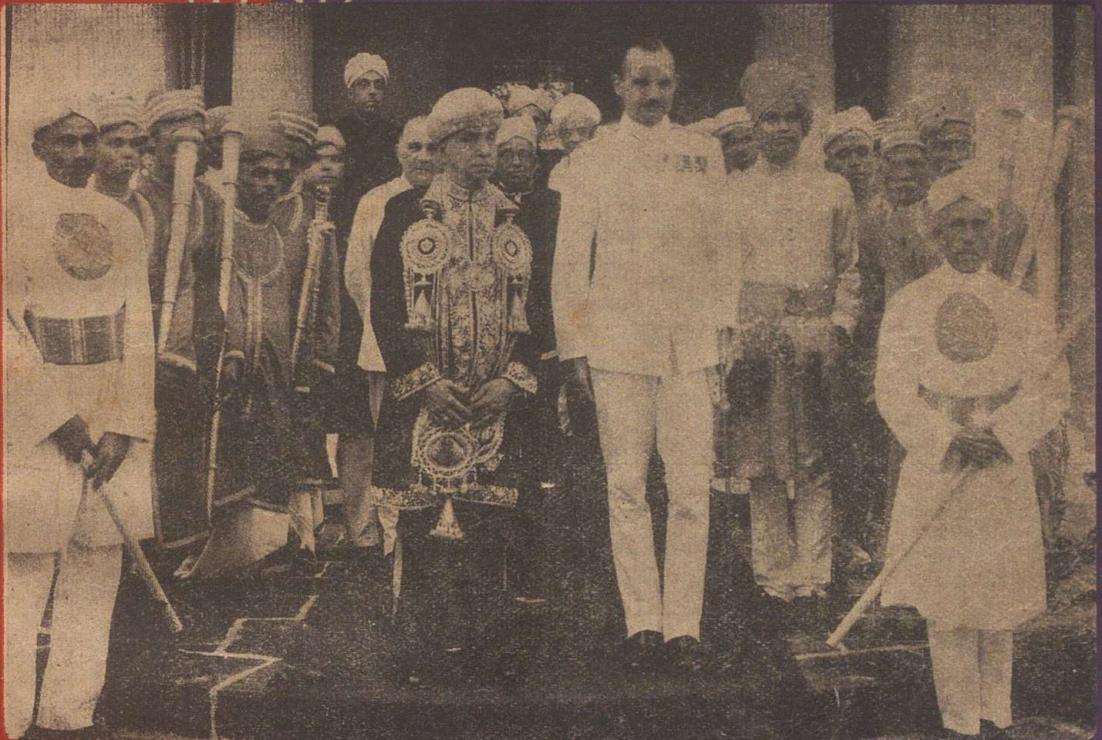




COCHIN

INFORMATION

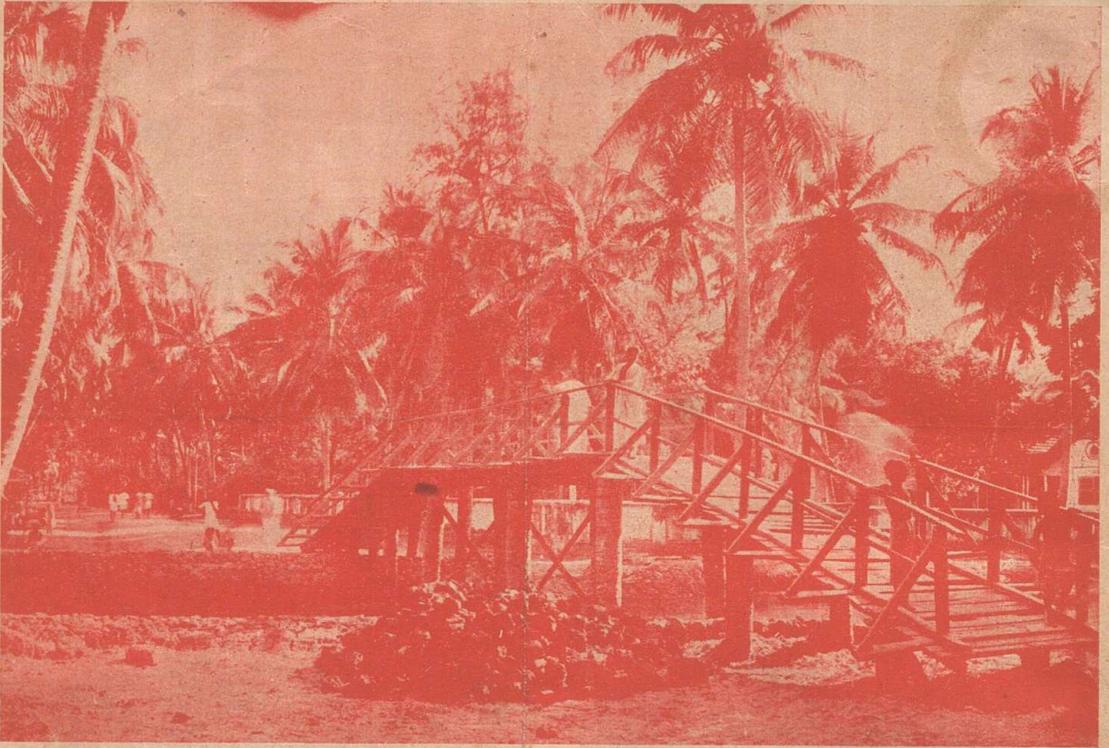


H. H. The Maharaja and Lieut. Col. A. A. Russel at the Residency after the Installation Durbar

VOL. V

MARCH—APRIL

Nos. 3—4



RURAL CHERAI

“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 placed her resources in men and material at the disposal of the Allied Nations to fight the forces of evil.

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PROCLAIMED MAHARAJA OF COCHIN



H. H. Sree Kerala Varma, Maharaja of Cochin

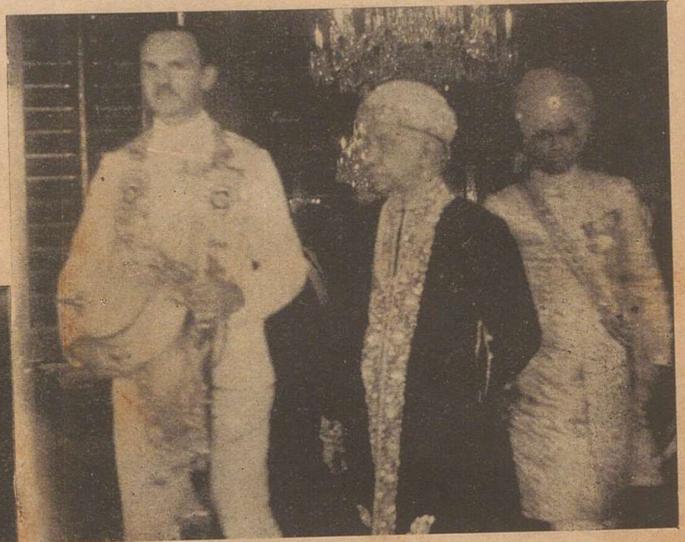
WITH great solemnity and ceremony, in the time honoured traditional manner His Highness Sri Kerala Varma was proclaimed Maharaja of Cochin and installed on the ancient gadi of Cochin by the Resident for the Madras States in the presence of the senior members of the Cochin Ruling Family;

Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, high State Officials, Military Officers and leading non-officials of the State at the Installation Darbar held at Ernakulam on the 21st March.

The following Proclamation was read by the Resident:



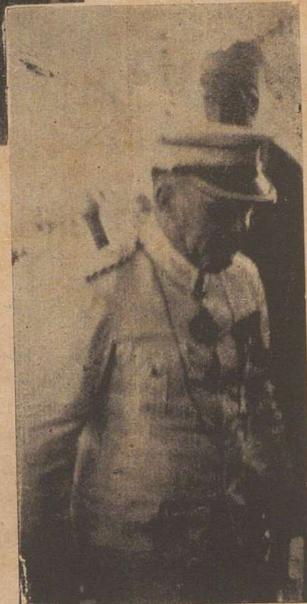
H. H. The Maharaja's arrival at the Darbar Hall



H. H. The Maharaja escorting Lieut. Col. A. A. Russel, Resident, to the Darbar Hall



The Diwan, The Elaya Raja and the Minister (left to right) waiting for the arrival of H. H. The Maharaja



Arrival of Sir George Boag, Diwan



H. H. The Maharaja and the Diwan

Whereas His Highness Sri Ravi Varma, the late Maharaja of Cochin, departed this life at Trippunittura on the 31st January 1946, corresponding to the 18th Makaram 1121 M.E., his next cousin, the Elaya Raja, Kerala Varma, who has been recognised by His Excellency the Viceroy on behalf of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor as lawful heir and successor, is accordingly proclaimed Maharaja of Cochin and the inhabitants of Cochin are hereby directed to acknowledge and obey him as the Maharaja and Ruler of the State.

In reply to the felicitations and good wishes offered by the Resident Lt. Col. A. A. Russel, His Highness the Maharaja made the following reply:

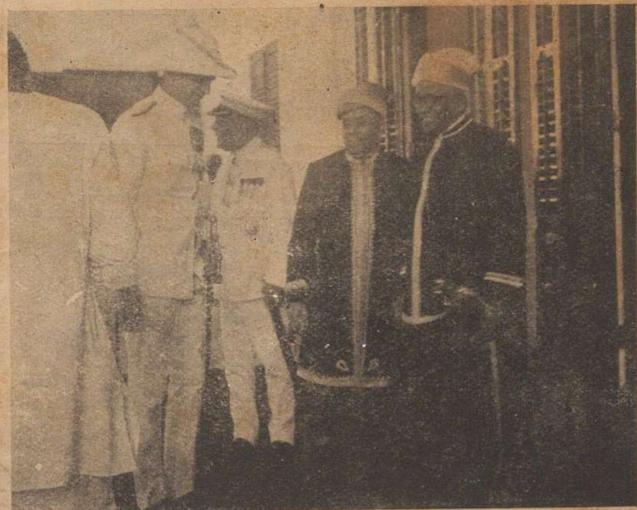
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Mr. Resident,

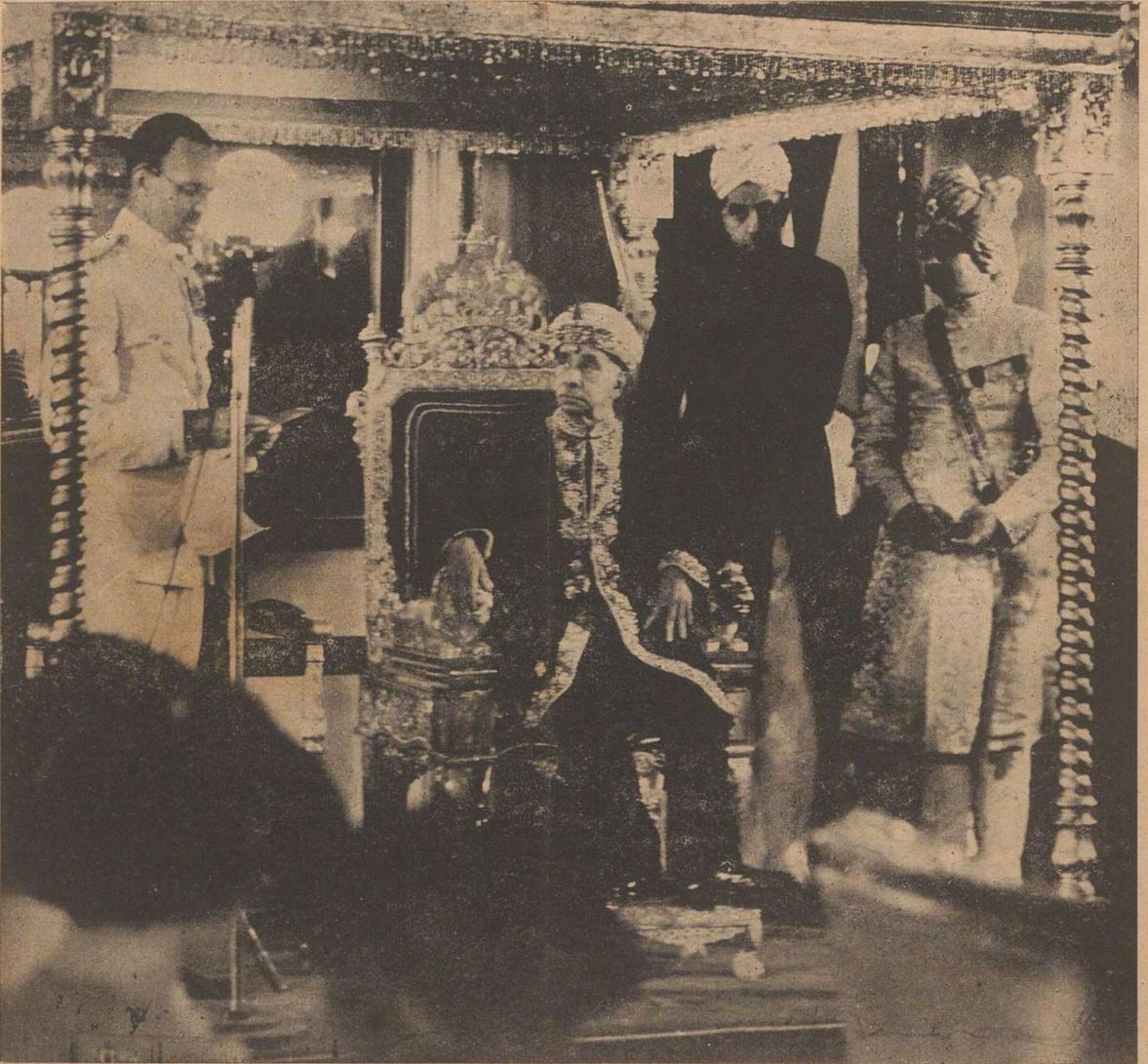
I am grateful for the kind message of congratulations and good wishes which you have conveyed to me on this occasion on behalf H. E. The Crown Representative. Please convey my sincere and heartfelt thanks to His Excellency.

I take this opportunity of expressing to His Excellency my devotion and loyalty to His Majesty the King Emperor.

I have been called to this ancient gadi at a critical time in the history of this country and of the world. The war has ended in complete victory over His Majesty's enemies; but it has left in its train a number of social, economic and political difficulties which so far as they affect my State I shall try my best to surmount. Not the least of our difficulties is in respect of food supplies; but with the continued co-operation of my



The Resident's arrival. (from left to right—The Diwan, The Elaya Raja and the Minister)



Lieut. Col. A. A. Russel, Resident, reading the Proclamation. Behind His Highness are Mr. P. D. Nandana Menon, Sarvadhikariakar and Major Mannadiyar A.D.C.

subjects and assistance from other parts of India, I am confident that we shall meet them successfully.

Anxious to associate my subjects more closely with the Government of the State I have decided to appoint a second Minister and to transfer more departments of State to the administration of a representative of the people. Details of these constitutional reforms are being announced separately today. I also hope,

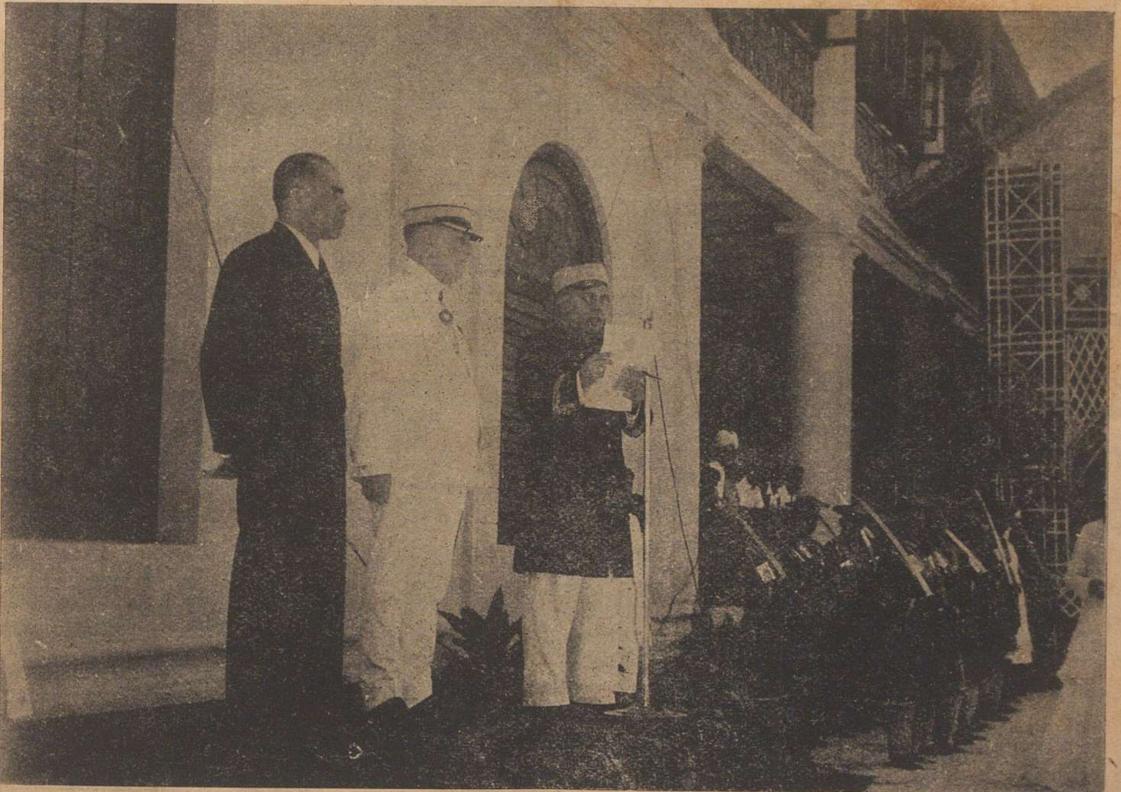
as soon as the Franchise Committee now at work has completed its labours, to be able to announce a liberal extension of the present franchise.

Once more I thank you for your kind message of good wishes and congratulations.

After His Highness the Maharaja's speech a Malayalam translation of the proclamation was read to the Cochin State Forces and to the thousands of His



Arrival of H. H. The Elaya Raja (back) and the First Prince (front) in the Durbar Hall



Rama Varmha Tampuran, Chief Secretary to Government, reading the Proclamation in Malayalam in front of the Durbar Hall. (Left to right—Mr. N. N. Iyengar, Assistant Resident and the Diwan)

Highness' subjects who had assembled in the spacious and artistically decorated lawns of the Darbar Hall by Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E., Chief Secretary to Government on behalf of Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin.

The announcement by His Highness of the constitutional reforms briefly referred to in His Highness' reply to the felicitations of the Resident was published in a Gazette Extraordinary immediately after the Darbar. It is published separately on another page.



H. H. the Maharaja's arrival at the Bolghatty Residency to meet the Resident



The Resident taking leave of His Highness in the Darbar Hall



Lieut. Col. A. A. Russel, Resident for the Madras States



H. H. The Elaya Raja of Cochin

INSTALLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

"IT has always been against the traditions of my House to exercise power without restraint and in making the present announcement I am only declaring once more the avowed policy of the Cochin Ruling House in this matter. This State along with the rest of India is passing through the difficulties of the post-war period and I believe that provision to associate my people to a greater extent than before in the administration of the State will help me and my Government to pass through these difficult days with greater ease," announced Sri Kerala Varma, Maharaja of Cochin, on the Installation Day. The full text of the announcement is given below.

At the Installation Durbar, this afternoon, I announced briefly my decision to appoint a second Minister and to transfer more Departments of State to the administration of the representatives of the people.

Working of the Government of Cochin Act

The Cochin State Legislative Council was inaugurated in 1925 and since then from time to time both in the constitution and in the powers of the Council changes have been introduced to meet more fully the aspirations and wishes of my people. In June 1938 my illustrious predecessor, His Highness Sri Sir Rama Varma, G. C. I. E., LL. D., was pleased to promulgate the Government of Cochin Act and appoint for the first time the Minister for Rural Development, transferring to his care the Departments of Public Health, Panchayats, Co-operation, Agriculture, Ayurvedam, Uplift of the Depressed Classes and Development of Cottage Industries. Since then Fisheries, Rural Libraries, Land Mortgage Bank, Trade Schools, Village Courts and Vagrancy have also been placed in the hands of the Minister.

I have watched with interest and care the working of the Government of Cochin Act and have followed closely the deliberations of the Legislative Council on the working of the Transferred Departments under the administration of the Minister. I am satisfied that the Act has been worked successfully; the prayer of my illustrious predecessor that "the people of this State may be given the wisdom to shoulder their responsibilities under the Act in a worthy manner" has been fully granted.

My Government have been always sympathetic to the representations made by my people both in and outside the Legislative Council asking for the opportunity to shoulder in a larger measure the responsibility of the administration of the State, and they have more than once recorded their desire to extend the scope of the present Government of Cochin Act and make it possible for more Departments to be brought under the charge of elected representatives of the people.

Appointment of second Minister

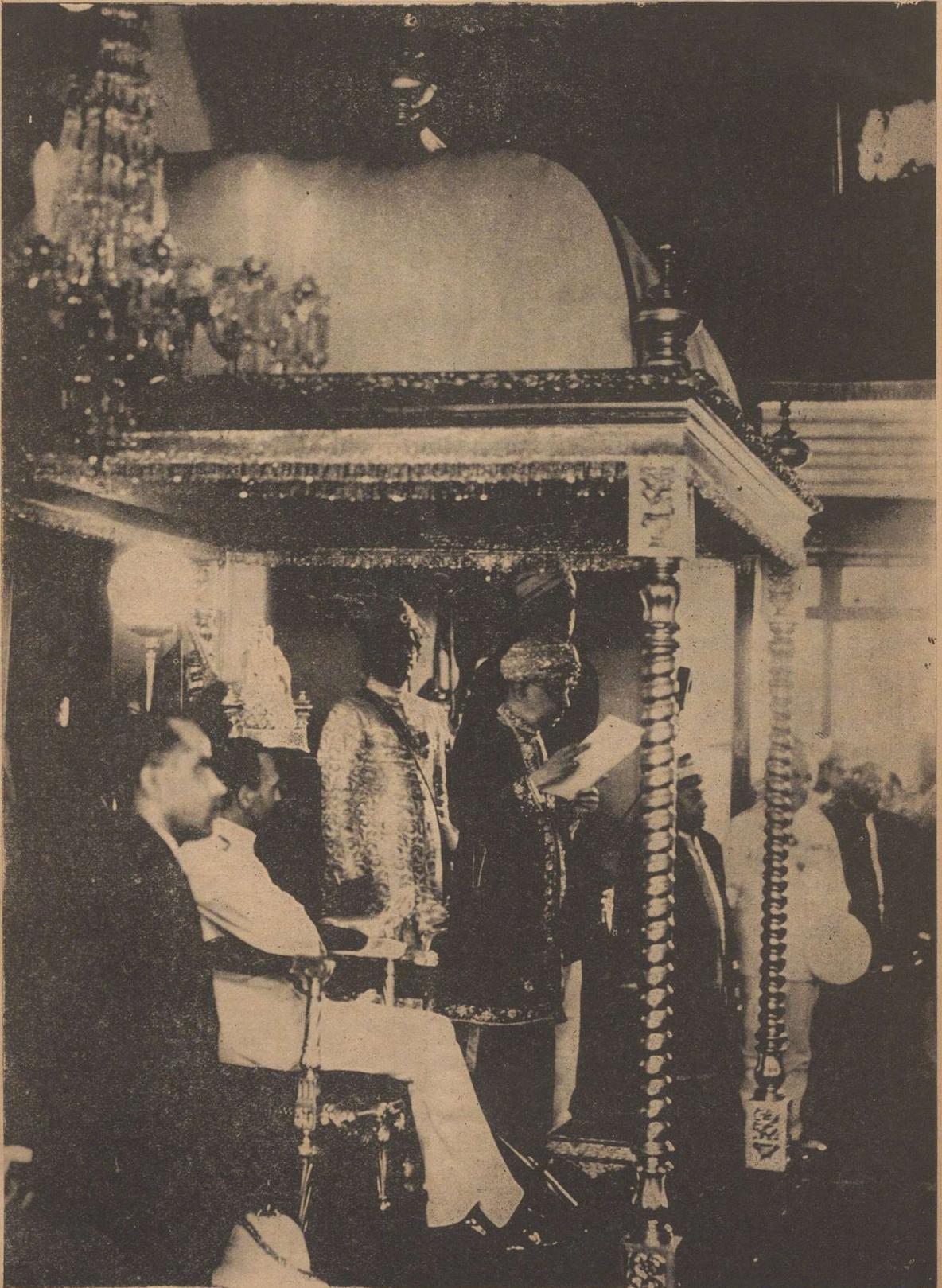
I now consider that to give practical effect to the wishes of my people, it is appropriate to appoint one more Minister. Besides the Departments now under the care of the Minister, I propose to transfer to one or the other of the two Ministers the following Departments.--

- (1) Municipalities
- (2) Medical
- (3) Labour
- (4) Registration
- and (5) Anchal

It is my hope that ere long it will be possible also to transfer the entire Education Department.

Cabinet system

Along with these changes it is also my desire to introduce a system of joint



His Highness announcing the constitutional reforms at the Installation Durbar

consultation between my Diwan and the two Ministers on important topics. Regulations implementing this desire will be drawn up in due course. But it is my sincere wish that the system of joint consultation now to be introduced will in time develop to the status of regular cabinet meetings and thereby infuse into the deliberations of Government greater thoroughness. Care will of course be taken to ensure that the responsibility of the elected representatives to the Legislative Council is not impaired in any way by this arrangement.

Traditions of the Ruling House

It has always been against the traditions of my House to exercise power without restraint and in making the present announcement I am only declaring once again the avowed policy of the Cochin Ruling House in this matter. This State along with the rest of India is passing through the difficulties of the post-war period and I believe that provision to associate my people to a greater extent than before in the administration of the State will help me and my Government to pass through these difficult days with greater ease.

The welfare of my people has been the constant care of myself and my predecessors and I hope that the administration of more subjects which touch the day-to-day life of my people by their accredited

representatives will increase their prosperity and contentment.

Widening of Franchise

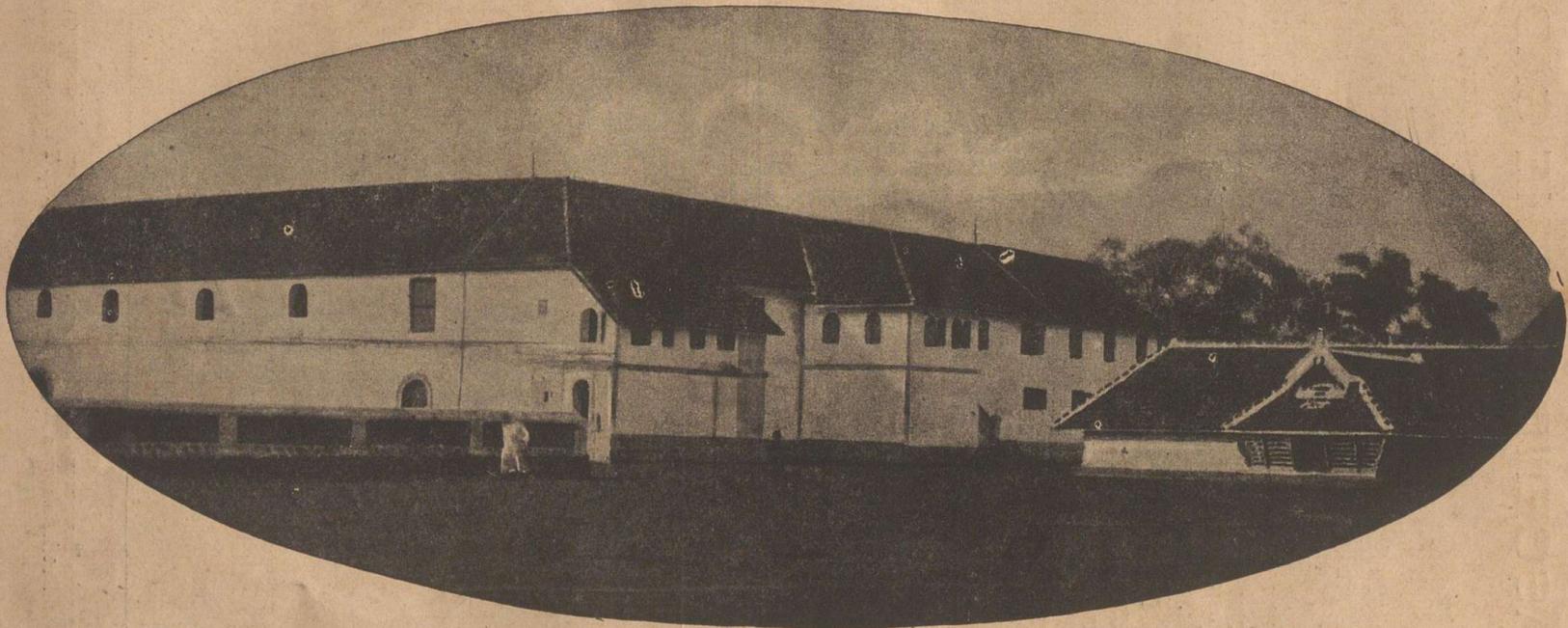
Along with the widening of the powers of the elected executive of my Government, it is also my wish that the electorate should be broadened by the lowering of the franchise qualifications correspondingly. With this object in view my illustrious predecessor appointed a Franchise Committee which is now functioning; as soon as its labours are completed I hope to be able to announce a substantial extension of the present Franchise.

India is on the threshold of great constitutional reforms and it is my sincere wish, as it has been that of my predecessors, that in the constitutional advancement of the country, my State should not fall behind. The appointment of one more Minister and transferring to his administration of more subjects is an additional token of the sincerity of these wishes.

I have no doubt that we have still much to learn in the art of adjusting ourselves to the requirements of a Parliamentary system of Government. But given encouragement and guidance I feel sure that the people of my State will rise to the occasion and not be found wanting in the ability to shoulder the task of full responsible Government in due course.



H. H. The Maharaja with his grandson



The Dutch Palace at Mattancheri where the religious ceremonies connected with installation were conducted.

ASCENDING THE GADI

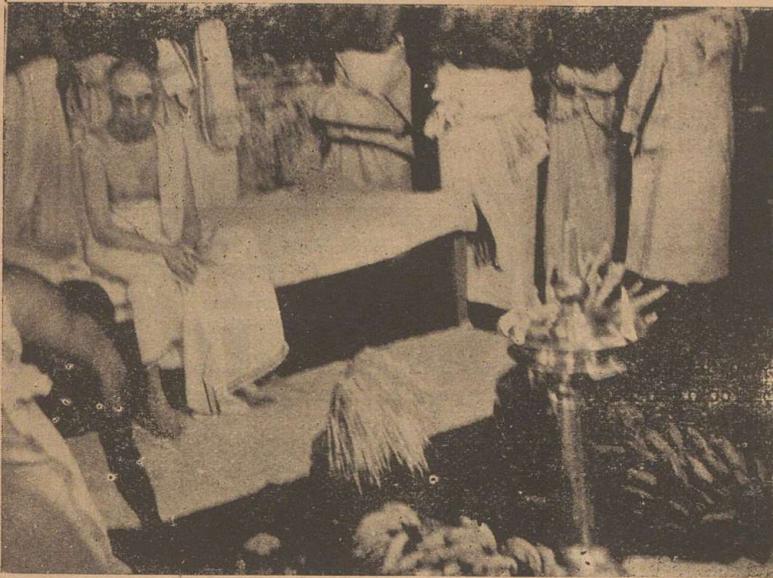
WITH pomp and ceremonial His Highness Sri Kerala Varma, Maharaja of Cochin, was formally installed on the gadi on the 21st March 1946 at the Installation Darbar. The religious ceremonies connected with the installation were conducted on the 18th March in the 400 years old Dutch Palace at Mattancheri with centuries old formalities and antique ceremonials. On the morning of this auspicious day His Highness, on arrival at the western gate of this historic Palace from Ernakulam, was received by Sir George Boag, Diwan, Mr. Parambi Lonappen, Minister, Mr. Krishnaswami Iyengar, Chief Justice, Rama Varmha Tampuran, Chief Secretary to Government, Mr. E. Krishna Menon Devaswam Commissioner and other high Government officials and Chairman of the Mattancheri Municipality. From the gate through a well-decorated covered walk His Highness went in procession attended by the officers and escorted by troopers, State

Forces, State Band, violin music played by Christians, drumming and piping by Muhammadans of the three streets of Kochangadi*, Pandivadyam, Pallisanku, veera maddalom and other musical instruments as far as the entrance to the Gandaka Ara**. Near the Ara the Diwan and the high officials of State took leave of His Highness who was then escorted by the Palace Officials, villakars and hari-kars to the Bhagavathi shrine inside the Palace. After worshipping there His Highness proceeded upstairs and took his seat facing east on a cot on which a black blanket covered with white cloth (*vasana-kacha*) was spread.

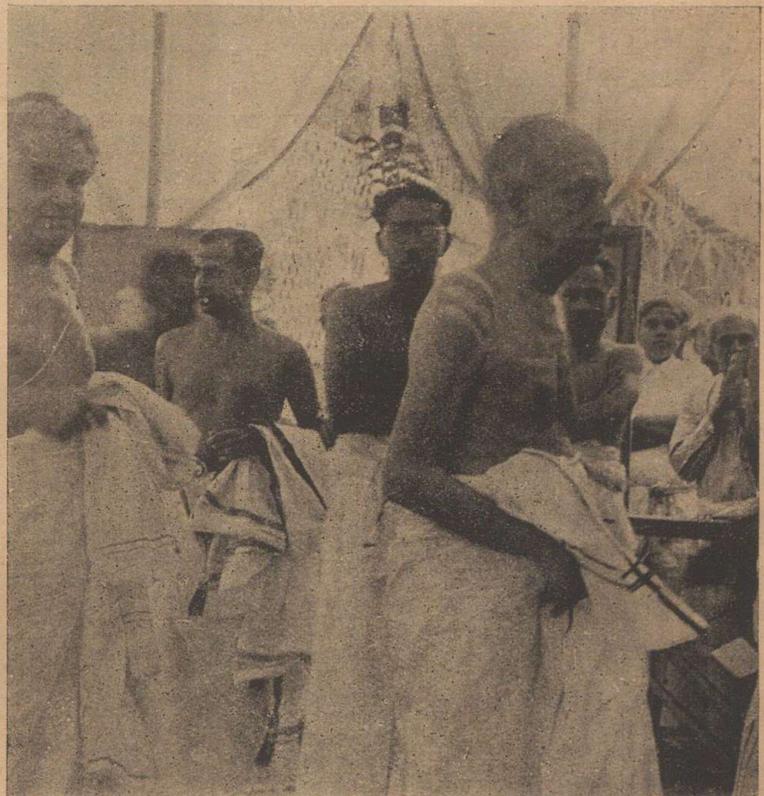
Then Naikiruveetil Menon*** presented a nuzzar of a plain gold ring and Mandala Mudaliar**** a nuzzar of six muris (bundles of cloth). After the acceptance of the nuzzars His Highness took his bath and wearing the State jewels (Pearl necklace, diamond bhajee, bhandom, kadakam and



L. to R.—Rama Varmha Tampuran, Sir George Boag and Mr. Parambi Lonappen at the gate of the Dutch Palace waiting for the arrival of H. H. The Maharaja



Naikaruveetil Menon presenting *nuzzar* to the Maharaja in the Dutch Palace



H. H. The Maharaja going to worship in the Shrines inside the Dutch Palace. Behind His Highness is his brother the Second Prince (Ravi Varma Thampuran); on the latter's left is Rama Varma (Appan) Thampuran, Director of Publicity)

veerasangalas performed the religious ceremonies by worshipping at the shrine of the Pazhayanoor Bhagavathi (the patron deity of the Ruling Family) and by making an offering of a gold ornament and a piece of silk. His Highness then wor-

shipped in the Siva temple and Azhithrikoil temple dedicated to Vishnu in the precincts of the Mattancheri Palace. The usual vazhivadoos and dekshinas were given in all the temples.

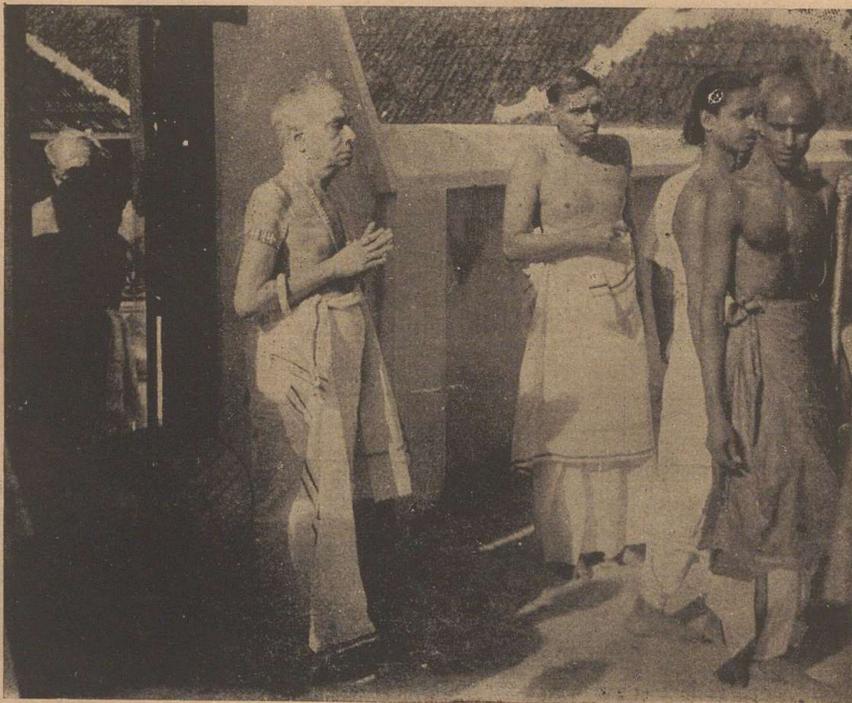
* The privilege of escorting His Highness on certain State occasions such as the Installation ceremony, the annual Athachamayam, etc., with their music of drumming and piping was conferred on the ancestors of these Muhammadens of Kochangadi as they were the first Moorish settlers in the State. After all the State functions in which they are entitled to participate, they are given money presents.

** Literal meaning of the words is Sulphur Room. In the 17th and 18th centuries when there were feuds, fights and factions this room must have been the powder magazine or arsenal.

*** The family of Naikiruveetil Menons referred to as "Naicoviti" by Jacobs Canter Visscher in his "Letters from Malabar" (1717—1722) were the hereditary Ministers of the State before Pōliath Achen succeeded to the office.

**** The family of Mundala Mudaliar migrated from Tinnevely to Calicut where the senior member quarrelled with the Zamorin. This led to his leaving the place with a vow (solemnly kept even now) that he would never again cross the Kallai river near Calicut. After the migration of the family to Cochin the members appear to have been in charge of the Customs House in the frontier. They enjoyed certain privileges conferred upon them by the Rulers of Cochin in recognition of their services.

After worship in the temples in the precincts of the Mattancheri Palace His Highness went in procession to Palliarkavu temple and Chirakkal Palace through streets tastefully decorated with welcome arches, flags, festoons,



H. H. The Maharaja in one of the shrines in the Dutch Palace.
To H. H.'s left is Mr. E. Krishna Menon, Devaswam Commissioner

thorans and accompanied by music, band, military, etc. At the Chirakkal Palace the Menons of Cochin (representatives of nine ancient Nayar families) presented nuzzars to His Highness. From there His Highness proceeded to Thekka Samutham Madhom and afterwards to the Northern Samutham Madham and

worshipped at the shrines dedicated to Sastha in both places. Nuzzars were presented to His Highness at both places, and also at Matapillikar Madhom* which His Highness visited on the way back to the Mattancheri Palace. After breakfast at the Palace, His Highness returned to Ernakulam.

* In ancient days the members of all the Samcohams enjoyed the privilege of preparing the meals and serving them on all important occasions for which they had been granted inams supplemented by pecuniary remuneration for their services.



Chinese Fishing Nets



Hill Palace where His Highness resides

INSTALLATION

Why are the religious ceremonies conducted in the Dutch Palace?

THE religious ceremonies connected with the installation of the Rulers of Cochin are conducted in the Dutch Palace at Mattancheri (Cochin). In 1550 the imprudence of a Portuguese Officer led to the plunder of a temple near the site of the Palace at Mattancheri. This aroused the indignation of the Raja. To pacify him the Portuguese built and presented to him the Mattancheri Palace in or about the year 1550. In the fight between the Dutch and Portuguese the Palace was damaged. It was extensively repaired and renovated by the Dutch and hence it came to be called, rather, inaccurately, as the Dutch Palace.

Ernakulam is the capital of the State; Trippunittura is the residence of the members of the Ruling Family; Trichur, the cultural centre of Kerala, is a town of great antiquity and importance; Kanyakannur was the chief residence of the Rulers before the transfer to Trippunittura, and in documents and writs issued under the sign manual even of the Maharaja the place is described as one where the Royal Court is held. How then is this installation came to be performed at Mattancheri?

No records have been found which furnish a clue to the time when or the circumstances under which the installation ceremony came to be celebrated at Mattancheri. It is certain that immediately after Cochin came under the Portuguese supremacy the first Portuguese Viceroy Don Francisco who in 1505 came with instructions from the King of Portugal to crown Goda Varma Raja with a crown of gold set with jewels in recognition of his gallantry in defending the Portuguese against the Zamorin and the Moors found that the aged King had abdicated and, therefore, transferred to

his successor Rama Varma the honour intended for his uncle. The crowning was carried out with great pomp and ceremony. In the beginning of 1663 after the decline of the Portuguese power and the capitulation of their settlement at Cochin to the Dutch, Prince Vira Kerala Varma was installed as King of Cochin by the Dutch General Hustaart and presented with a crown which bore the arms of the Dutch East India Company. This installation also took place at Mattancheri.

One of the Malayalam Grandhavaris—a prosaic narrative, but full of interesting details—furnishes details of the usages, customs, observances and ceremonies connected with one of the installation celebrations in the middle of the eighteenth century, in the Palace at Kanayannur. In another Grandhavari it is stated that Ari Ittu Vazcha (the ceremony of commencing the reign of a Raja by throwing new rice by a particular Brahmin) was performed at Thiruvanchikulam, the capital of the Perumals (Cheran Vanchi) from whom the Cochin Ruling Family derived its descent, and that the Kiritam Vechu Vazcha (the ceremony of wearing the crown) was celebrated at Chithrakutam. The latter place must have been chosen as a place for wearing the crown because it is situated in or about the village of Perumpadappu, supposed to be the original abode and residence of the Ruling Family which is still known as Perumpadappu Swarupam.

An interesting episode regarding the refusal of a Ruler to wear one of the ancient crowns may be mentioned here. By the treaty of 1717 which concluded the war between the Zamorin and the Dutch assisted by Cochin, the Raja of Cochin recovered the major portion of the territory lost in the continuous



High Court Buildings

struggle with the Zamorin of Calicut except the villages of Venneri and Perimpadappu. The loss of these villages had always been a sore point to Cochin, as from time immemorial the Kings of Cochin went through their coronation ceremony in a place called Chithrakutam in the Perimpadappu village. The Zamorin held to them tenaciously for the same reason. Rama Varma is said to have taken a solemn oath on his accession to the musnad that he would not be crowned anywhere except at Chithrakutam and that he would never wear a crown till he went through the ceremony of coronation there. Unfortunately, Cochin never succeeded in regaining possession of Perimpadappu, and Rama Varma's successors, respecting his oath

never afterwards performed the ceremony, nor did they wear a crown.

The celebration of the ceremony at Chithrakutam must have ceased with the loss of that place and Cochin chosen for the function. The choice of Cochin must have been from the beginning of the Portuguese supremacy unless it be that it began to be celebrated there when the Raja got Cochin about the beginning of the 12th century from his father the Raja of Edappilly.

Coming to modern times we find this ceremony conducted in Cochin from 1828 onwards. The Palace at Mattancheri has figured largely as being the place where the ceremony has been celebrated on many an occasion.

THIRUMULKAZCHA

JACOBUS Canter Visscher who was the Chaplain of Cochin from 1717 to 1723 A.D. writes thus in his "Letters from Malabar": "After the accession to the throne of the Ruler (of Cochin) his principal subjects must pay their court to him occasionally and offer him presents. First come the head of the fishermen, who after making his obeisance, lays before him a golden fish, a silver net and an earthen dish containing sand and salt". Commenting on these "Letters from Malabar" the late Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon in his monumental treatise, on "The History of Kerala" says: "The headman in Cochin of the sea fishermen is also styled Valia Aravan and the *thitturam* granted to him directs him to preside over the community, realise the perquisites of his and see that the sea-fishermen render proper service at the port of Malippuram. In virtue of his office the Valia Aravan has to lead the way as escort in a snake boat whenever the Raja travels

in the backwaters.—It is also his peculiar privilege, much prized by the community, to be the first to obtain audience with the successor of a demised Maharaja. He is the first to present *thirumulkazcha* or *nuzzar* to the new Sovereign, which consists of a small quantity of salt packed in a plantain leaf and tied round with a coir rope and a gold coin generally a Venetian sequin."

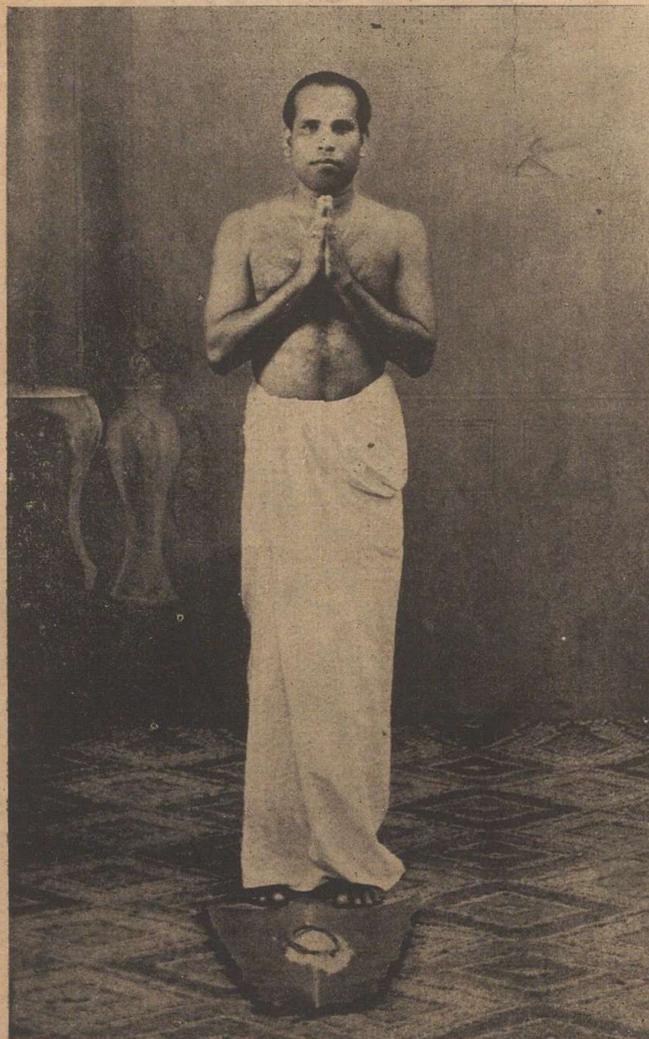
The right of first presentation of *thirumulkazcha* to the Ruler on his accession to the musnad by the leader of the Arayans is based on a *thitturam* presented by a Ruler of Cochin a few centuries back to one of the leaders of the Arayan community. Enquiries show that the loss of this interesting document is due to the carelessness of one of the successors of the recipient. Different versions regarding the origin of this practice have appeared in print, but one that is claimed as authentic and authoritative is summarised below.

In the days of antiquity, in the coastal areas fishing was (as is now) the most important profession, especially of the Arayan community. In those days there was one Naduvazhi (head of the land) who was the recognised and undisputed Chief of the Arayans having the right to manufacture salt, to take the income derived therefrom and also from the fishing operations. The income thus derived was substantial and was expended for the benefit of his community. With the help and co-operation of the people he maintained law and order. On the accession

to the musnad of one of the rulers the then independent Arayan Chief willingly surrendered all his rights to the ruler and became the latter's first vassal chieftain. As a symbol of his vassalage salt and rope were given to the Ruler as thirumulkazcha. Salt was given as it was the main source of his income and salt manufacture was one of the chief professions of his community. The rope represented the flag of the Arayan Chief. The presentation of these two articles was symbolic of the voluntary surrender of the main source of income of the chieftain. The acceptance of

this surrender by the Ruler was a source of great gratification and pride to the Arayan Chief. In recognition of this surrender and as a consideration for this great sacrifice of liberty and independence the Arayan Chief was given the signal honour of paying respects and thirumulkazcha to the Ruler first on his accession to the throne.

The Arayan chiefs have been enjoying and cherishing this signal honour for generations. The leader of the Arayan community who first presented the thirumulkazcha to the present Maharaja on his accession to the gadi is Mr. K. A. Raghavan, a nominated member of the Cochin Legislative Council. Respects and thirumulkazcha were received by His Highness from the officials and non-official subjects of His Highness only after the Arayan chief had given his thirumulkazcha of salt and rope. The authenticity of this version of the novel custom is vouchsafed as well as its antiquity.



Mr. K. A. Raghavan M.L.C. presenting Thirumulkzcha



Valans in uniform in one of the Snake boats

INDIAN STATES—THE HISTORIC PAST

The Ruling House of Cochin

INDIAN INDIA—the monthly magazine published by the Chamber of Princes—contains the following article on The Ruling House of Cochin (Its historic past) in the February issue.

The Ruling Family of Cochin.—The *Perumpadappu Swarupam* has ruled this part of the country without break for nearly 1500 years. It is one of the oldest Kshatriya dynasties in India. The Kingdom of Perumpadappu or Cochin came into existence on the division or dismemberment of Kerala about the sixth century A. D. According to tradition, the first King of Cochin was the son of the sister of the last of the Perumals (big men), a line of kings who ruled Kerala or Chera, as it was then known, in the early centuries of Christian Era and was, therefore, his direct heir according to *Marumakkathayam* law of succession. The name of the first king is said to have been Vira Kerala Varma. The full designation in the vernacular of the Rulers of Cochin has been and is "Perumpadappu Gangadhar Vira Kerala Trikkovil Adhikarikal". From this name taken by the first Ruler, it is clear that he had supreme authority over temples and that spiritual importance and dignity were attached to the Cochin Crown.

In very early times an extensive traffic sprang up between the Mediterranean cities and the ports of Kerala, the most important of them being Cranganur in Cochin State. The Phoenicians were the first to make their way to these ports and their example was followed by the Jews in the reign of Solomon. After the Jews came the Syrians and the Egyptians, both of whom maintained a direct trade with these ports. The Roman trade with Kerala was on a more extensive scale than that of their predecessors and was

kept up for over two centuries. The early history of Cochin is involved in obscurity. From the copper plate inscriptions in the grants given to the Jews who settled in the State and the Syrian Christians who came to Malabar in the early centuries and settled down under the care and protection of the Rulers, it is found that one Bhaskara Ravi Varma was the King of Cochin about 1215 A.D. and that Veera Raghavan Chakravarthi was the Ruler about 1326 A.D.

Dissension in Ruling Family.—The States in Kerala enjoyed immunity from foreign aggression and interference during the 14th and 15th centuries. But Cochin and the Zamorin of Calicut were constantly at war, each trying to get supremacy over the other. Cochin was for long the chief power in Kerala, but her power was gradually weakened by dissensions in the Ruling Family. The rivalry between the Rulers of Cochin and the Zamorins was the most important feature in the politics of Kerala for three or four centuries. From the beginning of the 15th century the influence of the Zamorin began to preponderate in Malabar.

In those days administration was based on principles resembling those of the feudal system in Europe. The King was the supreme Ruler and the fountain head of Justice. Local administration was in the hands of hereditary chiefs who exercised wide powers. The powers of the King were fettered by rules and conventions based on customs and traditions and also by the *Kootam* or National Assembly. The King administered justice, the laws being based entirely on religion and custom. Crimes were few and people enjoyed security of life and property to a remarkable extent.

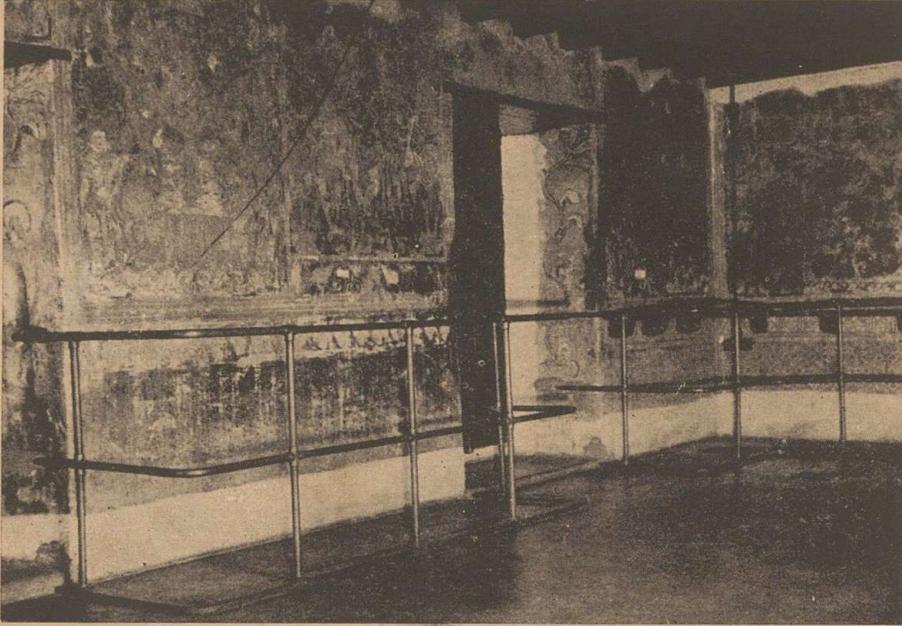
In December, 1500, the Ruler of Cochin, Raja Unni Goda Varma, received the Portuguese with open arms. A treaty of alliance was concluded between the Ruler of Cochin and the Portuguese and a new order of things was established, destined to survive many a storm in the next three hundred years. For more than a century the Portuguese were a power in the West Coast and the Rajas of Cochin were generally on friendly terms with them. The chief result of the continuous war between the Zamorin and Cochin,

assisted by the Portuguese, was the great diminution of power and prestige of the Zamorin and the considerable increase in the influence and importance of the Rulers of Cochin. As years rolled on corruption, indolence and the consequent administrative inefficiency undermined the power of the Portuguese.

Supremacy of the Dutch.—The Dutch appeared on the scene early in the 17th century and their supremacy lasted for more than a hundred years. Hendrik



St. Francis Church (Cochin) wherein lies the remains of Vasco de Gama



Dutch Palace at Mattancheri—The Western Hall containing the mural paintings

Adrian Van Rhee, the famous Dutch Commander of Cochin from 1672 to 1677 wrote in his celebrated Memoir that "the Cochin Raja is the noblest Prince of Malabar. He is a mighty chief of peoples, lands and allies. If the Raja thankfully accepts the help of the Company and the Company is wise enough to use its power and friendship with that of the Raja, then there would be no power in India, in water or land, who could damage to this combination; yea; and all the Malabar Rajas should look up to him."

During the Dutch period there was a time when the future of the Cochin Ruling Family looked anything but bright. Travancore under the leadership of Marthanda Varma had grown into a power in the South and Zamorin was still strong in the North. Between these two, Cochin had some very anxious days. The situation was, however, saved by the then Raja who entered into a pact with Travancore, as a result of which Travancore and Cochin together

fought the Zamorin and defeated him in 1763. After that the Zamorin never regained his former glory and supremacy.

Cochin realised that her weakness was due to the diffusion of power among a number of hereditary chiefs instead of being concentrated in the head of the State. Soon after the expulsion of the Zamorin, all administrative powers were taken away from the Chiefs and vested in officers appointed by the King. A new system of administration was introduced and the changes effected necessitated a larger annual expenditure than could be provided from the existing sources of revenue, and to meet this additional expenditure a regular land tax began to be levied in 1763. Quiet was restored in the country and the King's authority was finally established.

Mysorean Supremacy.—When the threat from Travancore and menace from the Zamorin had disappeared and when the roots of internal trouble had been removed by the introduction of various administra-

tive changes and reforms, other troubles arose from unexpected quarters. Hyder Ali of Mysore appeared on the scene and his General invaded Cochin and promised immunity from annexation if Cochin would agree to become tributary to Mysore. The Raja agreed to the terms proposed and became a tributary, as insisted by the General. Hyder Ali's relations with Cochin were friendly and he treated the Raja with commendable consideration. Tippu Sultan who succeeded Hyder Ali in 1784 left Cochin unmolested in the early years of his reign. This tranquility was, however, of short duration and was destined to be rudely disturbed by his

designs on Travancore and his prosecutions in Malabar. The whole ambition of Tippu Sultan was to invade and conquer Travancore and Tippu became hostile to Cochin when it became clear that the latter would not join him against Travancore. His attempts at invasion of Travancore became infructuous and his designs failed with the declaration of war against him by the East India Company. Cochin threw off her nominal allegiance to the Mysore Ruler and on 6th January 1791, the first treaty between Cochin and the Company was signed. The Dutch surrendered the port of Cochin to the English in 1795. Thus ended the con-



Tippur's flag staff at Trichur

nection of the Dutch with Cochin. Though they left Cochin in the lurch when Travancore rose to power they rendered great service to the State in the days of their supremacy.

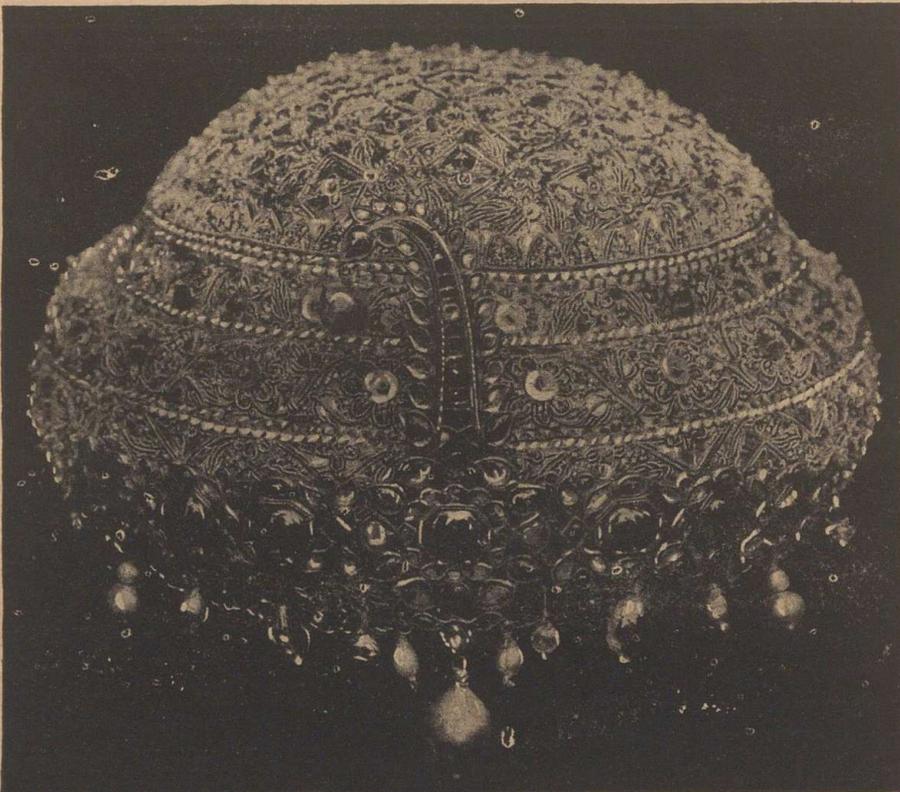
Treaty with East India Company.—The Raja of Cochin during the period of the Mysorean supremacy in South India was Rama Varma, popularly known as Sakthan Tampuran, who, though he came to the musnad only in 1790, had already taken

the reins of administration as early as in 1769 at the request of the Travancore Raja and the Dutch Governor. He was a strong, resolute, energetic and ambitious Ruler who had made a mark in the history of Cochin. He ruthlessly curtailed the powers of his chieftains and abolished the post of the Prime Minister vested in the Paliyath Family, whose power and position were strengthened after the advent of the Dutch. Though, to start

with, he was an admirer of the English, later on his relations with them became strained and, in the later years of his life, it was even suspected that he was in alliance with the French against the English. Whatever might have been his personal relations with the East India Company, he never overlooked the might nor under-estimated the increasing influence of the new power that had risen in the land. During his reign he kept the reins of administration in his capable hands; and his rule was characterised by a vigour and strictness to which people had not been accustomed. He died in 1805. His successor was a mild and benevolent Prince, an eminent scholar, but a weak ruler. In 1808 a serious revolt was organised by the Diwans of Travancore and Cochin to oust the British power from the West Coast. The insurrection was put down and since the Rajas of Cochin and Travancore had nothing to do with it, the relations between the British

and the Rajas were not in the least affected by the insurrection.

A new treaty between Cochin and the East India Company was concluded on the 6th May 1809. It has ever since remained in force unaltered, except that the subsidy was later reduced from Rs. 2,76,073 to two lakhs in 1818. Since the new treaty the State has never known the excitements of war. The period of one hundred and thirty-six years that has elapsed after the treaty of 1809 shows a marvellous record of accelerated progress in all departments of human activity. Enjoying peace under British suzerainty, the feudal State of Cochin developed into a modern and model State which is now considered to be one of the most progressive and well governed Indian States. A modern state has grown out of the ancient land of the Perumals, retaining at the same time the attractive features of a glorious past.



The Crown of the Rulers of Cochin

COCHIN RULING FAMILY

CHITTAMMA THAMPURAN

PRINCESS

RAMA VARMA
1013 M.E.—1019
1837—1844

PRINCESS

3 PRINCESSES

PRINCESS
KUNJIPPILLA
THAMPURAN

RAMA VARMA
(1019—1026)

KERALA
VARMA
(1026—1028)

RAVI VARMA
(1028—1039)

IKKAVU
THAMPURAN
(Valiamma
Raja)
D. 1105

IKKU
THAMPURAN
(Kunjamma
Thampuran)
D. 1096

KUNJIKAVU
THAMPURAN
(Valiamma
Raja)
D. 1117

THANKOM
THAMPURAN
(Kunjamma
Raja)
D. 1113

RAMA
VARMA
D. 1055

KERALA
VARMA
D. 1062

RAVI VARMA
D. 1057

RAMA
VARMA
D. 1059

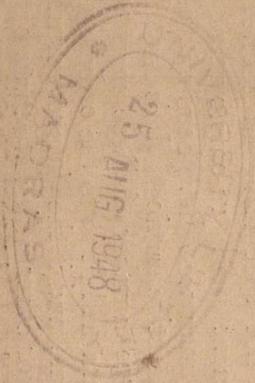
SUBHADRA
THAMPURAN
D. 1119

MANKU
THAMPURAN

RAMA
VARMA
D. 1067

HIS HIGHNESS
KERALA VARMA
Maharaja

RAVI VARMA,
M. B. E.
Second Prince



POST WAR DEVELOPMENT IN COCHIN

Ten Crore Scheme

“**H**ERE we are concerned not so much with the replacement of what has been destroyed by war, but with progress towards better conditions of life, a higher standard of living which is so necessary for the progress of the country We do hope that the greater part of the scheme by increasing the earning power of the population, will thereby increase its tax paying power and so indirectly lead to the greater prosperity of the State”, said Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, in the course of his address at the joint meeting of the Post War Reconstruction General Committee and the Subjects Committees constituted to consider and advise the Government on the schemes prepared by the Government.

Sir George Boag said,

“I have invited you all to this meeting in order that we may inaugurate the work of the committees which Government have set up to consider their plans for what is called on the Agenda “Post War Reconstruction”, but what I prefer to call “Post War Development”, for this reason that reconstruction implies the replacement of something which has been destroyed and has special reference to conditions in those countries which have suffered from the devastation of war much more than this country has suffered. Here we have been spared the destruction of buildings which has been such a feature of this late war in so many countries. Here we are concerned not so much with the replacement of what has been destroyed by war, but with progress towards better conditions of life, a higher standard of living which is so necessary for the progress of this country. Government have set up these committees in pursuance of an undertaking which I gave sometime

ago in the Legislative Council that Government would invite an expression of non-official opinion upon the plans which were being worked out in pursuance of the decisions taken by two previous committees called to consider this subject. And I am very glad that our plans have now reached the stage that we may invite opinion upon them. Inasmuch as the object of our planning, as I have said, is the raising of the standard of living and improvement of living conditions throughout the State, it follows that our plans must cover the whole field of social and economic life. I am not going to give you an exhaustive description of all of our plans—I propose simply to take a few of the major departments of Government and give a brief account in connection with each of them of the sort of development that Government consider necessary. We hope that the various committees when they get to work will in considering these plans put forward by the Government feel perfectly free to reject, to amend, or to suggest different forms of activity. Government do not claim that their plans are perfect or exhaustive. But we do claim that we have at least covered the greater part of the ground and have given a very full indication of the various directions in which progress is possible. There is one further preliminary observation I should like to make, and that is that in apportioning work to these committees we have not specifically mentioned the re-settlement and re-employment of returned men who have been out of the State on active service. It is my hope that a large number of these men when they return will fit in to the ordinary life of the State and if the improvements of one kind or other which are contemplated in these plans which you are going to

consider, if these plans eventuate and materialise, there should be plenty of work and plenty of employment for a very large number of these people. Government does, however, recognise that there may be a demand in some cases for special arrangements, the formation of special colonies for the settlement of ex-service men; and I think when you come to examine our plans you will see that they do make sufficient provision for that sort of activity. But inasmuch as any activity of that sort is bound up with the other activities of the particular departments concerned, we did not think it necessary to allot the consideration of the re-settlement or the re-employment of ex-service men to any particular committee.

Education.—Now, turning to the plans we are putting before you, I should like in the first place to mention Education, because I believe that the foundation of any real improvement in the conditions of living, and any rise in the standard of living must very largely depend upon education. Now in framing their plans for the future development of education Government have taken as their guide in the main, the report prepared by Dr. Sargent for the Government of India. We have tried to adapt the proposals made in that report to conditions in this State. We visualise the introduction of compulsory education by gradual stages. When I say that the introduction of compulsory education involves the provision of educational facilities for something like 40 thousand children who at present do not go to school, you will realise that it means a very considerable increase in the number of buildings and a still greater increase in the number of teachers, and an increase in the number of teachers means, more facilities for training because as I have said more than once, the education imparted by an untrained teacher is, I am afraid, often rather a menace to the progress of the country.

Agriculture.—I will next take Agriculture which is probably the next important of the subjects which these committees have to deal, inasmuch as it is agriculture in one form or another or activities allied with agriculture which support the largest number of the population of the State. We are putting forward a large number of schemes for the improvement of agriculture and I hope most of them will meet with your approval. The general object of all of them is to enable more land to be cultivated, and to familiarise the cultivator with improved methods of cultivation so as to enable him to practice a more intensive agriculture which may result in the production of a greater yield from the land which he is now cultivating.

Live stock.—Closely bound up with Agriculture is the question of Live-stock and here we also have a large number of schemes for the improvement of the local breed of cattle, for the expansion of dairy farming—I am only giving a few instances—for the rearing of pigs, goats and poultry and also for the expansion and improvement of veterinary services.

Irrigation.—Again closely allied with agriculture is irrigation. Here again a number of schemes, large and small, are put forward. I am glad to say that for two of the largest of our Irrigation Schemes, Chalakudy and Naduthodu, estimates are now ready and it will not be long before a start can be made with them. Other Irrigation Schemes—Peechy and Pillathodu—are still under investigation and others have to be investigated as soon as the investigation of these two is complete. We have also considered the possibility of improving drainage facilities which more particularly in the parts of the State near the coast is a matter of very great importance.

One thing I should very much like these committees to consider is the relative importance of these schemes. I

mention that because considerations both of finance and of staff make it impossible to undertake them all at once and, therefore, it is a matter for consideration which should have priority.

Fisheries.—Then we have a number of schemes for the improvement of Fisheries and for the increase of the Food supply of the people of the State by that means. In this respect I am glad to say that we have already started joint activities in co-operation with Travancore and we are contemplating provision of considerable assistance to private enterprise. But the Government's plans for the direct activity comprise various proposals as additional curing yards, the study of fishing condition in the sea, in backwaters, and the inland waters, all aiming at the increase of the supply of fish and the improvement of marketing facilities.

Forest.—Then another subject to which Government attaches great importance are our Forests. A very large area of our Forests have not yet been touched because of the difficulty of access to them. We hope to provide access to a greater area of these forests by improving communications, by opening new roads. This will lead to a greater extraction of timber and fuel and side by side with this greater extraction from the Forests we hope to have a corresponding intensive re-forestation and plantation. We are also hoping to see much fuller use made of the various minor forest products with which our forests abound. And apart from these developments in the bigger forests we hope to restore where they have been lost or to establish where they never existed, village forests from which the villager may draw his requirements. We have decided to start at once one experimental measure in that direction and from the lessons learned there, Government will learn of something as to how to proceed elsewhere. In connection with Forests the only other matter which

I wish to mention now is the development we are planning in the Tramway Workshop. We hope to extend that so that it not only serves the needs of the Forest Tramway but also serves for the demonstration of certain industrial uses of the timber which is found in our forests.

Industries.—I then pass on to Industries and here the Government have directed their efforts to the plans devised to implement the recommendations made by the committee set up a short time ago and presided over by Mr. Manu Subedar whose report was published sometime back. But here I must observe that any development of industry must depend upon the provision of cheap power. It is unfortunate from the point of view of industrial development of the State that the construction of the Hydro-Electric Scheme which was first mooted many years ago has been postponed for so long. I am glad to say now that matters with respect to this scheme have reached such a stage that an actual start on the work is almost within sight and I hope that within the next few months we shall be able to say that the work is actually in progress.

You will find a certain number of schemes put before you regarding industrial development. But the Government's main policy is directed to the encouragement of private enterprise and in that direction assistance of one sort or another has already been given to a number of enquirers.

Communication.—Then comes the subject of communications. Our plans include provision for the improvement of roads both in the direction of widening them and in the way of providing dustless surfaces. We have quite recently come to an agreement with Travancore about the provision of a Bridge between Eda-cochin and Arur. We have also had discussion about the construction of a bridge at Alwaye on the road between here and

Trichur. Improvement of canals has not been neglected and you will find among the schemes, I think, proposals regarding a canal to reach Kunnamkulam and the deepening of the Trichur—Karanchira Canal which is about to be undertaken. Then as regards the Railway Communication—I think probably you all know—the line from Kollengode to Trichur is being surveyed. We have received applications for the extension of Railway communications both to Kunnamkulam and to Irinjalakkuda and are discussing the possibility of these proposals with the management of the Railway.

As regards Transport, certain plans have been put before you. I may say that Government are not at present inclined to assume the direct management either of road or of water transport. But they are anxious to see that the facilities afforded by private enterprise are greatly improved and that this improvement is stimulated and encouraged by every possible means.

Public Health.—Proposals of a very considerable nature have been put amongst our plans for the improvement of medical and public health facilities. The aim which Government have in view is provision for the opening of a medical and public health centre in each Panchayat Area. It may of course take time to achieve that object. But that is the object with which our plans have been devised.

Town Improvement.—Then as regards Town Improvement, a committee has just reported on this subject with regard to Mattancheri and its report has been sent to the Municipal Council. I have seen these proposals and they seem to me to be very comprehensive. If they can be carried out, I am sure they will effect a wonderful improvement in the amenities of Mattancheri. A committee is also considering improvements for

Ernakulam. We decided to go ahead with new roads in Ernakulam and in Trichur we have decided to go ahead with the provision of dustless surfaces on some of the main roads there where, I think, the dust is more a curse than in any other part of the State. But I do hope that this is only a beginning, and it will not be long before we can supply at least all the main roads in the principal towns with dustless surfaces. I should also like to mention that in the case of Trichur, Government are undertaking to investigate the question of water supply at the earliest possible moment.

Rural Development.—Finally, for the general Rural Development and general improvement of living conditions among the rural population, there are a number of schemes for the improvement of agricultural methods, for the introduction and expansion of cottage industries, for the improvement of health conditions and so on and so forth. But I myself feel that one of the most hopeful plans which has been included among our schemes is that of the establishment of as many as possible Rural Development Centres run by people competent to demonstrate the value of improved methods in all directions.

Finance.—Now we are asking one of the special committees to consider more particularly the financing of these schemes. The total cost, estimated very roughly for all the schemes that have been prepared, is in the neighbourhood of 10 crores of rupees. Of course, nobody will expect all this money to be found at once. I do hope that the Finance Committee will be able to give the Government an indication of the pace at which they would like these different works or works of this sort to be undertaken and completed. Many of the works, we hope, will be productive; for example, the Hydro-Electric Scheme ought to bring in a steady revenue and

there are other works which we hope will be productive. But above all we do hope that the majority of the schemes by increasing the earning power of the population will thereby increase its tax-paying power and so indirectly lead to the greater prosperity of the State.

Government have decided to place these schemes before a number of committees. We hope that by this method we shall enable each committee to deal with the subjects which come before it fairly expeditiously without too much delay and that as the Committee's reports come in, we shall have them supplied to every member of the General Committee. We shall then ask the General Committee to express

its opinion on the reports made by the various sub-committees. I hope this method will commend itself to all of you. It seems to me to be the best method for getting such a wide field surveyed with the least expenditure of time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the work before you is of the greatest importance, the field is wide and I do feel that the future happiness and prosperity of the State will, to a very great degree depend upon the advice which you are able to give the Government on these important matters. I hope that your deliberations will be fruitful of very great and lasting benefit to this State and to the people who inhabit it.

TWO NEW MINERAL DEPOSITS

Quartz and Pyrrhotite

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

Quartz at Anappara—

THE quartz reef, found just to the west of Anappara hillock and north of the road to Thannikudam, in Vilvattam village in Trichur Taluk, was investigated in order to ascertain the quality and quantity of the mineral. The reef is found running in a North East—South West direction in Survey Nos. 506 and 514. It is found amidst the soil and is highly fractured. The mineral is white and greasy and has a specific gravity of 2.77. A sample was analysed and was found to contain 98.9 per cent silica. The portion of the reef visible on the surface of the soil is 264 feet long and has an average width of 20 feet. Assuming that the reef has an average thickness of five feet, the estimated quantity of quartz available from this reef is 26400 cubic feet or 977 tons. Pieces of magnetite are found here and there as an accessory mineral in the quartz

reef, and, in one place, a few flakes of biotite mica are also observed. The Anappara hillock, with a total area of 58 acres and 44 cents, is made up of gneissic rocks. The gneiss found here has a specific gravity of 2.8. The rock is quarried in two or three places for use as building stone and road metal. According to Mr. K. K. Sen Gupta, "The gneisses are by far the most extensive rocks in the State". The quartz reef occurs as an intrusion into the gneiss, and magnetite is usually found as an accessory mineral in such intrusive quartz reefs. The quartz reef at Anappara is suitable for exploitation for some industrial purpose.

Pyrrhotite at Irimpanam—

The glittering mineral found during the blasting of the charnockite rocks at the Parakkadavu quarry of Irimpanam in Thiruvankulam village, Cochin-Kanayan-



Anappara (Elephant Rock) near Trichur. The rock resembles an elephant

nur Taluk, was examined recently. A detailed study of the physical characters and chemical composition of the mineral has proved that it is pyrrhotite or magnetic pyrite. Samples were analysed and were found to contain 63.75 per cent iron and 36.24 per cent sulphur. It is slightly magnetic and has a specific gravity of 4.73. This mineral is a common minor constituent of igneous rocks. It is found as irregular veins in the charnockite rock at a depth of about fifteen feet below the surface. Ayurvedic physicians use this

mineral in medicine under the name മാങ്കിരം or മാങ്കിരക്കല്ല. The supervising Physician of the Manufacturing Section of Kerala Varma Ayurvedic Pharmacy, Trichur, has reported that this mineral is used in many Ayurvedic preparations and that it is used in the form of Sindooram along with other medicines in those cases where blood is to be built up. The deposit at Irimpanam will supply the requisite quantities of the mineral for Ayurvedic purposes in this State.

REFORMS IN COCHIN

The Mail (Madras) writes:

“IT is appropriate that the reign of H. H. Sri Kerala Varma, Maharaja of Cochin, should begin with the transfer of more departments of the State's administration to popular control. The Maharaja's decision to appoint a second Minister follows naturally the policy embodied in the reforms introduced in the State in 1938, whereby the executive

authority was divided between the Diwan and a Minister chosen from among the elected members of the Legislature. Those reforms have been worked earnestly, and uninterruptedly despite somewhat frequent defections from the parties or groups supporting successive Ministers. The activities of the departments placed under the Minister have

considerably expanded, thanks to the initiative and enthusiasm of the Minister and the support he has invariably received from the Diwan and the Reserved Departments.

The two Ministers will now have between them departments which spend approximately twenty per cent of the disposable revenue of the Government, while the transfer of another large department, Education, which spends annually rupees thirty-eight lakhs, is envisaged. The way to further constitutional progress is also being prepared by the

introduction of a system of joint consultation between the Diwan and the Ministers, which His Highness hopes will develop the status of regular cabinet meetings—in other words, into responsible and representative Government. His Highness declares afresh the State's aim, and gives a new lead to his people, when he expresses his confidence that they "will not be found wanting in the ability to shoulder the task of full responsible Government in due course." His hope will be shared by all who have the State's interest at heart."

COCHIN RULER'S GESTURE

The Indian Express (Madras) writes:

"H. H. SRI KERALA VARMA, the new Maharaja of Cochin, has commenced his reign with a grand gesture. At the Installation Darbar in Ernakulam on Thursday (21st March) His Highness expressed an "anxiety to associate my subjects more closely with the Government of the State," and as a proof of this, announced his decision to appoint a second popular Minister and transfer to his care departments like Municipalities, Medicine, Labour, Registration and Anchal. The transfer of the entire department of Education is also visualised. With rural development already under a popular Minister, the list completes about all the walks of a people's life, wherein day to day attention has to be closely and incessantly paid. The Cabinet system of consultative Government is envisaged in an indirect manner, and the promise of restrained use of the Royal prerogative and further extension of the present franchise are additional features of the Maharaja's announcement.

Whether the list would satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Cochin people may be a matter for speculation, but the Maharaja's gesture does not lose its significance on this score. In fact it should be interpreted only as a prelude to greater

things in store. For His Highness is fully conscious of the political developments in India. "India is on the threshold of great constitutional reforms," he remarked, "and it is my sincere wish, as it has been of my predecessors, that in constitutional advancement my State should not fall behind." The present reforms need be considered, therefore, only as the first instalment of more advanced steps including social and economic changes. His Highness has before him the example of a smaller and enlightened State, namely Aundh in Maharashtra, where the Ruler has not fought shy of complete responsible Government or of subjecting his own Civil List to the popular vote. It would certainly pay, in the long run, to be a popular ruler rather than be as King Canute resisting the upsurge of the tide. We sincerely hope that H. H. Sri Kerala Varma, who happens to be the first Ruler of the State to have had the benefit of University education, will not stop with the reforms announced but will inaugurate others as well in quick succession. There can be no half way house between autocracy and democracy and Cochin's enlightened Ruler must be the first to appreciate this truth and react to the popular sentiment."

COCHIN EDUCATION CODE

New changes

THE decisions of the Government on the recommendations of the Education Code Revision Committee have now been published. Many of the recommendations of the Committee involve considerable extra expenditure to Government. The financial implications of the recommendations were considered by the Government at the outset, with a view to ascertaining how much of the proposed extra cost it would be possible for the State to bear consistent with its obligations to meet the competing needs of the other nation-building departments. The recommendation of the Committee that 20 per cent of the general revenues of the State may be set apart for education in the coming years has not been accepted by the Government. It will be the policy of the Government to decide beforehand what particular schemes of improvement are desirable and necessary, and then to find ways and means of financing them. Government state that if at any time the normal revenues of the State are found inadequate to meet the increased expenditure on education consequent on the inauguration of the various post-war educational reforms under contemplation, an educational cess will be levied to meet the demands under education.

Revision of Pay.—Government have already announced that the pay of the primary teachers will be revised as recommended by the Committee. The pay of the teaching staff in the several institutions under the Education Department has now been further revised and will be given effect to from the beginning of the next financial year (16th August 1946). At present there are three different grades of pay for the regular teachers of the Lower Secondary Department and three

for those in the Upper Secondary Department. These grades have now been consolidated and one uniform time-scale pay has been introduced for the Lower Secondary Department and another for the Upper Secondary Department. The pay the Specialist teachers, Head Masters and teachers in Fishery Schools, Sanskrit Schools and the Sanskrit College has been revised.

Primary Education.—The Code Revision Committee recommended to the Government that their policy should be to assume direct management and control of the whole of Primary Education in the State, by gradually taking over to Government management the Primary Schools now managed by private agencies. Government have now come to the conclusion, after examining all aspects of this question, that it is not wise to eliminate private educational agencies from the field of Primary Education. These institutions have made valuable contribution to the cause of education; their existence will considerably reduce the cost on account of education and will afford a valuable standard by which the efficiency of Government Schools may be judged. For these reasons, it would not be wise to oust private agencies from the educational field. The cost involved in the adoption of this recommendation of the committee will be stupendous and it would not be wise to incur such extra expenditure without corresponding benefits. There are many post-war educational reforms under consideration of which the introduction of compulsory elementary education is one. These will involve considerable additional expenditure. Government consider that it is much more important to get every boy and girl to school for a sound elementary education than to bring all private schools under

Government management. To embark on the second course would inevitably delay the first. Government do not, therefore, propose to assume management of private primary schools at present.

Extension of course of studies.—Government have decided to extend the course of Primary Education by one more year, to abolish the distinction between Malayalam Schools and English Primary Schools (and to give English education during the last two years of the five years course), to make the study of Malayalam as a compulsory subject in the revised Lower Secondary course, to make physical education compulsory in all the school classes according to a well graded programme. Government have approved generally the Committee's recommendations to introduce crafts and vocational subjects in the curriculum of schools.

Payment of grants.—Government do not propose to enforce restrictions that are likely to hamper the normal growth of new schools but will insist that every school should provide for the minimum requirements necessary for the imparting of instruction under healthy conditions. In the matter of payment of grants, the Government state that grants are given as a matter of grace and cannot be claimed as a matter of right and that the Government reserve to themselves the power to extend the benefits of grants-in-aid to the really deserving institutions only. Aid will be conditional on the Managers possessing a competency of their own and Government may refuse aid to an institution which in their opinion lacks financial stability. The condition prescribed by the Code Revision Committee that the school concerned should have a permanent income from endowment or other contributions of a stable nature to the extent necessary to meet the total expenditure along with the grant received has been accepted by the Government, but no retrospective effect will be given

to it. In the payment of grant Government have ordered that the following condition should be fixed—"Schools shall impart only secular education during regular working hours." The existing grant-in-aid has not been disturbed by the Government.

Payment of salary.—Regarding direct payment of salary to aided school teachers Government make the following observations: "Government have considered all aspects of this question. The grant-in-aid system of Government pre-supposes the willingness of the School Managers to contribute their share towards the conducting of the schools and grants are given on the distinct understanding that the managers will supplement the Government grant by their own contributions. Government do not consider that they can relieve the managers of this essential obligation and take upon themselves the entire responsibility of paying from their funds the full salaries to the teachers. Such a step defeats the very aim and end of the grant-in-aid system. At the same time Government do not consider that it is necessary to realise the manager's contribution by compulsory measures in order to enable the Government to pay direct the salaries of the teachers in full. Government do not propose to do anything more than to ensure that the whole of their salary grant reaches the teacher in full, and that regularly, and it will be incumbent on the managers to pay to the teachers employed under them that portion of the salary, which together with the Government grant will make up their salaries reckoned at standard rates. Accordingly, Government will introduce a system of direct payment of salary grant to the teachers of all aided primary schools from 1st Chingam 1122 M.E., by which time the abolition of fees in the Primary Department will take effect and Primary Schools will consequently not have to account for any income from fees.

Government will pay direct to the teachers the salary grants for which they are eligible, and the managers should pay direct to the teachers the balance amount required to make up their full pay."

Free Primary Education.—The proposal of the Code Revision Committee that Primary Education may be made "free" has been accepted by the Government. Government have ordered that none of the existing fee concessions will be stopped. The following additional concessions have been granted.—(1) The benefit of full fee concession applicable to the children of Government servants dying in harness will be extended to the children of permanent teachers in recognised private schools also on the same conditions applicable to the children of Government servants. (2) Orphan boys maintained by recognised orphanages or other charitable asylums for the destitute will have to pay only half the rate of regular fees in the school classes.

Scholarships.—Certain modifications in the awarding of scholarships in the school classes have been made for encouraging the poor whose talents are likely to be wasted on account of limited means, though they may not occupy the top rungs of the ladder in point of merit. Thirty full scholarships of the monthly value of Rs. 5 each tenable for three years of the High School Course, to be awarded to the poor deserving students of all communities and one hundred full scholarships of the monthly value of Rs. 3 each tenable for the 3 years of Lower Secondary course have been newly constituted. As a measure of encouragement to students taking up post-graduate research courses, six scholarships of the monthly value of Rs. 50 each have also been instituted to be awarded every year by the Government to deserving graduates who are bonafide

Cochinites for research studies in approved Colleges or Technological Institutes outside the State. The period covered by the course should not be more than four years.

Licensing of Teachers, etc.—Government have accepted the recommendation of the Code Revision Committee to dispense with the present system of licenses and permits to teachers so as to reduce the inconvenience and trouble caused to teachers and the Education Department on this account. Government have granted certain additional powers to the Managers, prescribed the qualifications and training of teachers and have revised the Text Book Committee Rules. A set of books once prescribed will remain in force for three years.

Compulsory Provident Fund will be instituted in all the Aided Schools.

The revised course of Primary Education will be given effect to from the beginning of the next educational year. No fee will be levied in the primary classes from the reopening of schools in Edavam 1121 M.E. (June 1946). The revised scholarships and stipends will be given effect to from the beginning of the next educational year.

The recommendations of the Code Revision Committee in respect of Collegiate Education. Special Educational Institutions and Public examinations are still under the consideration of Government. There are also a few other recommendations which have to be considered along with the post-war educational developments under investigation. Orders on these recommendations will be issued in due course.

NOTES

Food situation—The food situation in India is very grave and it is imperative that every effort should be made to grow more paddy especially of the short term variety. As an impetus to such cultivation Government have decided to grant bonus to every agriculturist in Cochin State who cultivates the short term paddy crop like *Navara* in the month of Meenam and Medam 1121 (March 14th to May 15th) at the rate of fifteen rupees per acre provided the crop is well grown and the harvest is fairly certain. Every such cultivator is directed to give intimation in writing to the Parvathiam of the village where the land is situated, the nature and extent of the cultivation taken in hand in response to this announcement. The Parvathiam is instructed to keep a register of the lands so cultivated so that inspection might be conducted before the time of harvest. This would be essential to establish claims to bonus.

Grow more vegetables—With a view to induce every vegetable grower to produce more vegetables during this period of acute food shortage Government propose to launch a "Grow more Vegetable" Campaign. The aim is to bring an additional 5,000 acres under vegetable cultivation during the next twelve months. It is expected that there would be an yield of nearly 15,000 tons of additional food of a highly nutritive and protective nature. To encourage this cultivation the following concessions are granted to the growers of vegetables: 1. Free supply of 25 pounds of special vegetable manure. (Further quantities will be supplied at fifty per cent of the cost price.) 2. For putting up new fencing and deepening wells a subsidy of rupees twenty-five per acre will be paid. 3. Seeds and seedlings of all vegetables will be given to growers during the appropriate seasons. Private growers in the villages who raise seedlings for distribution by the Agricultural Department will be given special subsidies.



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. The Government of Cochin 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 late Maharaja donated a sum of Rs. 1 lakh when the fund was started.

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.

*Above—Cargo boats in Cochin backwaters.
Below—Ram Mohan Palace*



*Centre—An ancient Crown of the
Rulers, but never worn*

