife of the Resident
for the Madras States

response of the women of the State to the call of the WACI, A. R. P. and the Auxiliary Nursing Service. An Indian Hospitality Committee has also been constituted to entertain prisoners of war on their return to the State.

Supplies.—The industrial resources of the State were mobilised and placed at the disposal of the Supply Department. Cochin Forests which exhibit a splendid luxuriance of foliage and flowers and contain magnificent teak and other kinds of valuable timber are a great financial asset of the State. The pressing and increasing demand for timber has been met with expeditiousness and efficiency by the Cochin Forest Department. Though the normal yield of the forests is only about 6,000 tons of timber annually, the output increased to 9,186 tons in 1941—42, to 9,268 in 1942—43, to 21,041 in 1943—44 and to 27,130 in 1944—45. Besides timber, 3,79,157 ballies, 17,784 timber poles and a few lakhs of bamboos have also been supplied. The value of timber, poles, etc., supplied for war purposes comes to Rs. 38,30,098. The growing demand for plywood was met by



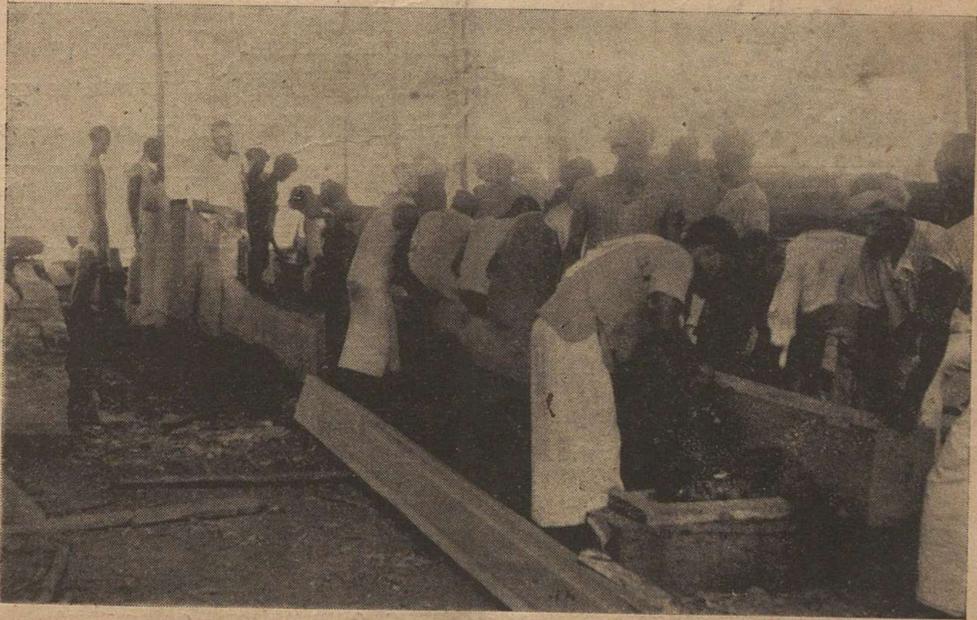
Coir supply for war purposes

the Chalakkudi Plywood Factory established, after the commencement of the war, with the assistance of the Government. The two saw mills in the State were switched on to full time war work. When there was acute fuel shortage in the Madras Presidency, large quantities of fuel were sent out to meet the pressing situation.

Other important materials supplied on a large scale are cotton yarn, coir articles, long cloth, towels, cotton and coir camouflage nets, metal products such as couplings, hinges, handles and knives, coir for tentage, various types of matting, tent components like salitahs, wall bags, gas jars, brushes, buttons, glycerene, oil, soap, adhesive tapes, boot polish, tiles and various articles under the Small Scale Industries Scheme such as cook's knives,

towels, pickaxes, helms and handles. The total value of these articles supplied directly by Government and by private institutions and contractors will come to a few crores of rupees.

Another development in war supplies connected with timber is the coastal crafts production. Even in ancient days ship-building was a thriving and flourishing industry in the State though its prosperity waned during the years preceding the war. The natural facilities and the availability of timber of suitable quality and of sufficient quantity and also of trained labour were brought to the notice of the Supply Department with the result that the old industry has now been fully revived, and it is expected that it would capture some of the glories of its palmy and prosperous days.



In a Ship-building yard in Cochin-Coastal crafts production

To help and maintain public morale, to strengthen the war resistance of the people and to consolidate the national will in the epic fight against the forces of unbridled aggression the National War Front was organised in the State under

the able leadership of Mr. T. K. Nayar, Minister for Rural Development.**

** When Mr. T. K. Nayar resigned in August 1945 H. H. The Maharaja appointed Mr. Parambi Lonappen, Minister for Rural Development, as State Leader.



T. K. Nayar
State Leader, N. W. F.

Strenuous and effective propaganda was conducted by National War Front to further the Grow-More-Food Campaign. Public attention was focussed on this by holding exhibitions and conducting demonstrations in rural areas. Instructions as to how to lead a better life, how to fight epidemics like plague, cholera, etc., were also given to the public. A systematic campaign against hoarding and profiteering was also conducted by the Front. More than 12,000 members were enrolled in the National War Front and

hundreds of meetings were held in different parts of the State.

Food.—The main problem that confronted the administration in these tragic years was the food problem which assumed menacing dimensions with the cessation of import of rice from Burma. With fear of scarcity and increasing scarcity profiteering developed, black market grew and difficulties of controlling prices and of ensuring proper distribution of available stock of food grains took an alarming shape. But deterioration in the situation was averted by the timely promulgation of appropriate measures and difficulties that were considered insuperable were overcome by bold and immediate action. The paddy resources of the State being inadequate to meet the requirements of the people, steps were taken to meet the deficiency by purchase of rice and grains abroad. The procurement system was improved and enlarged and the public were rationed on a card basis. Cochin was the first to introduce rationing in India on a countrywide basis. Despite early disappointments and difficulties the rationing scheme that ensured the sharing of staple food equally by all from the highest to the lowest worked satisfactorily and successfully. The drastic elimination of private control over the important necessities of life and the substitution of Government control over procurement and distribution safeguarded the poor from starvation and scarcity and averted those human tragedies that unfolded themselves elsewhere due to acute scarcity of food.



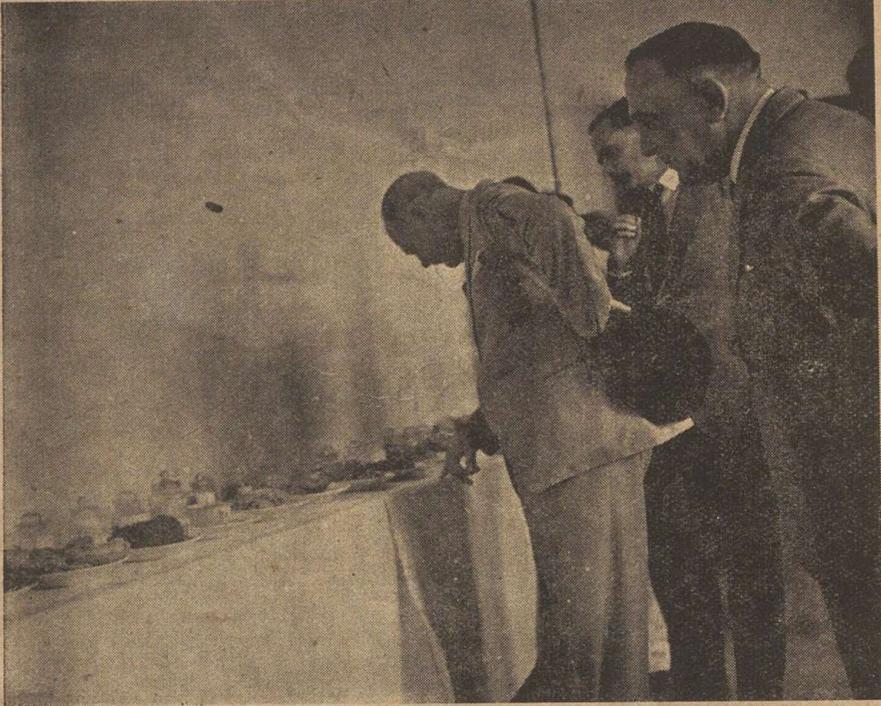
Felling the giants for Hill Paddy cultivation

As a result of the Grow-More Food Campaign vast uncultivated but cultivable areas were brought under the plough. Thousands of acres of hilly tracts were cleared under the Hill Paddy Scheme and brought under cultivation. The scheme

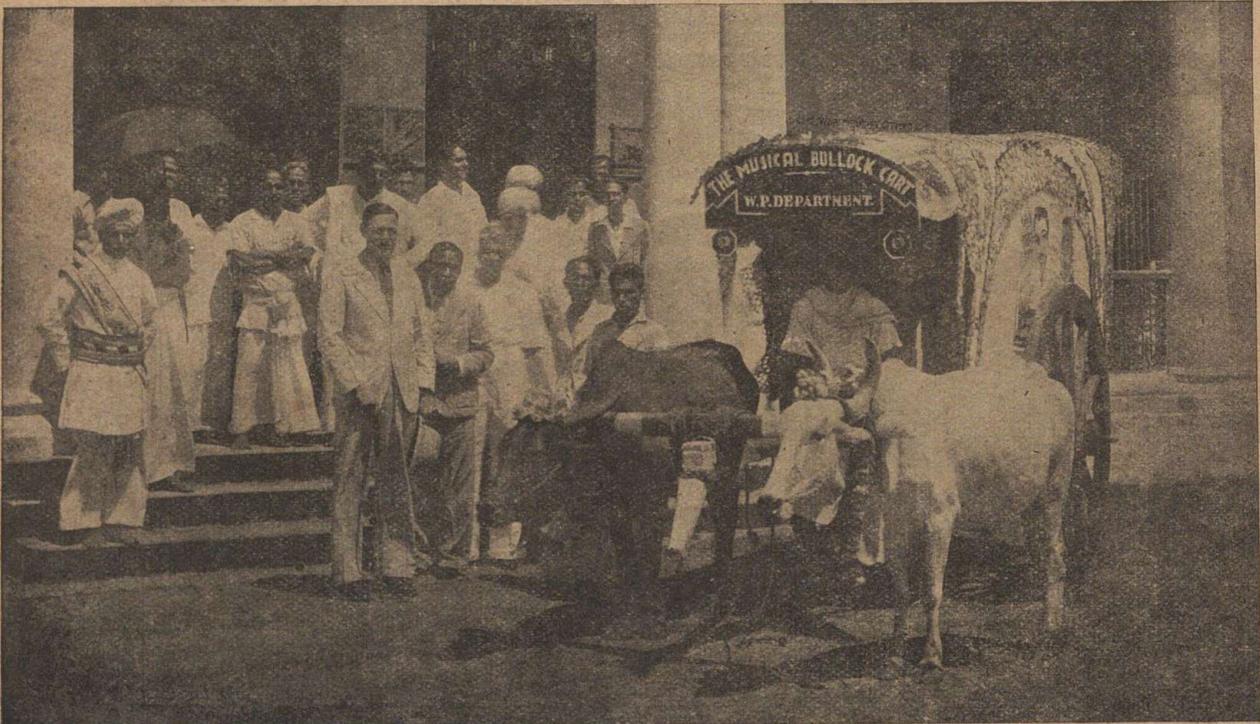
to clear tropical forests and to bring the lands under cultivation to meet an anxious and pressing situation was one of the boldest ventures ever launched in the history of Indian agriculture.



The Harvest



H. E. Lord Wavell inspecting articles in a Cochin Restaurant



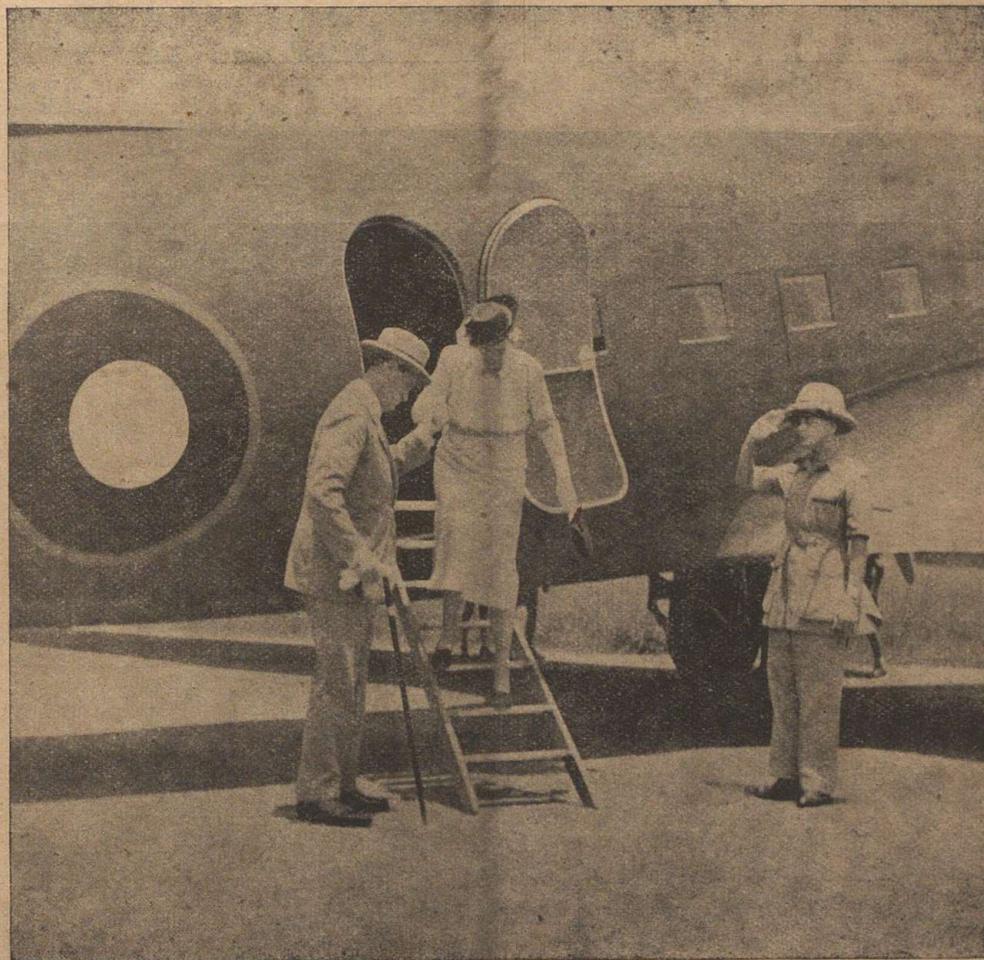
Musical Bullock Cart

To meet the situation created by the war various control measures were promulgated for the proper implementation of the rationing scheme and for the effective administration of the procurement system. Realising the paramount importance of fixing prices, statutory price control was exercised over all agricultural products and non-agricultural goods. By conserving resources, by launching a scheme of extensive and intensive cultivation of paddy, tapioca and certain cereals, by purchasing all available paddy in the State, by popularising the use of dry grains in sixty-seven Cochin Restaurants, previously run, but subsequently subsidised, by Government, by opening Stan-

dard Meal Hotels and lastly by introducing at first an austere, but later, a more generous rationing system the State pulled through the dark and ferocious period.

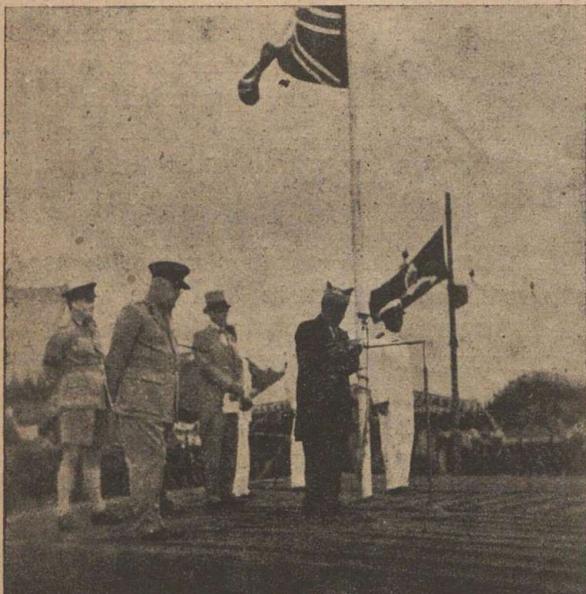
Propaganda for the popularisation of dry grains was conducted by the Musical Bullock Cart in the rural areas and by the Musical Boat in the coastal regions.

Celebrations.—Various celebrations conducted in the State and the visits of distinguished personages stimulated recruitment and other war efforts of the people. On the occasion of the visit of Their Excellencies the Most Honourable Marquess and Marchioness of Linlithgow in August 1943 the late Maharaja gave

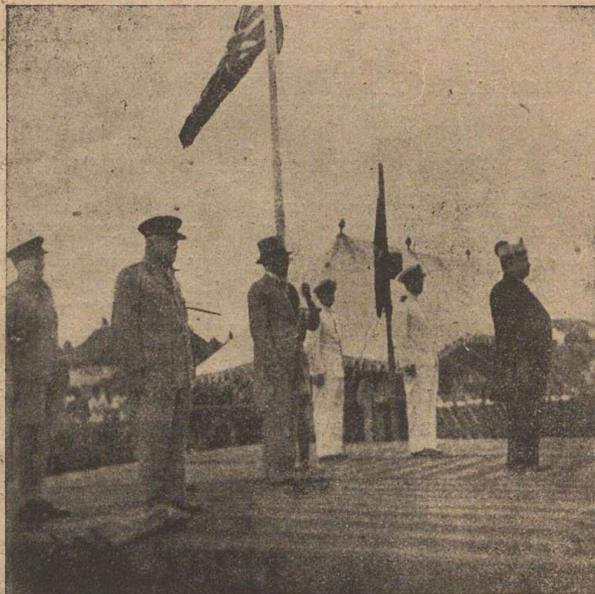


H. E. The Marquess of Linlithgow and H. E. The Marchioness of Linlithgow alighting in Cochin State

TUNISIA DAY

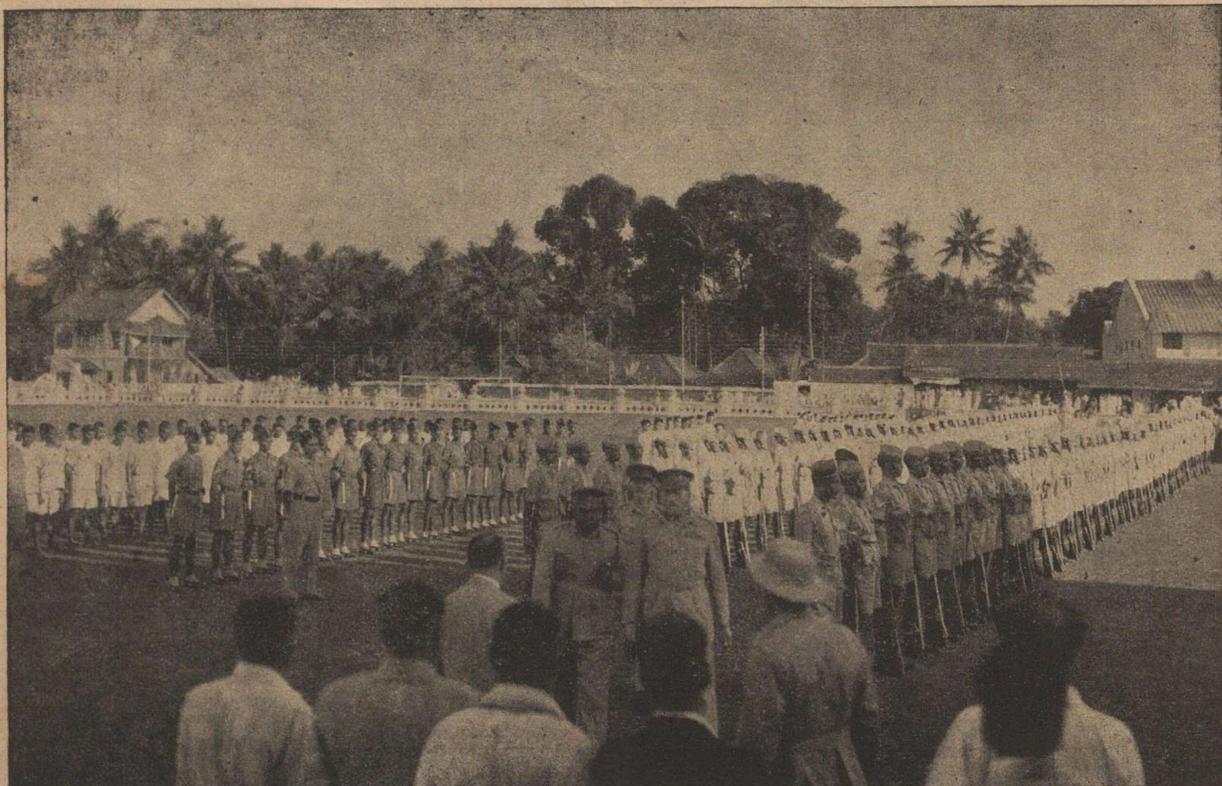


H. H. The Fifth Tampuran reading His Highness the Maharaja's Message



H. H. The Fifth Tampuran, Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, (Diwan) and Brigadier Pullock at the Saluting Base

ALL COCHIN RECRUITMENT DAY

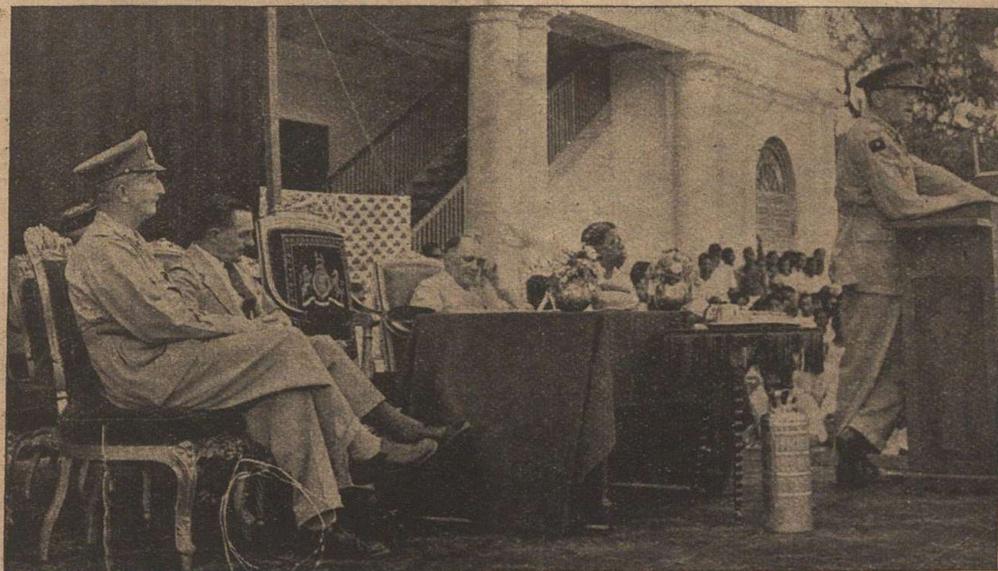


H. E. The Commander-in-Chief reviewing the State Forces, Labour Units, etc.

His Excellency a cheque for one lakh of rupees for the War Purposes Fund and the late Maharaja's Consort handed over a cheque for Rs. 25,000 to the Marchioness of Linlithgow for the Indian Red Cross Fund.

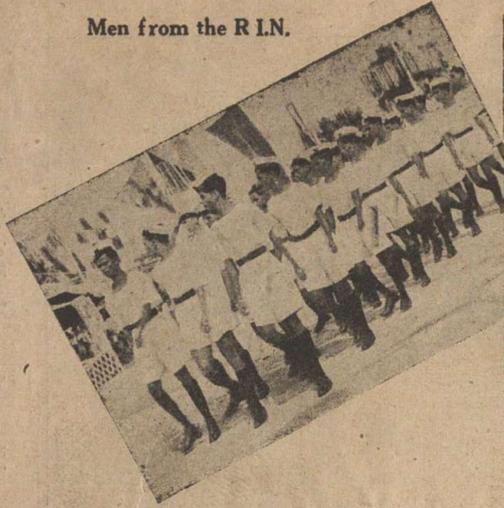
Cochin celebrated the Tunisian Victory in a grand manner. In a message sent by His late Highness Sir Kerala Varma, His Highness pointed out that "India has special reason to rejoice in this great and complete victory, not only because it clears the enemy from her western approaches but because her own famous and gallant troops have played a leading part both in the earlier operations and in the final complete victory". On the Tunisia Day there was an impressive parade. Public meetings and other demonstrations in various parts of the State were largely attended. Rice was distributed to the poor both at Ernakulam and Mattancheri.

The celebration of the All Cochin Recruitment Day in April 1944 under the distinguished presidency of H. E. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, to commemorate the enlistment of 15,000 recruits to the Defence Services and 64,000 recruits to the State Labour Units was an important land mark in the progress of recruiting in the State. It inspired many to join the ranks and also the honourable band of war workers. Congratulating the State on its magnificent recruitment activity His Excellency said "The many thousands of men that you have sent to the fighting services, that is to say, into the Royal Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army, have done, and they are doing, exceptionally good work everywhere."

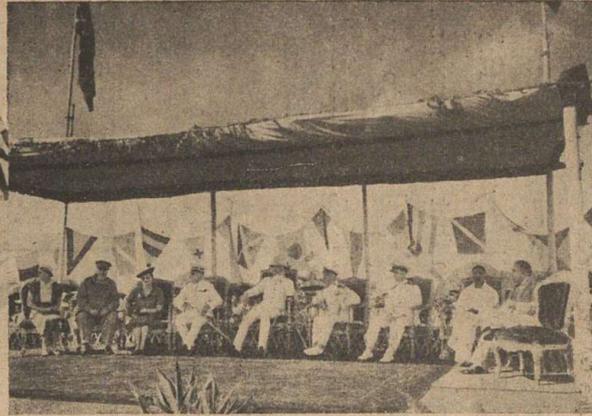
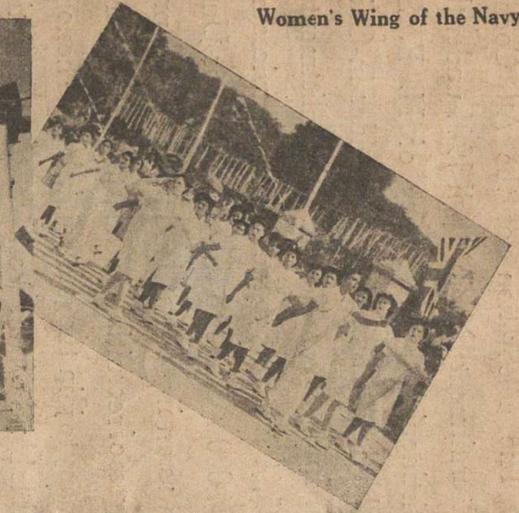


H. E. The Commander-in-Chief addressing the public meeting on the Recruitment Day

Men from the R.L.N.



Women's Wing of the Navy



In the Shamiana are seated the distinguished guests

Cochin celebrated Navy Day in a manner befitting the occasion. There was a March Past at Ernakulam and there were physical training displays and pyrotechnics in the Willingdon Island.

The War Services Exhibition, the most spectacular show which Cochin had ever witnessed and aptly described as "the biggest show in the British Empire" was opened on the 3rd December 1944 by H. H. Sri Ravi Varma, Maharaja of



H. J. Todd Esq., Resident, taking the salute at the March Past. Behind him is Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin

Cochin. In the opening speech His Highness said that the selection of Ernakulam as a centre for holding the Exhibition was "a tribute to the war efforts of my people. We have contributed more than our share and are prepared to put forward greater efforts to hasten the day of victory." A detailed description of the outstanding contributions made by the State in men, money and material was given by Lieut. Col G.W.N. Edwards,



H. H. The Maharaja, Lieut. Col. Edwards and Mrs. Edwards
in front of the Exhibition Theatre



Resident for Madras States, in his opening speech at the Exhibition. The Exhibition lasted for nine days. Many lessons were learned by the people of the State during this period. Cochin saw a complete picture in miniature of India's martial might and the role of the three fighting services and the ancillary services.

Lieut. Col. G.W.N. Edwards, Resident for the Madras States



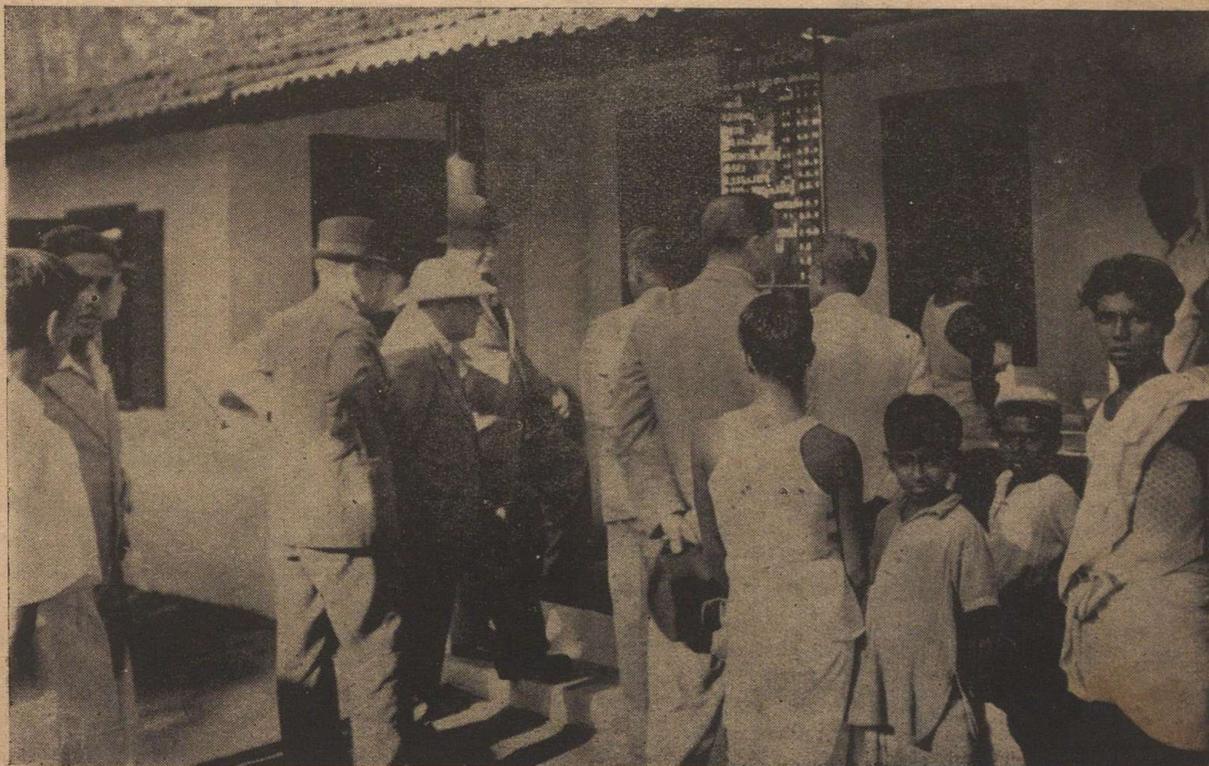
War Services Exhibition—H. H. The Maharaja near the Model Village



H. E. The Viceroy in a Ration Shop

In February 1945 Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Wavell visited the State and had a strenuous programme at Ernakulam, Willingdon Island and Cochin—visits to the ancient Portuguese Palace at Mattancheri, the White Jew's Synagogue, a Licensed Retailer's Shop, a Fair Price Shop, the Cochin Restaurant, the Labour Recruiting Centre, hospitals, canteens, naval, military and air force installations, and concluding with a garden party, and a snake boat regatta on the palm-fringed backwaters. At the Labour Recruiting Centre His Excellency inspected a Labour Unit that was under formation and spoke highly of the excellent work done by the Cochin Labour Units.

The collapse of organised resistance in Germany marked a very important stage in the progress of the United Nations to victory over the forces of tyranny and aggression. The achievements of the victorious armies were acclaimed throughout the world and this great victory was celebrated in this State in a grand and suitable manner. A military parade in which all ranks were represented, public meetings in all parts of the State, pyrotechnic displays, garden parties, dances, foot-ball matches—these were the main items of the Victory Day celebrations which extended to three days.



H. E. The Viceroy inspecting a Licensed Dealer's Shop



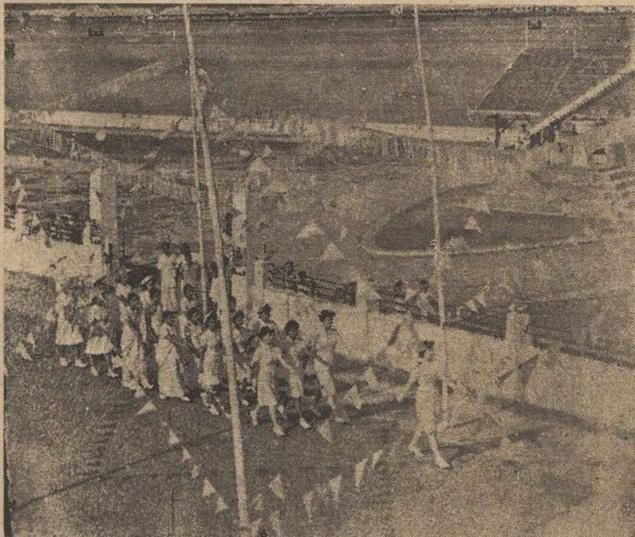
Collapse of Germany—Parade at Ernakulam

There was no relaxation of war efforts even after this victory. The people of the State carried out the instructions contained in the following message issued by Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, on the date of the surrender of Germany: "..... So far, Cochin has made a notable contribution to the war effort of the United Nations and I feel confident that Cochin,

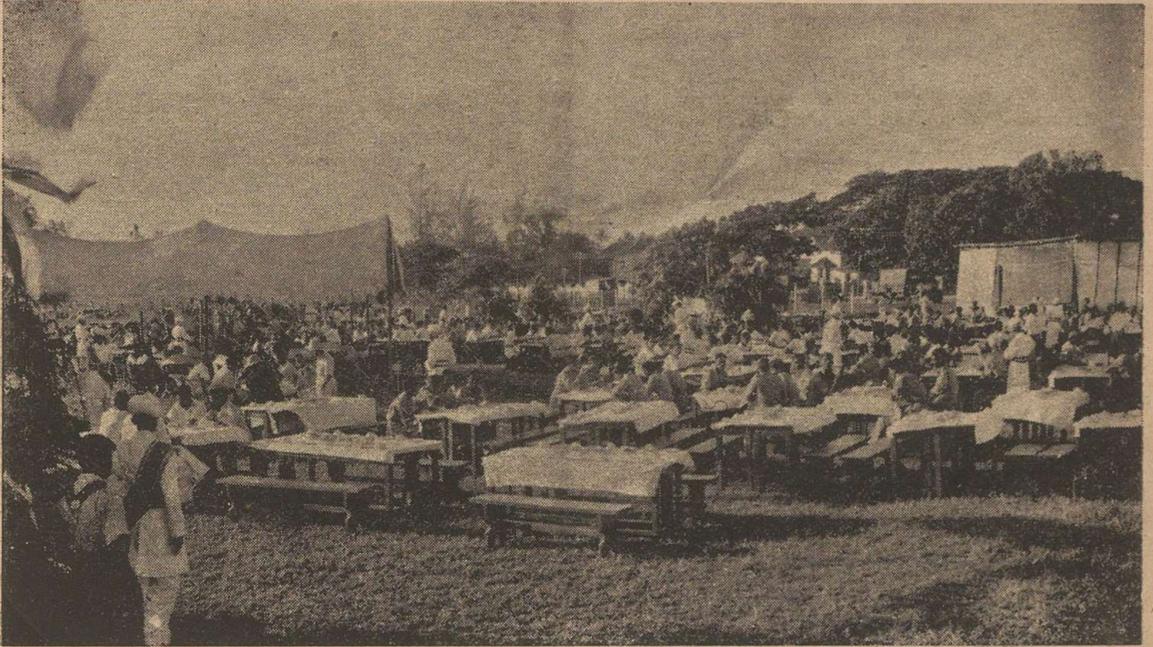
moved by the successes which have so far attended these efforts, will continue her contributions of men, money and materials until the last enemy is defeated and total victory is achieved."

That Victory has now been achieved.

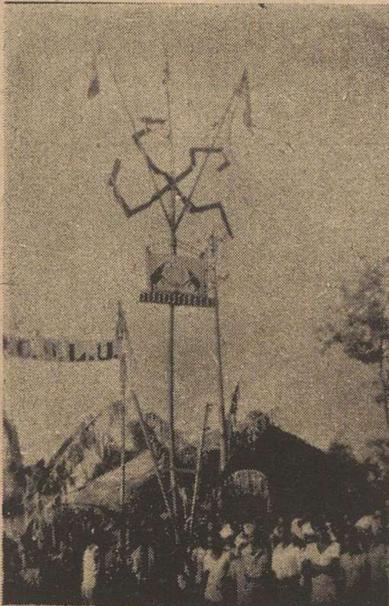
Today is the day of gratitude and thanksgiving to God, of rejoicing and



Parade at Ernakulam—another view



Garden Party to Military Personnel in connection with the Victory celebrations



One of the Coch'in Labour Units celebrated the Victory in Assam

jubilation for the grand and splendid victory and of resolution to create a world where there will be peace, happiness and unlimited freedom. The United efforts of all leaders are required to place peace on an enduring and stable foundation. In the Charter that has been drawn up at San Francisco we have seen "the beginnings of a permanent structure of peace upon which we can begin to build, under God, that better world in which our children and grandchildren must live and can live." Let us thank the Almighty who has been our "Strength and shield and for his mercies and in this hour of victory commit ourselves and our new task to the guidance of the same Strong Hand."

PERSONS AT THE WHEEL

1. Sir George Boag, Diwan

2. Sri. T. K. Nayar, Minister

3. Rama Varmha Tampuran, Secretary to Government

20. Jacob Kalliath, Assistant War Publicity Officer and Secretary, Recruitment Sub-Committee

4. Rama Varma (Appan) Thampuran, War Publicity Officer and State Organiser, National War Front

19. C. J. Mathew, Joint Secretary and Civil Representative

5. M. Balakrishna Menon, Information Officer

18. A. P. Menon, Ex-Assistant Civil Representative

6. S. Venkiteswaran, Conservator of Forests

17. C. V. Iyyu, Military Welfare Officer and Secretary, Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Board

7. V. K. Achyuta Menon, Director of Industries and Commerce

16. P. V. Raphael, Comptroller of Finance and Accounts and President, Military Benevolent Fund

8. Y. Roshan Sahib, Ex-Commissioner of Police and President, Recruitment Sub-Committee

15. K. S. Raghavan, Post-war Reconstruction Officer

9. Capt. V.K. S. Menon, Organiser of the State Forces

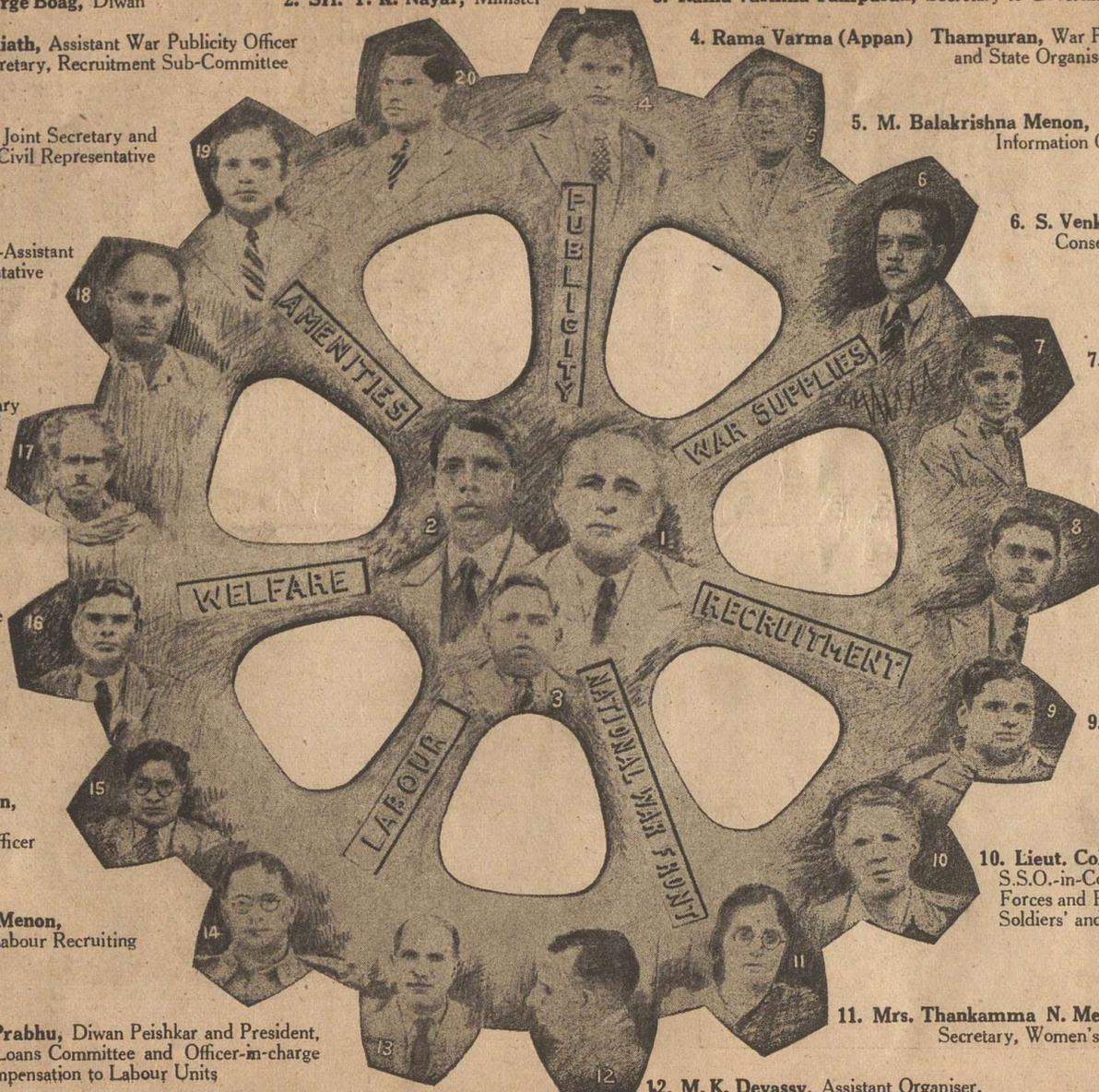
14. M. Narayana Menon, Chief Labour Recruiting Officer

10. Lieut. Col. R. M. Bruce, S.S.O.-in-Command, State Forces and President, Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board

13. A. Madhava Prabhu, Diwan Peishkar and President, Central Defence Loans Committee and Officer-in-charge of payment of compensation to Labour Units

11. Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon, Secretary, Women's War Committee

12. M. K. Devassy, Assistant Organiser, National War Front



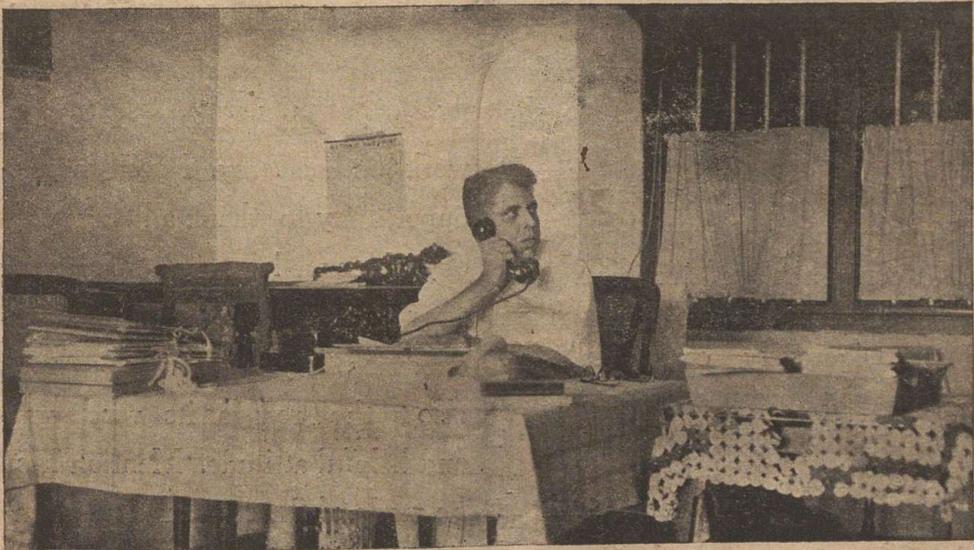
OURSELVES

(BY WAR PUBLICITY OFFICER)

THE terrible tragedy is over. Victory is won. The last scene is now being enacted.

A short resume of the activities of the War Publicity Department in furtherance of the war efforts of the State will not be inappropriate now. The Central War Committee, consisting of both officials and non-officials was formed on the 28th June 1940 with the then Diwan Sir Shanmukkam Chetty as President, to guide the war efforts of the State. The untiring and enthusiastic activities of the Committee

continue even to day. After the assumption of office as Diwan by Mr. A. F. W. Dixon the War Publicity Department was constituted on the 7th November 1941 and Mr. V. K. K. Menon was appointed War Publicity Officer and ex-officio Secretary of the Central War Committee. Mr. T. P. Poulouse continued as Joint Secretary. The establishment of this new department charged with the work of publicity, recruitment and collections marked a new era in the State's war efforts.



Mr. V. K. K. Menon, B.A., Bar-at-Law

Ex-War Publicity Officer

On the 28th May 1942 the National War Front was inaugurated under the leadership of Mr. T. K. Nayar, Ex-minister for Rural Development, and the War Publicity Officer was appointed as the State Organiser. The National War Front placed before the public the various aspects of the war, stressed the need for maintaining public morale at a high level and gave advice and guidance in all matters concerning the every day life of the people. Through the press and from the public platform enthusiasm in Grow-More-Food Campaign was awakened, co-operation in the rationing scheme was enlisted and support for anti-hoarding and anti-profiteering activities was maintained. The methods of maintaining a better standard of life were also placed before the public by this organisation.

Wide and varied have been the activities of the War Publicity Department. A few may be mentioned. H. M. I. S. Cochin was presented to the Royal Indian Navy. Amenities were provided to the Armed Forces stationed in the State and also to the patients in the Military Hospital. Reading matter was supplied to the troops. Recruitment of technical and non-technical personnel to the Armed Forces was vigorously conducted. To combat inflation prospective investors were persuaded to invest in Government of India securities. When the Military Benevolent Fund was constituted the War Publicity Officer was made the Secretary

of the Trust whose activities are likely to expand further after demobilisation. The departments of War Publicity and National War Front took an active interest, in co-operation with the Food Supplies Department, in the running of Cochin Restaurants and Standard Meal Hotels.

On the 5th October 1943 Mr. V. K. K. Menon left the War Publicity Department and I stepped into his shoes. My work became very easy because of the fact that my predecessor, with his characteristic drive and initiative, had properly laid the foundations of the various activities of the Department; and what little success that this Department has achieved is mainly due to the work of my predecessor.

As this Department has been working with the blessings of His Highness the Maharaja and His Highness' predecessor and under the fostering care of the present Diwan and his predecessor in office, the work has been easy. I avail myself of this opportunity to thank all my colleagues, officials as well as non-officials, for the ungrudging help and unstinted co-operation they have extended to me and also to the Press for its very sympathetic and helpful attitude. Mention has also to be made of the co-operation given by the Army authorities.

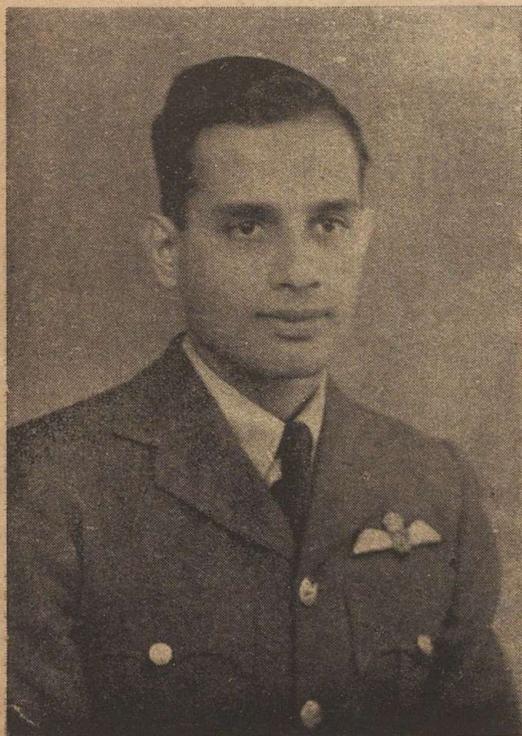
SNAKE IN FLYING AIRCRAFT

[UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE OF COCHIN PILOT]

“**R**ETURNING to base. Snake in my aircraft,” this message from an R. I. A. F. Hurricane pilot shook the normally unshakable operations room of an R. A. F. forward fighter wing, operating in Burma with the Eastern Air Command.

Taking no chances, the operations room immediately informed the pilot's Flight Commander. He was waiting on the airstrip with a pair of pliers when the Hurricane landed and the pilot jumped out in record time.

By then, the snake, 4 feet long, thin, leafy green and known in those parts as an “eye picker” was snapped tightly around the controls. The Flight Commander had to tug hard to release it, but the pair of pliers quickly did the rest.



F/O. P. J. Mathews

The pilot F/O. P. J. Mathews, of Palakat House, Mulanthuruthi, Cochin State, was flying to a new airstrip with his Commanding Officer S/Ldr. P. C. Lal when 10 minutes away from his old base he discovered the snake. “It must have slipped into the aircraft from one of the wheels or the camera hole”, he said. “It alighted on my shoulder from somewhere behind, crawled right across my chest, down my right arm to the stick, and then twisted itself around the rudder bar staring at me with bulging eyes and sheeting out its fangs.

“It took me a minute or two to decide what to do. It was difficult to reach it with my feet and impossible to shoot it until I had landed and so I asked my Commanding Officer if I could return to base.”

S/Ldr. Lal agreed at once, mistaking the word “snake” for “leak”, and followed him back to base, circling overhead until he saw him land safely and then turning again for the new trip.

F/O. Mathews, a former Ground Instructor at the Bombay Flying Club now on his 2nd Operational tour with this squadron, was seen airborne again after the Flight-Commander, F/Lt. K. L. Bhatia had dealt the snake a fatal blow.

F/O Mathews has done good service at the Burma Front. In the words of the Squadron Leader “one pilot from Cochin State damaged the famous Manipur Bridge.”

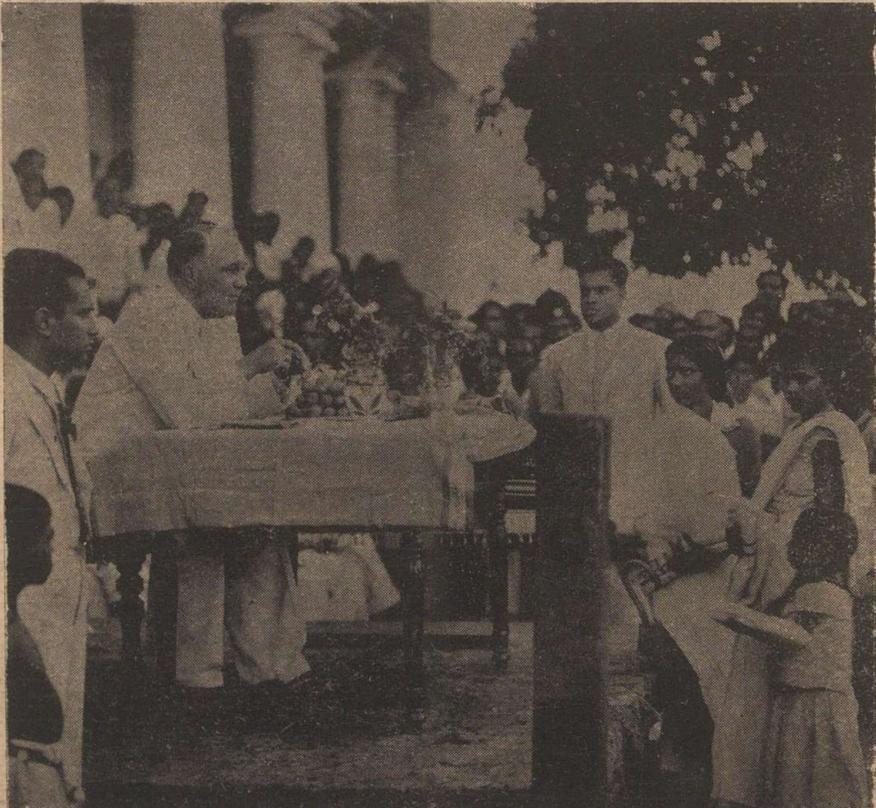
L/Nk Paramu

His Majesty the King Emperor was pleased to approve the award of a Military Medal to L/Nk. Paramu, (Madras Sappers and Miners) of Nellore, Kodakara, Cochin State, for gallant and distinguished services in Burma. H. E. The Commander-in-Chief in India conveyed his congratulations to His Highness the Maharaja on the award of the medal to



L/Naik Paramu

one of His Highness' subjects "whose brave deed on the battle front in the defence of his country will be an inspiration to all and a source of pride" to the subjects of the State and particularly to those who are closely connected with him. A Press Note issued by the Government of Cochin stated that "His Highness is very glad that one of His Highness' subjects has rendered distinguished service and earned this unique distinction and His Highness hopes that more of His Highness' subjects will follow the example set by Paramu and bring laurels to the State."



Sir George Boag, Diwan, presenting Onappudava to the wife, mother and child of Lt. Naik Paramu

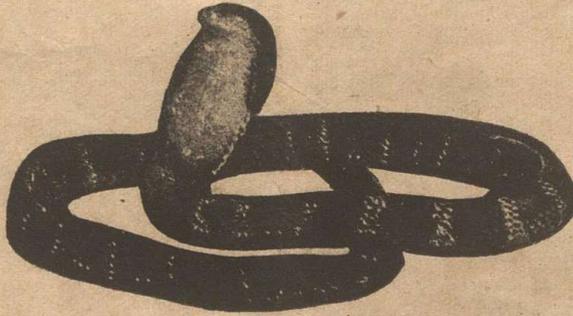


The Family of Paramu

The deed for which Paramu was decorated was for clearing a Japanese mine field which obstructed passage of troops and caused several casualties in killed and wounded whilst being cleared. Although knowing what happened to his comrades Paramu went forward and successfully cleared the mines, thus making the advance to continue.

In addition to the Military Medal Paramu gets a monthly grant for life.

At a public meeting held at Irinjalakuda, home of Paramu, Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, who presided, presented *Onappudava* that His Highness the Maharaja was pleased to send, to the mother, wife and child of Paramu. Presents were also given by the War Publicity Department of the State.



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 considered it highly necessary to supplement these grants. With this object, Government instituted 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 being built up by public subscription and is being 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 waged war. It is only proper that the subjects of this State who have undergone 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 augment this fund for the relief of those who have fought 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.

