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COCHIN

INFORMATION



Sunset from Thevara Canal

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A Canal Scene

“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.

“COCHIN” is a publication which everybody should possess.

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**The Information Officer,
Government of Cochin,
ERNAKULAM.**



FISHERIES

SCHMES formulated for the development of Fisheries and fishery industry in the State include development of deep sea fishing, estuarine pisciculture and inland pisciculture, improvement of fish curing industry, development of fish oil industry, organisation of Fishermen

Co-operative Societies and establishment of Fishermen Schools.

Cochin waters abound in fish of various kinds. The sea along the entire coast furnishes a fertile field for exploitation. It is proposed to develop marine fishing by employment of a fleet of country boats



Chinese nets in Vypeen facing the Arabian Sea

equipped with improved types of nets for shoaling surface fishes and drift nets, hook line and harpoons for catching big mid water fishes. Provision will be made for towing the fishing boats by a sea-going tug and speed boats for carrying the catches to the nearest markets. The possibilities of increased exploitation of

the outside are under consideration. The details of the scheme await the approval of the Government. A large part of the expenditure of the scheme will be met by the sale proceeds of the fish. It will provide opportunities of employment for hereditary fishermen and other enterprising young men in the navy.

The backwaters team with fish life and there is considerable scope for the expansion of pisciculture in the estuarine regions. The scheme now before the Government aims at further development and expansion of the existing fish farm at Narakkal and the establishment of new ones in 40 acres of marshy land to the south of Malippuram fish curing yard canal, in 27 acres of poramboke chal lying between the villages of Nayarambalam and Narakkal, in 13 acres of the Pallippuram Pozhil to the south of the new bund put across the "Pozhil", in 15 acres of the backwater between the Ghonder Island and Vyppen and in 50 acres of poramboke chal in the northern corner of Kumbalam. Experiments with chemical fertilizers will be tried within limited areas in the proposed fish farms to increase and quicken the growth of fish.

Another tentative scheme connected with inland (fresh water) pisciculture relate to stocking of tanks, ponds and canals in the State with fingerlings of suitable varieties of edible fish. A survey of suitable places will be conducted before the storking operations are started. The scheme is expected to increase the supply of fresh fish in the interior parts of the State.

Though tentative and the details not fully and finally settled the scheme for the improvement of fish curing industry in the State by remodelling the existing four fish curing yards under improved sanitary conditions is likely to be highly productive. In the existing yards at Narakkal, Kathialam, Malippuram and Kumbalangy arrangements will be made for experimenting on hygienic methods of sun drying and experiments in regard to the



Fishermen working Chinese nets

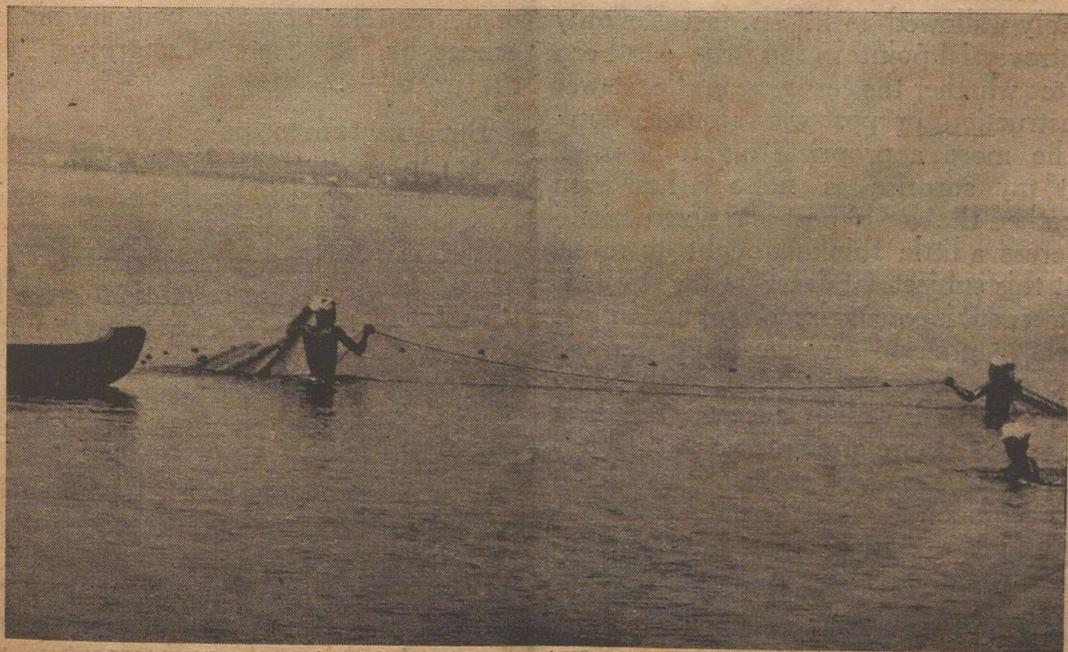
preparation of dehydrated fish, fish meal, fish guano, air tight preservation of prawns and preparation of semi-dried prawns will be undertaken. It is seen that new yards, if found necessary, can be established at Azhikode, Edavanakkad, etc.

On a small scale manufacture of fish oil is being conducted by the Fisheries Department of the State. The present proposal is to develop this industry by the methods now employed and to get the oil standardised under the supervision of a specialist in oil industry and to sell the "residue stearine" left by the process of refinement for caulking boats or for the manufacture of insecticidal soaps or lotions. A store house for the oil and other products is proposed to be constructed at Narakkal which is the centre of the fishing industry in the State.

Ameliorative schemes for the benefit of fishermen are the starting of new Fishermen Co-operative Societies in areas where there are no societies at present, the reorganisation of the existing ones and the establishment of new fishery schools.

The functions of these co-operative societies will be to supply to members yarn for making and mending of nets, and timber for building boats, to obtain concessional rates for fishermen to fish in rivers and inland canals, to advance loans at reduced rates, to organise subsidiary cottage industries for fishermen like coir making, spinning, weaving, etc., to help the members to own their own dwelling by advancing and arranging long term loans, etc. The proposal is to start ten more societies in different centres and to reorganise the existing four ones. The scheme envisages the organisation of a Central Society for fishermen in due course.

Educational facilities are now afforded in five fishermen schools. Fisheries training of an intensive and comprehensive nature is proposed to be incorporated in the curriculum of studies followed in these schools. The question of establishing higher grade literary schools for the fishermen boys and girls in thickly populated fishermen centres is being considered.



Fishing in the backwaters near Ernakulam

It is estimated that post-war development of fisheries and fishery industry in the State would involve a capital outlay

of nearly 2.67 lakhs of rupees and a total recurring expenditure of rupees 2 lakhs for the first five years.

POST WAR DESTRUCTION

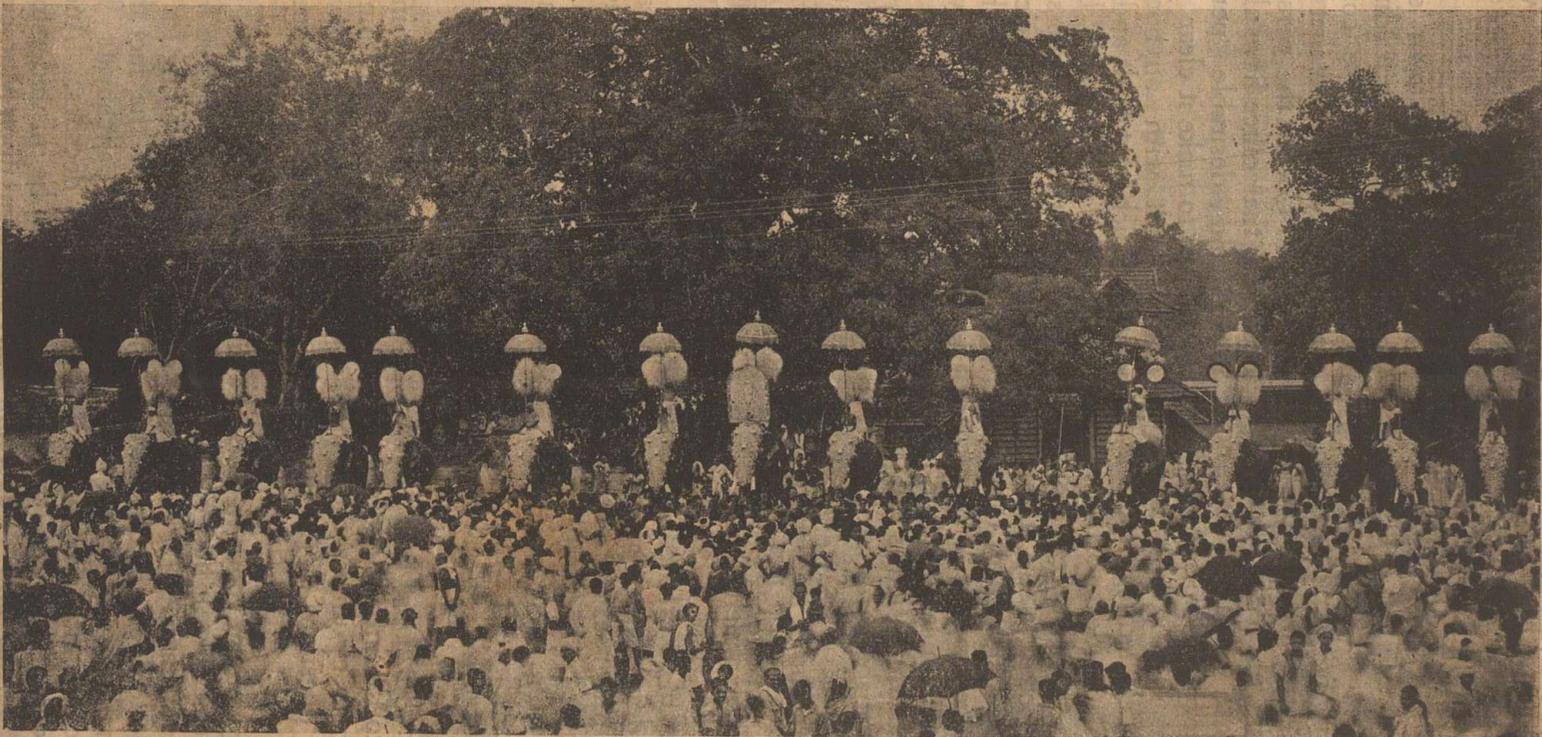
[This article is contributed by a citizen of an Indian State who has no vested interest in any of the subjects discussed except the general welfare of the community as a whole. The Editor of the "Cochin Information", to whose kindness this publication is due, is entirely dissociated with the ideas expressed herein. Opinions may differ as to the methods to be pursued: but it is the paramount duty of the present generation to face the future.]

IN one sense it must be admitted that there is nothing so slavish as the human mind. Once an idea is trotted out either in the press or from the public platform and public fancy takes to it, then there is a run all along the same rut. That is what has probably happened with post-war reconstruction. Innumerable committees have sat upon it, cartloads of paper have been used (or wasted upon it) and the columnists in the daily papers have simply wallowed in it. In fact the only controversial point in the issue has been as to whether the expression "post-war construction" or "post-war reconstruction" is the more appropriate one to be used. But my surprise is nobody has even breathed the word "post-war destruction" whereas a little thinking ought to reveal that this subject (at least as far India is concerned) is equally important and in fact ought to precede any successful reconstruction. An economic reconstruction on a national basis cannot succeed unless at the same time we attempt to cure the body politic of the many diseases with which it is encumbered at present—especially wrong ideas, age-old prejudices and fallacies whose only basis is popularity.

It is now many years since we have begun to hear about democracy in our Indian States and at least some years

since some of the States have begun to partially enjoy it or suffer it, that is, according to individual taste. Legislative Councils and Assemblies, Municipal Councils and popularly elected Panchayats form the order of the day and Cochin leads the way with her popularly elected Ministers. Recently, however, another State has announced a completely democratised administration although details are still lacking. The All India States' Subjects Conference meets every year and the sentiments expressed by that body are piously echoed by all State Congresses and Prajamandals.

But I venture to pose this question—what do we want?—and to where we propose ourselves to be led? The usual form of the resolution passed at some of these public meetings lacks clarity. The average form of the resolution calls for "a democratic form of Government under the aegis of the Maharaja with satisfactory safeguards for such and such communities and proportionate communal representation in all Government services." The audience is generally satisfied with such a resolution for the simple reason that nobody takes the trouble to think about it. The resolution conveniently ignores two fundamental facts, namely, that a truly democratic form of government is not consistent with communal safeguards and



Trichur Pooram—one of the Elephant Processions on the Pooram day

and that the religious faiths of the servants employed by the Government have nothing to do with the constitution. I say that such confusion of ideas is the first thing to be *destroyed*.

Then again, whatever form of government we are aspiring to, I venture to suggest that we should first consider the *destruction* of some of the so-called forms of democracy with which we are now inflicted. In theory a democratic form of government, that is, with an executive responsible to an elected legislature is all right and certainly an ideal worth aspiring to. But in practice its success depends upon the form selected to suit the particular conditions of the country to which it is proposed to be applied. Whereas, at present, it would appear that the ideas of our Indian States politicians are hide bound. They probably dream of reproducing a small House of Commons and a miniature British Cabinet in every Indian State. That idea is worth *destroying*. If I may say so, the experience in Cochin amply confirms this view. Theoretically a democratic form of government is possible without the development of political parties, but only under exceptional conditions (for example Switzerland) entirely absent in India. On the other hand, a prolific multiplication of parties can be detrimental (for example pre-war France). Therefore, in our Indian States a healthy development of political parties is a condition precedent to the introduction of any form of real democracy unless the aim is only to ask witty questions on the floor of the State legislatures.

The present system in vogue in Cochin (and probably elsewhere) has certainly one merit *i.e.*, convenience. The electorate need not be told about the future policies or anything of that sort. Political parties come into existence only after all elections are over and reconstruction of parties and leadership takes place only on the eve of a no-confidence motion. This may be a possible

form of Government but why call it democracy? Immediate *destruction* is called for in this direction.

Again, from our own experience in Cochin it is clear that a Minister coming into office under these conditions can achieve very little and that in spite of the fact that in Cochin the persons who have occupied that office have all been competent and desirable personalities. I would like to make it clear that I am not finding fault with anybody. It is the system which is at fault and nobody can do any good at it. It may be worthwhile for our constitution makers to consider examples like the American executive which is irremovable and the committee system prevalent in many continental systems.

With regard to municipal councils and panchayats, I belong to a small class of pessimists who believe that the so-called local self government is a failure throughout India-with, of course, rare exceptions. Herein also we are often victimised by illusions. These have to be *destroyed*. The ordinary platform speaker tells his audience about the glories of village panchayats in ancient India. I dare say that, under the conditions which then prevailed, those institutions worked satisfactorily. But we cannot reproduce the India of 1,000 years ago.

I do not want to enter into controversies; but we know two things. We know what we want and we know we have not got them as yet. We want good roads, good sanitation, clean drinking water, public parks, as much less mosquitoes as possible and so on and so forth. But the citizenry is still waiting for all these good things in spite of the fact that municipal councils and panchayats have been in existence for decades. And in saying so I should not be misunderstood as casting any aspersions upon Municipal councillors or Panchayatdars, past and present. Again, I assert that the fault is with the

system and to some extent the way in which it actually developed.

At this particular juncture we have to take note of another factor. We are all expecting to plan ahead, and we hear so much about 'five year' and 'ten year' plans, ten crores schemes and hundred crores schemes. This is the time when we have to devise national schemes for the benefit of those who might get unemployed as a result of the cessation of hostilities. It is extremely doubtful whether the municipalities and panchayats, as at present constituted, would be competent to undertake any such work. You, *gentle reader*, may be inclined to protest that all this is sacrilege and that what is being suggested is the destruction of these institutions of local self-government for which our forefathers toiled and sweated in the years past. I have no apologies to offer excepting this. It is again a question of facing the future. Do you want certain goods to be delivered and delivered during our generation? If so, we have to resort to other methods and other agencies—for example a strong and well-equipped government department or other central agency put in charge of the planning and development of our cities.

The next thing I would note as being eminently worthy of being *destroyed* is the canker of communalism. This is an all India problem and not one peculiar to Indian States. But there is no reason why we should not make an attempt in our own way. There are many notable instances where the Indian States have given the lead to British India. Cochin has given permanency of tenure to her cultivating tenants and Travancore has led the way with the Temple Entry Proclamation and, very recently, universal adult suffrage.

Intrinsically there is nothing wrong with the idea of communal organisations and activities based on that conception. If one's family, one's village and one's

country can come first, logically; it is wrong to assert that one's community should not come first. When we analyse the problem we find that the real difficulty arises only when communal consciousness extends itself beyond its legitimate limits. For example, I can certainly imagine an association of Nayers or of any other community doing a lot of good amongst themselves without doing any harm to other communities. But when one begins to assert that elections to legislative bodies, appointments to the government service, etc., are also within the realm of communal consciousness, then that leads to trouble and decay. It is not merely a question of divorcing religion from politics. Apart from religion there is also the problem of denominational consciousness. The Brahmin versus non-Brahmin controversy which raged over the whole of South India for a long time is not a matter of religion because both Brhamins and non-Brhamins have the same religion. So also in this State there is said to be a certain amount of competition between Syrian Christians and Latin Christians though it cannot be claimed that there is any difference in religion between these denominations. To illustrate, I may cite one example. I am informed that there is a Catholic Women's Association in Ernakulam. I have nothing to say against its activities and, probably, it is doing very good work. But in my opinion the very idea seems to be fundamentally wrong. I can understand a Women's Association doing a lot of work, that is, maternity centres, child welfare, etc. etc. I can also understand the formation of a Catholic Association with its activities devoted to religious and charitable causes. But why a Catholic Women's Association? The same observation applies to a Nayar Youth Badminton Association which I happened to come across some years ago in one of our rural parts. This is really the mire into which we have sunk almost neck-deep. And it must be *destroyed*.

A large majority amongst ourselves as well as foreign critics are agreed that this communalism is an evil and ought to be *destroyed*. But the difficulty has all along been how to do it. I venture to make a suggestion. Religion and communal consciousness are real life factors in India and could not and should not be ignored. But at the same time it is important to realise that only a handful are really interested to thrust religion into secular affairs because only they stand to benefit. The dumb masses simply follow the lead. Another equally important factor to be realised is that the solution to this problem is not going to be achieved either by abusing the communal leaders or mere shouting about the cultural integrity of India as a whole. But communalism has to be *destroyed*.

The solution which I would put forward is to entrust the task to our courts of law. What I suggest is that appropriate sections should be added to our Penal Code which would penalise any person attempting to exploit religious faiths or communal consciousness for his own sake or for the sake of any particular section of the community in which he is interested. The drafting may not be easy; but at the same time should not prove beyond the capacity of our draftsmen. Care should however be taken that the powers vested in the court are comprehensive enough to achieve the purpose. Even now section 139-A of the Cochin Penal Code is somewhat on similar lines.

"Whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of His Highness' subjects, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both".

But the scope of the above section is very restrictive.

For the proper fulfilment of the above scheme the detection and charge-sheeting should be entrusted to a highly placed officer somewhat on the lines of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Eng-

land. Amongst all her defects India has been fortunate in one direction—the development of a competent and honest judiciary. In British India the High Courts enjoy a prestige and public confidence unrivalled by any other institution. The same is the case with Cochin and some other Indian States. Therefore why not we entrust our most difficult national task to the most competent institution we have been able to develop.

There is nothing to be said about industries because no destruction is called for. In the field of agriculture *there are two things to be destroyed, i.e., the absentee landlord and the multiplication of small holdings.* The field, however, is too wide for me to enter into more detailed discussion and also I must plead incompetency. The Cochin Verumpattomdars Act is no doubt a great step forward. But I do not think we ought to rest content with this measure. I might at once clear a possible misunderstanding. When I suggest the destruction of the absentee landlord I am not proposing an indiscriminate expropriation or hunting out of the jenmi class into the wilderness. Justice and fair-play should be meted out to all interests. But subject to that, I would say that those who actually toil in our fields as well as those who are willing to take to agriculture as a profession should be guaranteed sufficient proprietary interests in the lands cultivated. Also probably a certain measure of collectivisation would be necessary to deal with the second of the two evils mentioned above, *viz., fragmentation of holdings.* The amount of money and human energy now wasted because of such fragmentation is something colossal.

There are also many other things worthy of destruction and I have no doubt my readers would be able to think of them. I can however imagine a very valid criticism levelled against this contribution, namely, that it is not constructive—no—it is definitely intended to demonstrate *the utility of destruction.*

CI-3



The Meeting of the Chamber of Ministers (Sir George Boag, Diwan, third from the right—facing)

THE NEW MINISTER

AT the Installation Darbar on the 21st March 1946 His Highness the Maharaja announced his decision to appoint one more Minister and to transfer more Departments of State to the administration of the representatives of the people. Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon, B. A., LL. B., Deputy

Leader of the Nationalist Party in the Cochin Legislative Council, has been appointed Minister and the following Departments have been transferred to him.—Municipalities, Medical, Labour, Anchal and Registration. In the course of the announcement His Highness expressed his desire to introduce a system



Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon, Minister



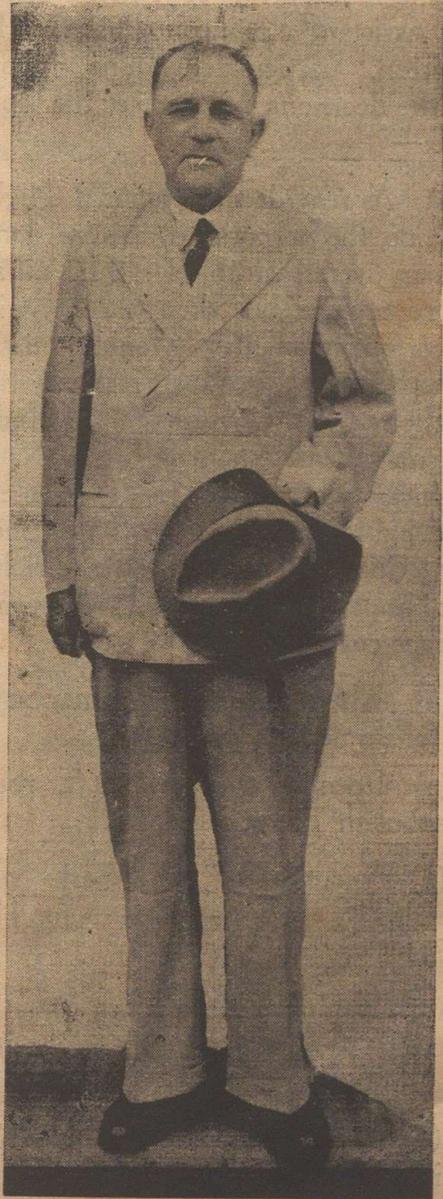
Mr. Parambi Lonappen, Minister

of joint consultation between the Diwan and the two Ministers on important topics. Regulations implementing this desire are being drawn up. It is His Highness' sincere wish that this joint consultation would in time develop to the status of regular cabinet meetings and thereby infuse into the deliberations of the Government greater thoroughness.

Other departments of Government now administered by Mr. Parambi Lonappen, Minister for Rural Development are Agriculture, Ayurveda,

Co-operation, Panchayat, Public Health, Uplift of the Depressed Classes, Development of Cottage Industries, Village Libraries, Fisheries, and Industrial Schools.

His Highness announced at the Installation Darbar that it was His Highness' hope "that ere long it will be possible also to transfer the entire Education Department to the portfolio of a Minister."



Sir George Boag, Diwan

POST-WAR ROAD DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

To discuss the various problems connected with Post-war Road Development in the State and to select for immediate execution as many road works as possible, a conference was held in the Secretariat in which the Chief Secretary to Government, Secretary (Judicial and Public Works), Deputy Secretary, Chief Engineer, Director of Panchayats, and the Assistant Engineer, Post-war Road Division, participated. The following are the decisions reached at the conference:—

(i) As regards the National Highway Scheme, the proposal to acquire land to give an overall width of 150 ft. all along the route need be taken up only if the Government of India would contribute towards its cost. Whatever may be the decision of the Government of India in the matter of financing the National Highway Scheme, the roads selected for National Highways in the State (Shoranur—Cochin Road and the Trichur—Vaniampara Road) may be given concrete surface coating.

(ii) The following works may be taken up for immediate execution.

(a) Opening the new 70 ft. road in Ernakulam Town.

(b) Execution of the Works recommended by the Road Board for 1117—1121.

(c) Opening a Navigation Canal connecting Kanjiramittam market with the Poothotta River.

(d) Deepening of the Trichur—Karan-chira Canal.

(e) Opening a Drainage canal at Trip-punittura connecting the Eastern and Western rivers.

and (f) Widening and improving the Hill Palace Road, Karupadana Road and Kunnamkulam Road.

(iii) In the particular conditions of the State it will not be possible to have roads as wide as recommended for the standard State Highways and District Roads. As regards the width and the surfacing of the new roads the Chief Engineer may therefore be given discretion to suggest suitable specification according to the importance and requirements of each road.

(iv) For the speedy execution of works falling under the Post-war programme, it is necessary to distribute their supervision, etc., among the several Assistant Engineers of the State.

(v) The following Panchayat roads may be transferred to the Public Works Departments for future repairs and maintenance.—

Vaduthala Road—Cheranellur Panchayat
Irumpanam road—Thiruvankulam

Panchayat

Malayattur road—Malayattur Panchayat

Paravoor road—Chennamangalam

Panchayat

Plywood factory road—Chalakkudi

Panchayat

Trikkur Kalloor road—Trikkur

Panchayat

Pulikkakadavu road from Shorannoor

Anjal road

Kothaparamba Kara road up to Eriyad

Market

P. W. D. Bridge—Eduvilangu Panchayat	hereafter, and the allotment under the Fund kept non-lapsable.
Mandanchira road—Panancheri Panchayat	(ix) To attend to land acquisition work in connection with Post-war Development Schemes a special staff should be appointed.
Killimangalam road—Chelakkara Panchayat	
Pynkulam road—Cheruthuruthy Panchayat	
Thelavattampara road—Ayiloor Panchayat	2. The decision of the conference are accepted by the Government subject to the following modifications.—

(vi) It is enough if road development plans are restricted to a period of 5 or six years at a time.

(vii) To begin with, the execution of works falling under the Post-war programme may be taken up departmentally. Any further innovation, if found necessary, may be considered later on.

(viii) A new fund called the "Road—Canal—Development Fund" may be constituted to finance Post-war Road and Canal Development Schemes. The unspent balance out of the accumulated contribution to the Road Board and the allotment of Rs. 16,000 in the current year's budget for opening the Kanjiramittam canal may be transferred to this fund. The annual contribution to the Road Board may be adjusted to this fund

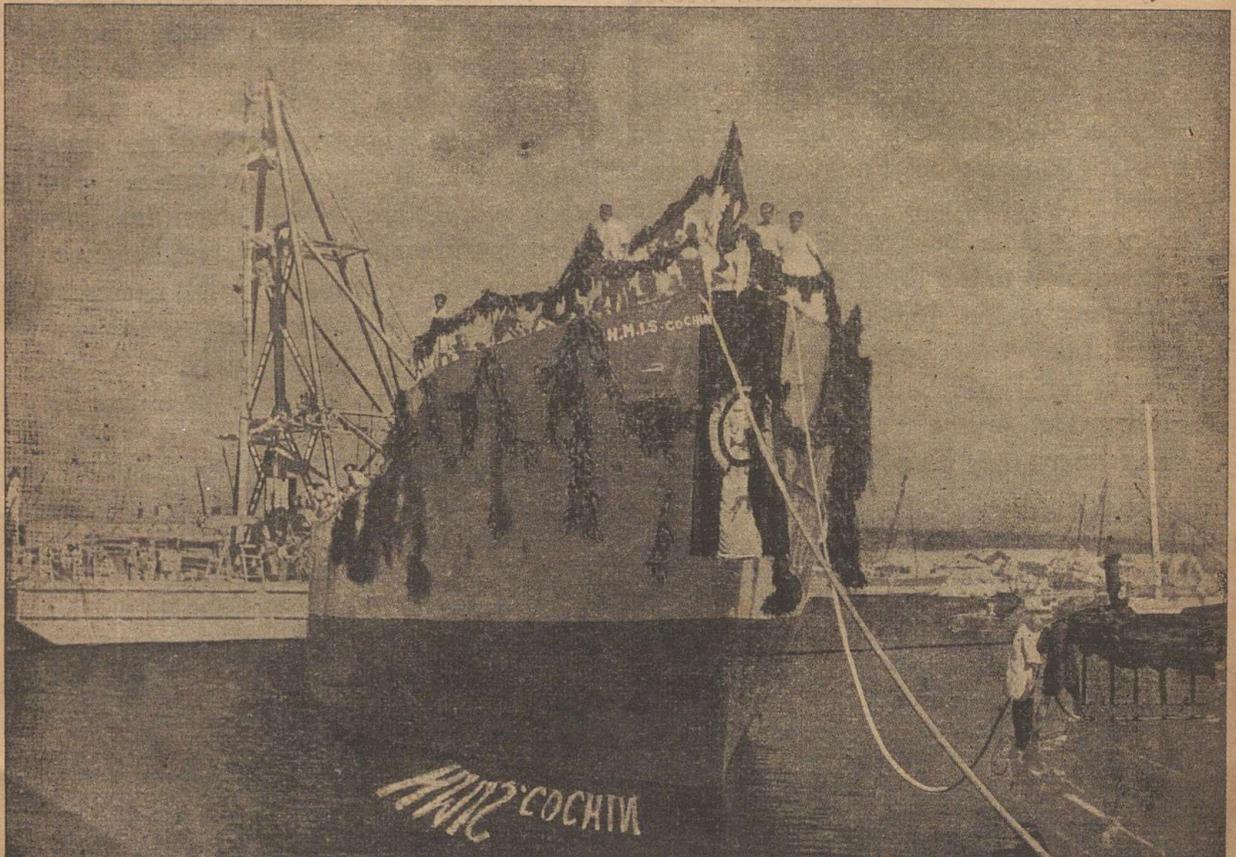
Government hold the view that expenditure for productive schemes should always have preference. Only when financial position allows should money be spent on road schemes. Of the 6 items of works referred to in paragraph 1 (ii) above, items (a), (c), (d) and (e) have been sanctioned and orders separately issued. In addition to these, the works recommended by the Road Board and the widening and improvement of the Hill Palace road are now sanctioned. All other works are to be taken up only when finances allow. The Chief Engineer is requested to make all necessary arrangements to proceed with the sanctioned works immediately. Orders regarding the appointment of a Special Staff for land acquisition are being issued separately.

H. M. I. S. COCHIN

The seven lakhs worth "H. M. I. S. Cochin" was the State's specific contribution to the war efforts of the State. The idea of Cochin, with her naval and maritime traditions and her dependence on the magnificent Cochin Harbour, the Queen of the Arabian Seas, contributing a warship to the Royal Indian Navy caught the imagination of the people of the State. The sum of seven lakhs of rupees required for its construction was made up of Rs. 3,60,000 collected by public subscription within the State and Rs. 3,40,000 contributed from the State Funds.

On the occasion of the launching of the ship at Bombay His Highness the late Maharaja issued the following message to the Press ".....The launching of H. M. I. S. Cochin will be a land mark in the history of our maritime State. Cochin and Cochinites are bound to play their rightful part in the expansion of the Indian Navy in times of war as well as in times of peace.."

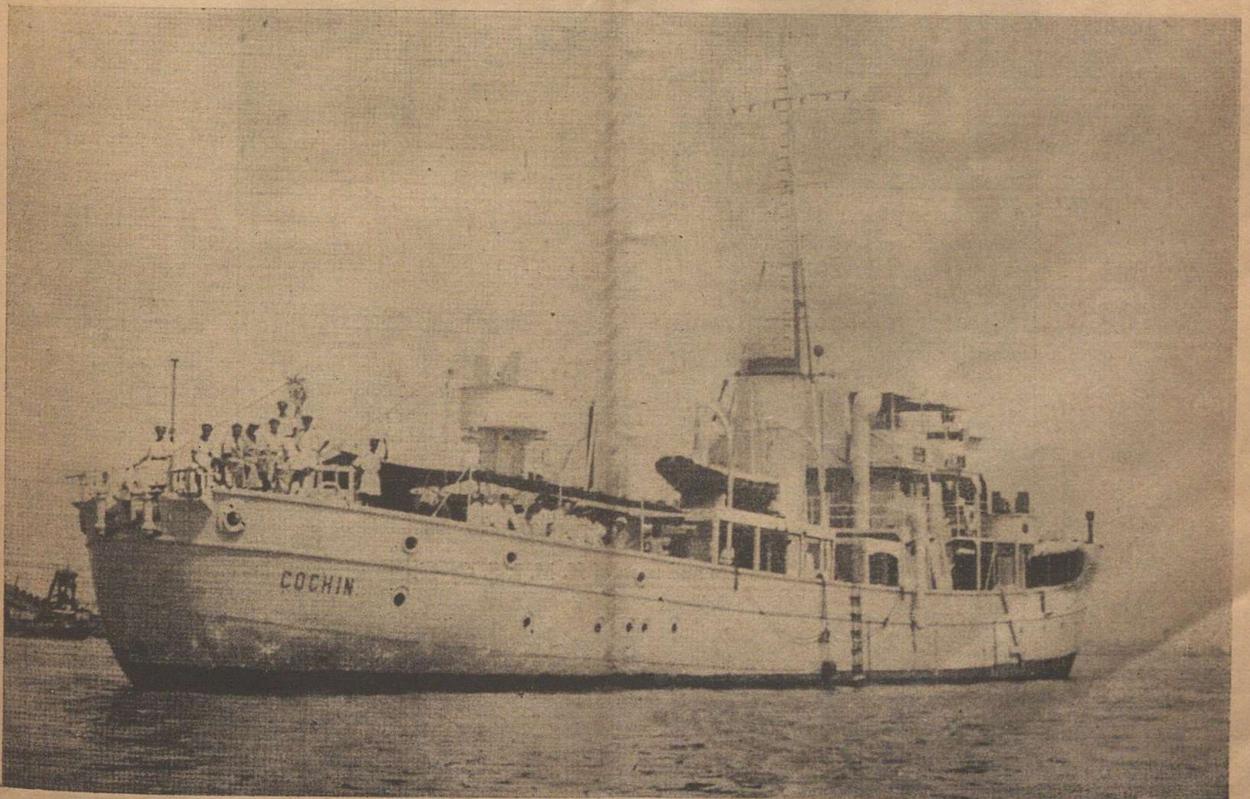
As representative of the late Ruler, the launching ceremony was performed by His Highness Ravi Varma, Second Prince.



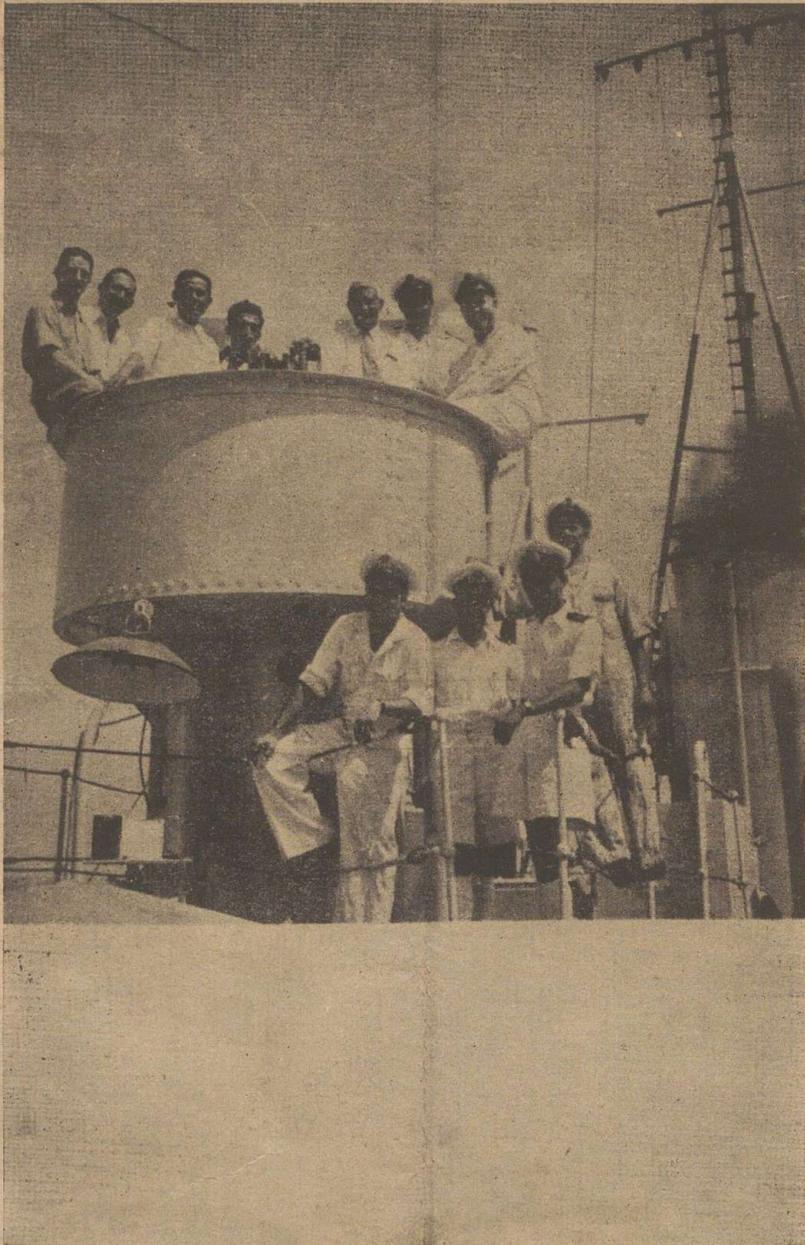
H. M. I. S. Cochin immediately after its launching in December 1943



H. H. Ravi Varma, Second Prince of Cochin, launching H. M. I. S. Cochin by breaking a cocoanut on its bow



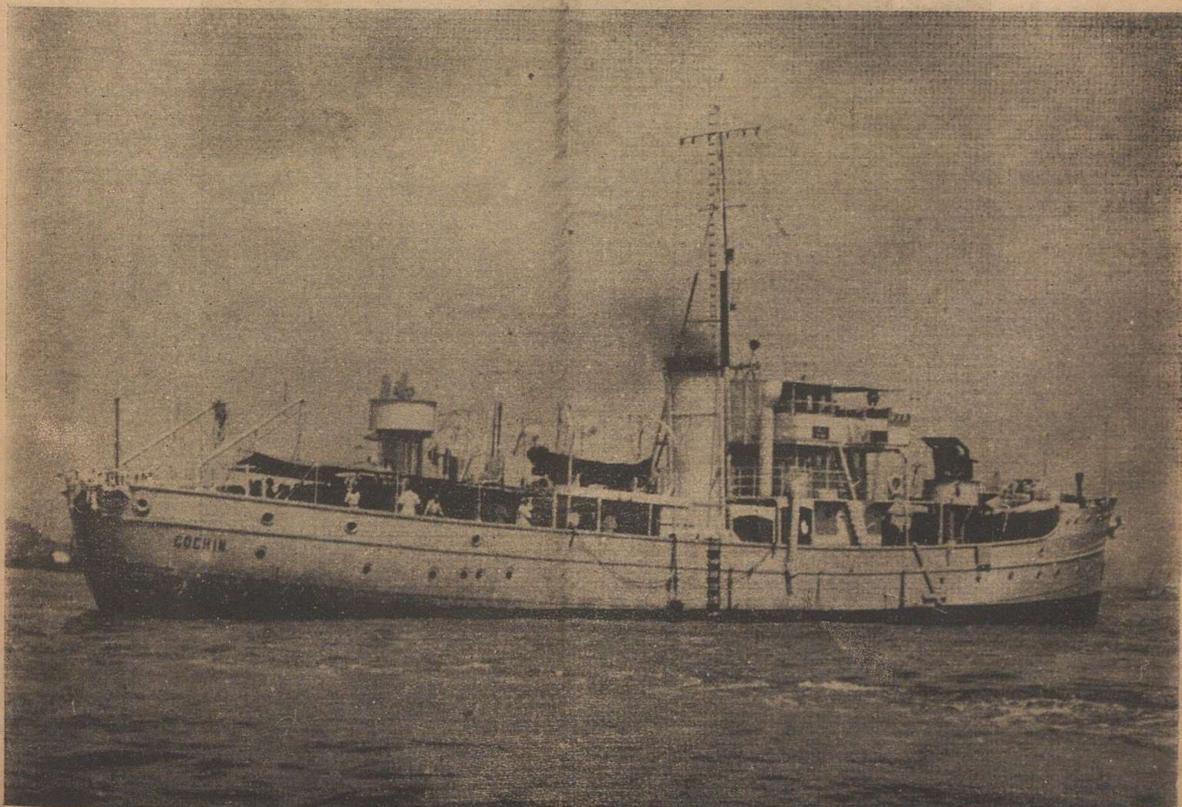
H. M. I. S. Cochin on active service—as she is now



Some Officers and men of H. M. I. S. Cochin



Some Ratings on board the ship





Deck view of H. M. J. S. Cochin

SCHEME OF LAND-GRANTS TO WAR SERVICEMEN

The idea of this scheme is that every war-serviceman combatant or non-combatant, should first be given a house-site to construct a house to live in. This will apply to every war-serviceman who has no house of his own in his individual right *i. e.* exclusively owned by himself. This will not however apply to men who have voluntarily relinquished service. When there are applications for the same plot of land from different individuals, a man with longer service will be preferred to one with shorter service, and a combatant will be preferred to a non-combatant. The extent of the land to be given will be 10 cents in backwater and sea-board villages and 25 cents in other villages. In limiting the extent to 10 cents and 25 cents regard is had to the fact that the number of persons who have gone out for service is so large and the land that is available and that may become available, as accretions from the sea in the near future, is so limited in extent that it will not be possible to make the concession available to the largest possible number unless the extent is limited. The extent proposed will be sufficient for a house and a small compound to be fenced in for a yard and a small vegetable garden all round. The Diwan Peishkar will be given the power to assign plots to the extents indicated above but cases in which larger extents have to be granted, the sanction of the Government should be taken. No assessment is to be charged for the first 4 years, half the

assessment will be charged for the next 4 years and the full Pandaravaka verumpattom assessment at the prevailing rates in the locality will be charged thereafter. Lands so granted shall not be alienable by sale, mortgage or lease, during a period of 30 years or during the life-time of the grantee, his widow until remarriage or the minority of his last child, whichever period expires last. The word child shall not include his grand-child but in hard and exceptional cases where grand-children alone exist even during the period of 30 years, they will be favourably considered by the Government. Violation of the conditions against alienation will entail forfeiture of the grant and resumption by the Government. The patta to be issued by the Government in such cases shall be in Form No. 19., Appendix III of the Land Revenue Manual with the necessary modifications to be made in accordance with this Scheme. In cases where there are standing trees on the plot chosen for assignment, no tree value will be realised if the value assessed is Rs. 25 and below. No person who is not a bonafide Cochinite will be eligible for this concession. If a soldier (who has not relinquished his service) is dead, his widow, if not remarried, and his children will be entitled to this concession.

2. To enable him to construct the house, a free grant of a maximum quantity of 5 candies of timber and a maximum amount of Rs. 50 will be given with

specific conditions attached to ensure their use for the construction of the house, such as payment of the money grant by instalments as the work progresses, taking the plots of 10 cents and 25 cents as security for non-utilisation of the timber and the money grant, making sale of gift of such timber penal and its possession by an alienee possession of stolen property if so deemed necessary or the money may be given from the Soldiers' Fund made up of the monthly contribution of the Rs. 2 per soldier.

3. Government have separate schemes for giving employment to Ex-service personnel provided they are found qualified and suitable for such employment, either under Government Departments or private agencies. To those who cannot be so employed land on a sliding scale to the extent mentioned below will be given, if the grantee under-take to cultivate the land themselves. The word "grantee" here includes also members of his family. The restrictions and conditions mentioned in paragraph 1 above in regard to grants of house sites will be applicable to grants of these lands also, with any modification that may be deemed necessary to be made in respect of these. In granting these lands preference will be given to genuine agriculturists, and if after such men are all satisfied, non-agriculturists or men who are simply to be landholders cultivating the land through others, may be given the excess available land. If in the case of grants to agriculturists, or would-

be agriculturists, the grantee does not bring the land under cultivation within a period of 3 years, his land would be liable to be resumed. This condition will be added in the patta to be granted, in addition to the clause 3 relating to resumption in case of alienation. Sliding scale of extent will be

	Wet land	Dry land
Minimum—	2	3
Maximum—	5	10

In the case of non-combatants, half the above extents will be fixed. The minimum service required to qualify one for the above concession will be 6 months except in the case of the dead or wounded or otherwise incapacitated while in active service, or as a result of sickness or wounds received while in active service.

(On the above scheme prepared by the Diwan Peishkar Government have passed the following orders.—In view of the large number of applications that have been and are being received from Military employees for free grant of land the Diwan Peishkar was asked to formulate and submit a suitable scheme. The Diwan Peishkar has accordingly submitted a scheme the gist of which is given above. All poromboke lands available for assignment for ex-servicemen are now under the Food Production cultivation. On account of the serious food situation in the country the period of the present lease of lands under the food production scheme has also been extended for a further period of one year from the end of Meenom 1121 as per the Government Proceedings dated 28th March 1946. Until these lands are released from the lease it will not be possible to give effect to this scheme of land-grant to ex-servicemen. In the circumstances the draft scheme proposed by the Diwan Peishkar is only tentatively approved. It will be implemented after the leases under the present Food Production Scheme expire.

CRANGANUR FESTIVAL



The annnal Thalapoli Festival in the Bhagavathi Temple, Cranganur—Elephant Procession

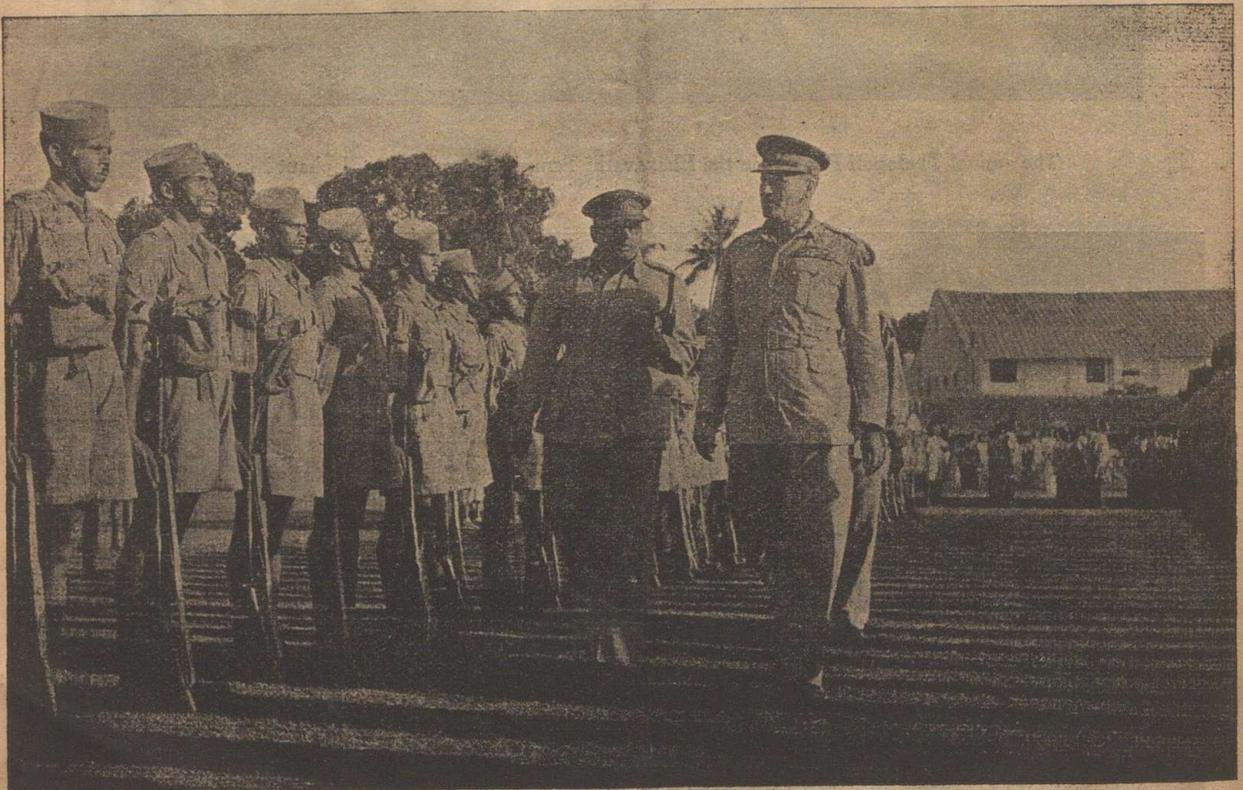


Elephant Procession in Cranganur—a more impressive view

RETURN OF THE COCHIN STATE FORCES

“AS you know, you were sent out from our State on foreign service, for the defence of our Motherland, at a very critical stage of the last World War. We have been extremely gratified to learn from the messages received from time to time from the British Military Authorities that you were discharging your duties with conscientious diligence, just as you had been directed to do when you were leaving this State. We are greatly pleased to see that you have returned to your Motherland hail and hearty, keeping up the fame and prestige of our State”.

The above message in Malayalam sent by H. H. The Maharaja of Cochin to the Garrison Company of the Cochin State Forces was read at a parade of the Cochin State Forces held at Ramavarmapuram by His Highness the Elaya Raja of Cochin as the representative of the Maharaja, His Highness the Elaya Raja offered his personal felicitations to the Company and spoke in appreciative terms of the services rendered by the Forces in and outside the State. His Highness hoped that the men would discharge their peace-time responsibilities with the same sense of loyalty, courage and discipline that they



H. E. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, inspecting the Cochin State Forces



Garrison Company of the Cochin State Forces that went out for service under the Crown during the war period



H. H. The Elaya Raja reviewing the State Forces



H. H. The Elaya Raja speaking to the officers of the Garrison Company

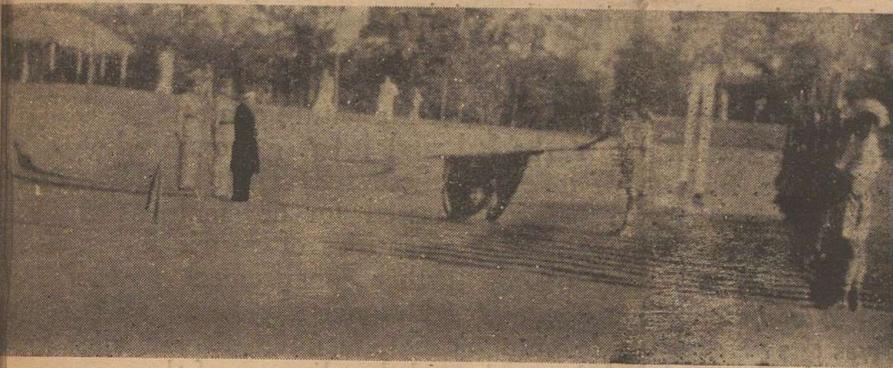
displayed while fighting for the freedom of their motherland. Brigadier Subbia, the new Commandant of the State Forces, thanked His Highness on behalf of the Forces. A distinguished gathering witnessed the March Past of the Force.

It may be mentioned here that the old Cochin Nayar Brigade was converted into

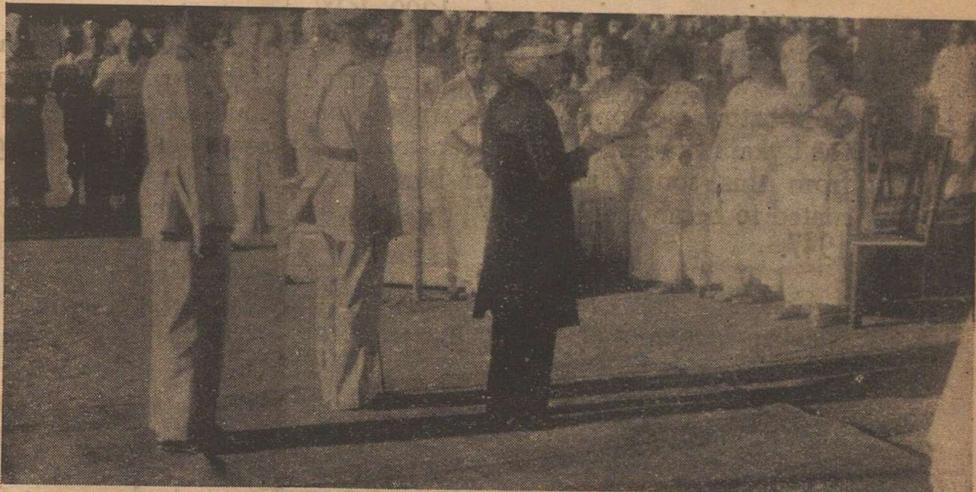
the State Forces four years back and was affiliated to the Indian State Forces. Within a short time of the formation of the Forces the members were given intensive training in the modern methods of warfare at the Headquarters at Ramavarmapuram, under the direct supervision and control of Col. R. M. Bruce

and a Garrison Company was sent out for war service under the Crown. The discipline and efficiency maintained and the traditions built up by Col. Bruce are being continued by the present Com-

mandant, Brigadier Subbia, assisted by Major V. K. S. Menon, Honorary A. D. C. to the Maharaja, and a band of young and enthusiastic Lieutenants.



Garrison Company saluting
H. H. The Elaya Raja



H. H. The Elaya Raja reading
the message of
H. H. The Maharaja



H. H. The Elaya Raja reading
the message of
H. H. The Maharaja
(another view)

EXISTING AND PLANNED POWER RESOURCES OF COCHIN STATE

THE existing sources of electric power available for utilisation for industrial and civic purposes in the State are the Travancore Pallivasal Hydro Electric Station, the State's Thermal Station at Trichur and the Pykara Hydro Electric Station of the Madras Government. The energy contracted for from the Pallivasal Station is 3500 KW supplied at 11000 Volts. A. C. and it serves the Southern area comprising the towns of Ernakulam and Mattancheri and the neighbouring places including the Port of Cochin. The central area dominated by Trichur derives its energy mainly from the Municipal Thermal Station at Trichur which is capable of generating a maximum of 1200 KW. The eastern area comprising the Chittur Taluk which is about 30 miles from Coimbatore is supplied with current from the Pykara Station, the power available from this source at Chittur being estimated to be about 500 KW by January 1947.

Cochin, however, has a Hydro Electric Scheme of her own *viz.* the Poringalkuthu scheme which has been engaging the attention of Government for a long time past. The scheme has been fully investigated and the Government have decided to expedite its execution. As may be expected this would, when completed, form the primary source of electric power for the State, supplemented as it may be, by the existing sources mentioned above.

The Hydro Electric Project at Poringalkuthu envisages the harnessing of the waters of the Chalakkudi River which is a perennial stream, taking its source from Sholayar on the Annamallais and running westwards across the heart of the State. On its way down the valleys the river discharges over the heads of two

natural falls. The bigger of the two is at Poringalkuthu. It has an effective head of 580 ft. and is one of the steepest in India. Its catchment area is 370 sq. miles; the minimum run off expected is 30,000 M. C. ft., and the maximum flood estimated is 75,000 cusecs. The other fall which is of the nature of a cascade is at Vazhachal and it has a gross head of 187 ft. Both these falls lend themselves to being harnessed for development of considerable quantities of electric power, capable of further enhancement by the provision of additional storages. There are communication facilities to the sites of the works and the distance of the proposed Hydro Electric Station from important consuming centres is probably the shortest in India. Chalakkudi which is a town fast growing in importance because of its timber and ceramic factories, soap works and other industries, is only 27 miles distant; Trichur and Pudukad which are highly developed industrially are situated within 40 miles and 32 miles respectively; Ernakulam, the capital of the State, the Cochin Harbour, the commercial town of Mattancheri and British Cochin are all within 50 to 60 miles from the Station. In fact no place in the State would be more than about 65 miles distant from this source of power. These natural advantages for power development and power distribution are rarely to be found in other parts of India.

It is estimated that the two stages of the works at Poringalkuthu would develop a maximum of 20,000 KW continuous, and those at Vazhachal a maximum of 6500 KW continuous. It is also envisaged that by providing additional storages for which ample scope is forecast by investigations conducted at site, the ultimate potentiality of the Hydro electric project would be of the order of 88,000 KW. Experts who have examined the

project are favourably impressed by its possibilities and Government have therefore taken it up in hand for immediate execution.

The first stage of the works at Poringalkuthu which envisages an installed capacity of 12,000 KW has therefore been started. The State has laid all distribution lines in the consuming centres of Ernakulam and Trichur and constructed 66 KV transmission lines from Alwaye to Trichur which form part of the scheme. An impounding reservoir of about 700 m.c. ft. of water above the Poringalkuthu

falls is now to be constructed and the water led through a tunnel of 4500 ft. long to the head of the fall. Steps have been taken to secure the required machinery. It is expected that the whole of the first stage works will be completed by July, 1950.

The rates which are charged in the State conforms generally to the hydro electric rates of the Madras Presidency.

Industrialists who are interested in starting new factories in the State are welcome and they are assured of all help from the authorities.

NOTES

Food Production.—Under the Food Production scheme lands belonging to the Government have been assigned to private individuals for cultivation. As the food situation has not reached a satisfactory stage Government have now granted an extension of the term of the lease by a further period of one year. Lands surrendered by the parties will be given to others who are willing to cultivate. In such cases preference will be given by the Government to Ex-Servicemen who are willing to cultivate them.

Government Fruit and Vegetable Farm in the Nelliampathies.—To augment food supply a fruit and vegetable farm on an extensive scale was started in the latter half of 1119 M. E. on the Nelliampathies under direct Government management. About 600 acres of forest lands were cleared by 1120, out of which 150 acres had been planted with orange and other fruit plants. On an area covering about 75 acres potato cultivation was tried. The remaining portion has not been brought

under cultivation. For the Farm, Government have invested nearly three and a half lakhs of rupees. The expected success has not attended the operations in the Farm due mainly to unsatisfactory management. With a view to make the operations a success, to prevent loss to the Government, to augment the food resources and to make the Farm a success Government have now appointed an experienced Planter who will, for all practical purposes have the benefit, privileges and responsibilities of a Government servant.

Educational concessions.—The following educational concessions have been granted by the Government to Anglo-Indian pupils of this State.—(1) All concessions granted to Backward class pupils. (2) One merit scholarship for the best Anglo-Indian student in the College classes (3) One merit scholarship for boys and one for girls in the Upper Secondary Department. (4) One merit scholarship for boys and one for girls in the Lower Secondary Department.



Government Fruit and Vegetable Farm in the Nelliampathies

Subsidised sale of manure.—Grave shortage of food is threatening the country. It can be mitigated to a certain extent by intensive cultivation of food crops. By more application of manure the yield can be increased. With a view to enable the agriculturists to produce more food Government have increased the subsidy of fifty per cent already granted for a period of six months to seventy-five per cent of the selling price of manure till 8th September 1946. The only condition laid down by the Government is that the manure so purchased from the Government controlled depots should be applied only to paddy, cereals, pulses and quick growing vegetables and not to arecanut, cocoanut and other non-food crops. The agriculturists are exhorted to take full advantage of the generous concession and produce the maximum food crop as quickly as possible.

Agricultural concessions to Ex-servicemen.—It has been decided to give to Ex-

servicemen seeds and seedlings at a subsidised rate equal to 75 per cent of the cost price, and implements at 87½ per cent of the cost price. The Agricultural Department of the State has been directed to distribute the available stock at these concession rates.

Grow more vegetables.—To encourage the cultivation of vegetables the growers have been given some concessions. As an additional incentive special vegetable manure will be given free of cost to the extent of 25 pounds to each individual grower for each of the three seasons—*Varsha pallam*, *Kanni pallam* and *Venal pallam*.

Subsidy to the extent of Rs. 25 per acre will be paid for putting up new fencing and also a subsidy not exceeding Rs. 25 for well will be paid for deepening it, provided it serves half an acre of cultivated vegetables.

Industrial Labour.—Government have appointed a Committee to enquire into the conditions of industrial labour in the State and to recommend such further measures, legislative or executive, as may be necessary, to secure for the employees of the industrial concerns suitable conditions of living and occupation. The Committee of which Mr. B. V. K. Menon, Secretary to Government, is the Chairman has been directed to enquire into and report upon the following matters: 1. The present conditions of industrial labour in respect of wages, leave, working hours and all other conditions of employment. 2. The extent to which the Managers of Industrial establishments concern themselves with the provisions of suitable living conditions for their employees and the provision at the work spot of such amenities as sanitation, drinking water, canteen, ventilation, etc. 3. The extent to which labour is given any share in the direction, management, or profits of business. 4. The manner in which trade unions are at present organised and whether their organisation is susceptible of improvement. 5. Whether the machinery for the settlement of labour disputes needs any improvement. 6. Other cognate matters which in the opinion of the Committee should be brought to the notice of the Government. Government have directed the Labour Commissioner to contact industrial establishments to help in the formation of Conciliation Boards. The decision to form such boards was arrived at a conference of the representatives of employers and employees presided over by the Minister for Development.

Technical Education for Students of Arts Colleges.—

With a view to counter-balancing to some extent the purely literary bias created in students by the present day system of education, it has been decided to start in the Technological Institute shortly to be opened at Trichur a scheme for imparting technical education to college students. The idea

is to give to college students technical training of a general nature, *i.e.*, to refresh them in the matter of the use of their hands, as well as to familiarise them with the use of modern implements, tools and machines. This scheme will for the present be tried in the Technological Institute for the benefit of the students of the Trichur College, and its extension to the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam will be considered at a later stage. The maximum number of boys who will be trained at a time will be 40. Students of the first year university class who take up the first group for the intermediate class will alone be eligible for admission. Both practical and theoretical tuition will be given to the students.

Enhancement of dearness allowance.—

On a further review of the existing scheme of Dearness and War allowances, Government have decided that the present rates admissible to Government servants should be increased consequent on the further rise in the cost of living. The following revised rates are sanctioned:—1. Government servants drawing a pay less than Rs. 40—dearness allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem (*ii*) Those drawing Rs. 40 and up to and including Rs. 1,000—dearness allowance of Rs. 22-8-0 per mensem or 20 per cent of the pay whichever is greater. The allowance is also admissible to (*i*) officers employed in Personal Deposit institutions, the cost being debited to the funds concerned (*ii*) to teachers in aided schools on the existing conditions and (*iii*) to part-time employees, subject to the maximum of their normal monthly allowances. The revised rates will take effect from the pay drawn on 1st Mithunam 1121. Hereafter there will be no allowance called "War allowance" as distinguished from Dearness allowance. Both these allowances will be called Dearness Allowance. The allowance will be reduced or withdrawn when prices drop substantially.

Grow more Vegetables.—“In no part of India, has the food situation been so acute since the loss of Burma and Siam as in Travancore and Cochin and naturally these two States, which have all along acted as one unit in meeting the food crisis were the earliest to devise measures not only for controlling prices but also for procurement and regulation of movement of food grains grown within the State and for State-wide rationing”, said Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer in a recent Broadcast from All India Radio. The various measures adopted and the various schemes that were put into operation in this State to meet the food situation ever since the cessation of imports of rice from Burma have already appeared in the columns for *Cochin Information*. A Grow More Vegetables Campaign has now been inaugurated.

“Self-help should always come first. So, only when we put forward our maximum effort towards growing as much food as our State can produce, we will be justified in asking for more help from outside. So, let us all work with a united will to Grow More Food”. This message was issued by His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin on the eve of the inauguration of Grow More Vegetable Campaign.

With a view to induce every vegetable grower to produce more vegetables the following concessions were announced in the beginning of the campaign:

(a) Free supply of special vegetable manure to the extent of 25 pounds (Further quantities will be supplied at 50 per cent of the cost price).

(b) Subsidy to the extent of rupees twenty-five per acre for putting up new fencing and deepening wells.

(c) Free supply of seeds and seedlings during appropriate seasons.

(d) Payment of special subsidies to private growers for raising seedlings, etc.

To encourage and enable the agriculturists to apply more manure and to increase the yield the subsidy of 50 per cent of selling price of manure was raised to 75 per cent. It was stipulated that this manure should be applied only to paddy, cereals, pulses and quick growing vegetables and not to arecanut, coconut and other non-food crops.

The concessions regarding the supply of manure to vegetable cultivators were recently modified and the following additional concessions were granted:

(a) Special vegetable manure to be given free of cost to the extent of 25 pounds to each individual grower and for each of the three seasons, *viz.*, *Varsha pallam*, *Kanni pallam* and *Venal.pallam*.

(b) Subsidy to the extent of Rs. 25 per acre for putting up new fencing and also subsidy not exceeding Rs. 25 per well for deepening it, provided it could actually serve half an acre of cultivated vegetables.

GALLANT COCHINITES

Major C. P. A. Menon.—One night in January last the Indonesian Army shelled the position of the First Battalion of the Madras Regiment for the whole night, inflicting casualties. Early next morning Major C. P. A. Menon's company succeeded in routing the enemy, some of whom took shelter in a house. The house was surrounded by Major Menon's Company, who killed about 25 of the enemy and took the remaining five prisoners. This patrol was also responsible for killing 18 more of the enemy and capturing two 81 m. m. mortars. All were entirely due to Major Menon's leadership. On the day previous to this also Major Menon took out a jeep to tackle enemy snipers and brought back some of the snipers, thus setting a great example to his men.

Major Menon was decorated with the Military Cross by His Excellency Lieut.-General Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras at a parade held at the Island Grounds, Madras. The whole Battalion, about 600 strong, took part in the parade. Lieut. Col. A. C. Scott, Officer Commanding the Battalion, presented Major C.P.A. Menon, recipient of the Military Cross, to H. E. the Governor, and read the citation which stated that Major Menon had won the Military Cross in Sourabaya (Java) early in February this year, when the Company was fighting the Indonesian Army. After the reading of the citation Major Menon stepped forward and saluted His Excellency who decorated him with the M. C. amidst cheers.



Major C. P. A. Menon



H. E.—Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras, presenting the Military Cross to Major C. P. A. Menon at a parade on the Island Grounds, Madras

Major C.P.A. Menon is a Cochinite, son of Mr. V. Kumara Menon, retired District Munsiff of Cochin. He was a student of the Maharaja's College, Ernakulam.

Captain Sundaram Pillai.—The name of Captain Sundaram Pillai M.B., B.S., (I.M.S.) (son of the late C. K. Narayanaswami Pillai, Inspector of Cochin State Police) who was a prisoner of war in Burma for nearly four years has

been "Mentioned in Despatches". The Director General of the Indian Medical Service wrote to him stating that "that your conduct during the long years of captivity has merited this recognition from His Majesty is an indication of the magnificent spirit in which you have helped the traditions of the Service."

Major Mohammed Padiath Ali.—His Majesty the King has been pleased to



Major Muhammad P. Ali

approve the award of the M.B.E. (Military Division, to Captain (Temporary Major) Mohammed Padiath Ali I.M.S./ I.A.M.C. (22nd Indian Field Hygiene Section) of Saleem Manzil, Trichur, for gallant and distinguished services in the field in Burma. The citation in respect of the award states that during the rapidly moving campaign of the period (in Burma) the work of the unit commanded by this officer has been of a very high order. Every detachment of the unit has worked untiringly to ensure a fine standard of sanitation reflected in the admirable state of health enjoyed by the Division". The citation adds that this unspectacular and unending work has been carried on with enthusiasm and cheerfulness was due in great measure to the respected and efficient leadership and training of Major Ali under whose command for nearly two years the Unit attained a high standard of excellence. When communicating the information of the award of the M.B.E. to Major Ali's relations, the Diwan has conveyed to them the congratulations of His Highness

the Maharaja, H. E. The Commander-in-Chief and his own felicitations. His Highness is particularly glad that one of His Highness' subjects has rendered such distinguished service as to earn this award. Major Ali is the permanent Medical Officer for Epidemics in the State's Public Health Department.

Jamadar Konikara Ouseph Davis.—

The award of the Military Cross to Jamadar Konikara Ouseph Davis (Corps to Indian Engineers) of East Fort, Trichur, has been graciously approved by His Majesty the King, in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in Italy. The citation in respect of the award to Jemadar Davis states that it has been granted for outstanding example and devotion to duty as Platoon Commander in Appenine foothills in Italy. At all times he has shown superlative qualities of leadership and



Jamadar Konikara Ouseph Davis

determination despite extremely adverse weather conditions and enemy shelling. The citation adds that in January 1945, his platoon was engaged in the construction of a jeep track near Pideura in full view of the enemy and that while the work was being carried on in the night under intermittent shelling Jamadar Davis show-

ed complete disregard for his own safety and controlled and encouraged his working party to greater effort despite the casualties they suffered. He also carried out numerous reconnoissances under fire. The citation concludes with the statement that Jemadar Davis set a very fine example to devotion to duty.



Captain Sundaram Pillai (3rd from the left, sitting)

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.

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