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A Canal Scene

“COCHIN”

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ERNAKULAM.**



H. H. THE MAHARAJA'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

HIS HIGHNESS' CALL FOR UNITED KERALA

“FOR my part, therefore, and speaking for my State, I am prepared, indeed I earnestly desire, to combine with Malabar and Travancore in order to form the Province of Kerala. This does not mean that the functions of my family are abdicated; but necessarily they have to be modified to suit new circumstances. I believe in pure constitutional rule and throughout my life I have sedulously cultivated an attitude towards life and institutions which is antipathetic to autocracy and personal rule. Constitutional rule has been the guiding principle of my Family and more especially so of my immediate predecessor, and in return we have had and I am having the loyalty and love of my subjects in an unstinted measure,” observed His Highness in the Message sent to the Legislative Council on the 29th of July. The full text of the Message is given below.—

“The events of the past few months have brought grave issues to the forefront of Indian Politics. The Statements of the Cabinet Delegation and the Viceroy have raised hopes as well as misgivings in the people of this country and more especially so in the Subjects of Indian States. Important constitutional changes are envisaged by those Statements and it is but natural that my Subjects and the Wider Public of India should feel anxious to know my attitude towards these imminent reforms.

I have given deep consideration to these matters and have studied carefully the points of view put forward by various leaders of British India and the States.

It is a consolation to know that the integrity of India is not to be broken up and that in framing the future Constitution of India we can proceed on that basis. Personally I have always felt—and nothing that I have read these days has changed my view—that the States are an integral part of India and should therefore act in unison with the British Indian Provinces and for the benefit of the Whole. For if India becomes great, every part of it becomes great and the States too derive the benefit and the glory.

It would seem that the Scheme of linguistic provinces will be carried out. I am in full agreement with this principle. There is in India no more precise cultural and linguistic unit than Kerala. The people of Kerala are considerably agitated over the question of redistribution of Provinces. Unless a way is found to establish a united Kerala the neighbouring district of Malabar will find itself attached to a Province where culturally it may have to remain a minority. It is good neither for the Province nor for Malabar that it should be so. I have said before that if India becomes great, every part of it becomes great. It is equally true that if every part becomes cohesive and strong, it adds to the strength and greatness of India as a whole.

In this context of fateful events and impending changes it has fallen to my lot to direct the destinies of my State. I cannot do it dutifully unless I were to bear in mind the relation of my State and my Subjects to the rest of Kerala. My Subjects are connected in so many



H. H. The Maharaja of Cochin

intimate ways with the people of Malabar that it is no exaggeration to say that they are as perturbed by the changes foreshadowed above as the latter.

Studying the problem in this setting I have arrived at the definite conclusion that Kerala must unite and be one if it were to save itself from cultural extinction. If we remain as we are our voice in the future Union Government of India will never be heard. It will only be a faint and ineffective murmur. For its own sake and for the good of the Country as a whole Kerala must unite and function as a separate and cohesive unit in the greater Federation of India. In order to achieve this, Malabar, Cochin and Travancore will have to join together and devise ways and means to frame a scheme of Government for the whole of Kerala without destroying the connection of the people to the ancient Ruling Houses. It appears to me this is not difficult if we have the will and the heart to save the culture and integrity of Kerala which was, at one time, being ruled by the common forbear of the ancient Ruling Families, the Cheraman Perumal. Tradition says that the last Perumal in order to avoid internecine strife, divided his territory into three and enjoined the Zamorin and the Cochin and the Travancore Rulers to administer their respective territories without electing a Perumal. If this is true, History cannot provide a more disastrous example of an ill-advised injunction to subordinate Rulers by a Paramount Power. It was the beginning of our troubles. For the thousand years thereafter we have reaped a harvest of misery and quarrels and nothing but that. Is it not time for us to redeem our ancient land from the parlous state into which it has sunk ever since the abolition of the institution of Perumalship? Here is a golden opportunity for us. Another Paramount Power is relinquishing power with the sage advice to unite and be strong. We have, I hope, learned wisdom

from our past miseries. We can still get inspiration from our historic past if we care to seek it there. With suitable modifications to fit modern political conceptions the institution of 'The Perumal' can be revived and a link with the proud historic past forged. The idea thrills me as it should every Malayalee. There were in those days many an institution in the polity of Malabar worthy of copying today because of the democratic principles on which they were based.

For my part, therefore, and speaking for my State, I am prepared, indeed I earnestly desire, to combine with Malabar and Travancore in order to form the Province of Kerala. This does not mean that the functions of my Family are abdicated; but necessarily they have to be modified to suit new circumstances. I believe in pure Constitutional Rule and throughout my life I have sedulously cultivated an attitude towards life and institutions which is antipathetic to autocracy and personal rule. Constitutional Rule has been the guiding principle of my Family and more especially so of my immediate predecessor, and in turn we have had and I am having the loyalty and love of my Subjects in an unstinted measure. I am sure in future too this traditional attachment of my Subjects to my Family will never wane.

With these ideas in view and in order to ascertain how far my desire to bring into existence a Kerala Province will be shared or supported by the people of Malabar and the Progressive Ruler of Travancore I have asked my Diwan to initiate discussions with the Government of Madras and with the Travancore Durbar. These talks and discussions obviously will have to precede the meeting of the final Constituent Assembly.

The only other point remaining to be considered is about the Constituent Assembly and the representation of Cochin in it. It has not been settled yet how

many representatives Cochin could send to this Assembly. However to set at rest all doubts about the method of representation I am glad to announce that, after mature consideration, I have decided to allow the people to elect their representative or representatives. This election will be by the Council; but, as in the case of British Indian Provinces, the candidates may be chosen from anywhere and they need not be members of the Council. I hope the members will not allow petty motives and party squabbles to influence them in the selection of our representative or representatives. I have been watching the party politics of the State with great disappointment. The bewildering changes of party label by members of the Council show a lack of political education and laxity of principles, which augur ill for the future. Let me hope it is a passing phase. I am entrusting a grave responsibility to you in the firm belief that in your hands the prestige of my Family will be safe and that you will not do anything which will undermine the ultimate Constitutional Headship of my Dynasty. There need not be any conflict between a Constitutional Ruler and his subjects. There is a lot which you and I can learn from the English. You may hate British Imperialism; but the sober Englishman is a subject worthy of study and his lack of political fads and

fancies is worthy of copying if we want to build up strength.

Let me close this statement. I know the anxiety with which many of you have been awaiting it. I believe I have largely expressed sentiments which will find an echo in your hearts. It is not all generations of men who get an opportunity to render service of such magnitude to their country and people. To those of you who are young here is the chance to forget self and work with united effort for the good of Kerala and India. It is something worth striving for and achieving. You have still a future before you and if success attends our efforts, you can honourably and happily live a life whose pattern you will have designed and constructed yourselves. To those of us who are old it is a great satisfaction to know that we are helping to build a future for Kerala and India which will inure to the benefit of posterity and the greatness of our country. For myself I thank God for vouchsafing me the opportunity to serve my people and my country in a manner which I hope will ultimately add to their strength and glory. I don't seek any reward except the fulfilment of the dream which I have been cherishing all these years—the UNIFICATION OF KERALA. That is all. May God bless our efforts."

PROGRESS OF COCHIN

“**I**N this State freedom of speech and freedom of association are complete. That freedom is something to be proud of. But it does entail responsibility. Freedom must not be allowed to degenerate into license. Speakers at public meetings must not fail to treat the persons of those who differ from them

with respect and courtesy and to refrain from personal abuse (political views are of course always open to criticism and attack); and there must be no incitements to violence or law-breaking. Democracy cannot work unless these conditions are observed,” declared Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, in his

Budget speech in the Legislative Council on the 29th July 1946. He said :

“ The year that has passed since last I addressed the House has been marked by a number of events of more than usual significance. Very soon after the close of the last Budget Session came the end of the war against Japan. The transition from war to peace conditions has proved longer and more difficult than had been anticipated. The devastation caused both in Europe and in Asia has made recovery slow throughout the world. Here our difficulties due to short supplies of food and clothing have been increased by a certain degree of unemployment consequent on the discharge of men from war service and the cessation of military works. Prices moreover still remain high, and the cost of living shows no sign of falling.

Constitutional Progress.—Last December the whole State celebrated with enthusiastic affection the 80th birthday of His Highness the late Maharaja. But all too soon after that happy anniversary His Highness breathed his last and was succeeded as ruler by His present Highness, who marked his accession by the issue of a liberal statement announcing the immediate grant of further instalment of responsible Government, the creation of a Second Minister and the transfer to ministerial control of more departments including Municipalities, Medical, Registration, Anchal and Labour. The statement also looked forward to the time—not far distant—when the State might enjoy the benefits of full responsible government, and inaugurated a system of consultation between the Diwan and the Ministers regarding the more important of the affairs of the State. His Highness believes that the time has now come to undertake an examination of the possibility of further advance and to this end he proposes to submit the whole of the Government of Cochin Act



Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin

to examination in order that it may be so further amended as to permit further extension of the sphere of responsible government. A Committee has for the last few months been working out proposals for the widening of the franchise which must be the foundation of any effective development of democratic institutions.

The gracious message from His Highness which I have just had the honour to read demonstrates the close attention with which His Highness has been watching the constitutional discussions which have been taking place between the Cabinet Mission and political leaders in British India, and the keen desire which His Highness feels that this State should be able to play a worthy part in the independent India of the future. The formation of the Constituent Assembly brings to the fore a number of questions upon which it will be necessary for decisions to be taken; and it is His Highness' desire that in formulating opinion upon these questions representatives of the people of the State should share, and he is at present considering how best this desire may be translated into action.

The Council has during the past year passed a resolution asking the Government to set up a committee to ascertain the degree to which corruption is prevalent in the public services. The Government intends to take action on this resolution, and the only reason why it has not already done so is its desire to associate the permanent Chief Justice with this Committee. The Committee will be formed as soon as possible after he returns to the State.

Political freedom.—Before I refer to the Budget for the coming year which is to be the main business of this meeting of the Council there is one matter to which I desire to invite the attention of Hon'ble Members. During the past months there has been what I can only term an unfortunate exacerbation of the temper of political controversy. Speeches at public meetings have been abusive and even violent; and there has been a marked deterioration in the quality of the slogans which are apparently an essential feature of political processions. In this State freedom of speech and freedom of association are complete. That freedom is something to be proud of. But it does

entail responsibility. Freedom must not be allowed to degenerate into license. Speakers at public meetings must not fail to treat the persons of those who differ from them with respect and courtesy and to refrain from personal abuse (political views are of course always open to criticism and attack); and there must be no incitements to violence or law-breaking. Democracy cannot work unless these conditions are observed. I am glad to recognise that the leaders of the Prajamandal Party are alive to this consideration; and the Government has already shown its appreciation of the appeal which they recently made for moderation and restraint. One particular aspect which calls for mention is the abuse and vilification of the Police which has unfortunately become common. I believe that the Police force of this State—and I have had occasion to examine it very closely—is well disciplined and inspired by the highest principles of public service. Most of the abuse directed at it is entirely undeserved. This form of attack is cowardly because those against whom it is directed are prevented by the conditions of their service from defending themselves; and it is calculated to damage the morale and undermine the discipline of the force. Any complaint against a police officer, if made to me, will always receive the closest attention. A public meeting is not the proper place in which to voice these complaints.

Budget Proposals.—The Budget which is to be introduced to-day reflects the economic conditions which I have just described. War-time revenue has begun to contract; but there is as yet no possibility of any material reduction in war-time expenditure. In order to provide employment for as large a number of people as possible the Government has provided for a great expansion of public works. Consider the figures for a moment. The accounts of 1120 closed with a surplus of Rs. 23'80 lakhs, of which we have placed Rs. 15 lakhs to the Revenue Reserve Fund. In the Revised Estimate for the

current year we are providing for Rs. 30 lakhs more revenue and Rs. 37 lakhs more expenditure than were anticipated when the Budget Estimates were prepared a year ago. The increased revenue comes chiefly from the Railway, with smaller contributions by Forests, Income-tax and Excise. The increase in expenditure is spread over a number of departments and provides for such matters as the improvement in the pay of Primary School teachers, increased subsidies offered as an inducement to cultivators to grow more food, especially vegetables, and so forth. For next year we anticipate a revenue lower by Rs. 2 lakhs—in spite of the fact that we have provided for the transfer of Rs. 25 lakhs from the Revenue Reserve Fund to pay for a number of Post-war Development Schemes which we propose to start—and expenditure higher by Rs. 31 lakhs than that of this year. We expect a fall in the revenue contributed by the Railway, by Forests, and from the Excess Profits Tax which has been repealed. The increase in expenditure is mainly under the heads, Public Works, Education, Medical, Panchayats, Interest, Police and Land Revenue, and represents new road works, provision for the construction of a T. B. Sanatorium, further revision of teachers' pay, extension of noon-feeding to more schools, an increased contribution for village improvement, payment of a full year's interest on the loan raised last year, new equipment for the Police and the development of the fishing industry.

The Budget thus provides for an acceleration of the development programme by which it is hoped to improve living conditions in all parts of the State and to provide a higher standard of amenities. But it is clear that with falling revenues it is impossible to continue this development unless new sources of taxation can be tapped. The Budget leaves a gap of Rs. 31·81 lakhs uncovered. Either new taxes must be raised to cover it, or

there must be a corresponding reduction in the expenditure which is planned. Otherwise the credit of the State will suffer. The Government believes that the true interests of the people of the State require that expenditure on these beneficial objects should be maintained and even increased. It has accordingly allowed provision to be made for this expenditure in the confident belief that the House will accept its proposals to introduce a Sales Tax and to revise the rates of Income-tax in such a way as to bring them into closer approximation to those prevailing in British India. We hope to raise about Rs. 4 lakhs by the revision of the rates of Income-tax, and Rs. 29 lakhs by the Sales Tax at one per cent, and so to balance the Budget.

Post-War Schemes.—With the beginning of work on the Poringalkuthu Hydro-Electric Scheme we may really feel that our Post-war Development Works have started. A special Engineer has been appointed for the execution of this work and has joined duty within the last few days. It is our earnest hope that progress on this scheme may be rapid and successful and that the completion of the project may be the prelude to great industrial developments. It had been my hope that the Post-war Planning Committees would have finished their work by this time; but this has not been possible and they still need some time to complete their labours. The Government however have thought it well to anticipate in some measure the report of these Committees and to make such provision in the Budget as will ensure that funds are available for such works as may be given top priority by the Committees. Work is actually being started only on projects regarding the need for which there cannot possibly be more than one opinion, *viz.*, the Hydro-Electric project and the T. B. Sanatorium.

I have made my speech short; for I understand that both Ministers intend

to speak after me, and the Finance Member will as usual explain the details of the Budget later. It only remains for me to commend the financial proposals to the

acceptance of the House as providing a start for those post-war developments to which we have been looking forward for so long.

**(COCHIN BUDGET FOR 1122 (1946-47) AT A GLANCE
ORDINARY RECEIPTS**

Receipts	Budget estimate 1122	Revised estimate 1121	Budget estimate 1121	Accounts 1120
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Land Revenue	12,62,000	12,64,000	12,47,500	12,82,789
II. Agriculture	1,10,800	1,09,800	96,800	} 2,24,871
III. Veterinary	100	300	100	
IV. Village Panchayats	5,400	5,500	4,200		6,137
V. Village Courts	300	200	400	284
VI. Salt	5,25,000	5,27,700	5,83,100	5,72,314
VII. Stamps	6,94,500	7,00,400	6,86,500	7,12,368
VIII. Customs	30,48,000	22,26,100	31,56,200	21,71,414
IX. Abkari and Ganja	58,32,400	57,99,900	54,05,400	45,75,028
X. Matches, Betel-nuts, etc,	16,04,000	22,15,000	22,95,400	12,80,453
XI. Opium	2,68,000	2,05,800	2,63,700	1,82,916
XII. Tobacco	18,84,800	17,86,500	18,34,100	5,05,174
XIII. Forests and Tramway	30,54,700	34,35,600	28,89,100	32,55,092
XIV. Registration	2,85,900	2,85,900	2,89,000	2,81,772
XV. Tribute	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,857
XVI. Interest	5,48,400	3,72,300	2,38,900	2,30,979
XVII. Anchal	3,08,000	3,20,000	3,00,500	3,09,980
XVIII. Law and Justice	58,200	63,100	54,700	64,129
XIX. Jails	11,000	13,000	10,000	11,523
XX. Police	2,71,600	22,000	15,000	22,636
XXI. Marine	100	100	100	..
XXII. Education	5,22,300	5,51,000	5,19,700	5,75,727
XXIII. Medical	38,600	38,600	27,800	31,655
XXIV. Ayurveda	700	700	600	3,495
XXV. Public Health	58,000	73,000	58,000	72,254
XXVI. Stationery and Printing	3,12,200	3,31,700	2,79,300	2,68,871
XXVII. Public Works	2,94,300	5,06,200	4,22,000	5,21,105
XXVIII. Railway	46,41,000	62,69,700	40,19,000	44,65,113
XXIX. Profits from Capital Outlay other than Railway	2,57,700	2,16,600	2,06,800	1,28,406
XXX. Industries and Commerce	10,100	12,000	13,100	11,546
XXXI. Income-Tax	70,50,000	45,00,000	40,00,000	44,84,031
XXXII. Labour .. .. .	..	..	..	..
XXXIII. Publicity .. .. .	..	700	..	..
XXXIV. Miscellaneous	27,42,300	5,93,200	5,00,400	3,98,500
XXXV. Transfer from Sinking Fund .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	357,07,300	324,53,500	294,25,300	266,57,419

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE

Expenditure	Budget estimate 1122	Revised estimate 1121	Budget estimate 1121	Accounts 1120
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Land Revenue	9,08,400	7,26,200	6,58,500	5,67,470
2. Agriculture	5,09,500	6,19,100	3,91,600	} 3,34,391
3. Veterinary	1,09,800	82,500	83,800	
4. Panchayats	9,57,600	8,12,500	8,08,700		4,24,541
5. Village Courts	96,100	80,700	83,900	70,838
6. Co-operative Societies	1,07,800	47,700	45,400	34,244
7. Palace	12,50,000	12,50,000	12,50,000	12,50,000
8. Subsidy	2,00,100	2,00,100	2,00,100	2,00,089
9. Excise	2,40,500	2,40,700	2,58,800	2,24,404
10. Matches, etc.	8,30,200	13,65,400	6,94,400	50,218
11. Stamps	1,06,500	67,500	67,300	66,928
12. Customs	200	200	300	155
13. Forests and Tramway	21,96,000	22,57,400	19,73,300	20,90,759
14. Registration	1,80,100	1,73,400	1,70,300	1,44,062
15. Anchal	2,50,600	2,42,100	2,36,600	1,55,352
16. General Administration	5,32,400	5,88,600	5,01,400	3,63,303
17. Finance and Accounts	1,46,500	1,42,800	1,37,200	1,16,403
18. Law and Justice	5,64,200	5,26,700	4,98,000	4,35,478
19. Jails	1,01,800	96,100	1,03,400	96,811
20. Police	9,53,100	7,20,500	7,51,900	6,64,611
21. Education	51,61,300	40,91,100	38,00,500	28,95,704
22. Religious	40,100	40,100	40,100	40,035
23. Charities	1,01,800	1,05,300	97,600	93,835
24. Medical	17,56,200	11,09,500	11,22,300	9,74,780
25. Ayurveda	3,59,900	3,11,600	2,13,700	1,40,557
26. Public Health	6,70,800	5,02,900	3,17,000	2,34,986
27. Pension and Gratuity	7,54,000	7,24,000	7,10,000	6,93,034
28. Stationery and Printing	4,19,200	4,77,200	4,66,900	3,91,431
29. Military	6,54,200	5,75,500	5,91,800	5,14,742
30. Public Works	59,96,000	44,55,600	40,57,700	36,46,084
31. Interest	8,54,900	5,97,300	8,51,900	5,93,886
32. Scientific, etc., Departments	41,900	41,800	46,100	35,019
33. Industries—Reserved	50,500	1,72,400	1,73,500	34,631
34. Industries—Transferred	2,20,100	1,72,500	1,91,400	1,21,597
35. Railway	35,29,000	35,14,000	27,23,400	35,19,088
36. Uplift of the Depressed Classes	1,62,200	1,24,300	1,17,400	95,337
37. State Conveyances	1,89,300	1,84,900	1,08,100	1,18,205
38. Income-Tax	4,80,100	4,79,900	4,72,300	3,78,253
39. Labour	33,700	19,900	..	..
40. Publicity	48,600	14,100	..	..
41. Miscellaneous	30,62,500	37,95,500	31,31,000	36,65,862
42. Sinking Fund	6,00,000	6,00,000	6,00,000	3,00,000
Total Ordinary Expenditure	354,37,700	323,49,600	287,47,600	257,77,123

“ KERALA IRREDENTA ” , REDEEMED

THE HINDU OF MADRAS writes thus on COCHIN MAHARAJA'S PRONOUNCEMENT:—

The message of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin which he addressed to his subjects on Monday is a momentous one. In it His Highness refers to the great issues now facing the country the future of British India and the States in general and of the subjects of His Highness in particular in the circumstances of today. "It is a consolation, now," he says, "that the integrity of India is not to be broken up and that in framing the constitution of India we can proceed on that basis." Not only is His Highness' concern for the political unity of India great, but, His Highness suggests, it should be the endeavour of every citizen of India so to order his conduct as to ensure the greatness and the welfare of the country as a whole. Holding this view, he says, "the States are an integral part of India and should, therefore, act in unison with British Indian Provinces and for the benefit of the whole." His Highness proceeds to explain why this should be so. "If India becomes great," he says, "every part of it becomes great. The States, too, derive the benefit and the glory."

It is not the case that the Maharaja of Cochin feels that there is no place in the future political set-up of India for autonomous political organisations functioning within their own peculiar sphere of activity integrated with or federated to an Indian National Government. On the contrary, His Highness suggests that each ethnic, linguistic and cultural group should be enabled to develop its own culture and work out its own destinies in its own way unhampered by arbitrary supe-

rior political jurisdictions and suzerainties. His Highness instances the case of his own State and its neighbours. "There is in India," he says, "no more precise cultural and linguistic a unit than Kerala. The people of Kerala are considerably agitated over the question of the redistribution of the Provinces. Unless a way is found to establish a United Kerala, the neighbouring district of Malabar will find itself attached to a Province where, culturally, it may have to remain a minority." "It is good," His Highness proceeds to observe "neither for the Province nor for Malabar that it should be so. I have said before that if India becomes great, every part of it becomes great. It is equally true that if every part becomes cohesive and strong, it adds to the strength and greatness of India as a whole."

His Highness' advocacy of the unification of Kerala implies reconciliation on his part to a degree of self-effacement which it is given only to patriots and statesmen of the highest order to contemplate; and we have no doubt that the people of Kerala will welcome these sentiments with grateful appreciation. Kerala—that sea and mountain-girt parallelogram extending down the West Coast from Kasergode to Comorin—has a cultural history and tradition dating back to thousand five hundred years. Its tradition of political and cultural unity was maintained till as late as the fifteenth century when the greed of Portuguese and the Dutch threw it into the vortex of a prolonged and bitterly fought war for trade in pepper. It is natural now that the people of Kerala should feel it was time that *Kerala irredenta* was redeemed and that they were saved, as His Highness has put it, "from cultural extinction."

ALL ROUND PROGRESS

The Public Health Minister's review in the Cochin Legislative Council

AT the Budget Session of the Cochin Legislative Council Mr. Parambi Lonappen, Minister for Public Health, after referring to the various measures adopted to check epidemics, to improve public health, to extend medical aid and to provide good drinking water to the coastal

areas, mentioned the steps taken to step up food production in the State. He said, "With the termination of war and cessation of hostilities, it was expected that the food situation would naturally improve and that the import of rice from Burma would be resumed. But these hopes have not been realised. Food situation has really worsened. There was failure of crops in different parts of India. Our hopes of getting supplies from other parts of India have become more gloomy. Therefore to make the best of the bad situation, the food production campaign was most vigorously pushed through. Manuring of the Kole crop was undertaken on an extensive scale. An area of 1,400 acres of kole lands was manured with groundnut cake, bone meal and ammonium sulphate. A subsidy of 75 per cent in the selling price of manure was also allowed to kole cultivators. The results of this new venture were quite satisfactory. The ryots obtained 20 to 50 paras of extra paddy per acre. Estimated at a modest rate, about 40,000 paras of extra paddy have become available from the kole lands. A subsidy of 75 per cent was allowed in the selling price of manure for paddy and other food crops also for a period of six months from 8th March 1946. The proceeds by sale of manure in 1121 is expected to rise up to Rs. 4,00,000 and this figure would have been considerably augmented had it not been for the shortage of supplies. The Provinces and States from where we were getting down supplies have now banned the export of manures and we have now to depend mainly on the Tata Oil Mills Co., Ltd., Ernakulam, for supply of groundnut cake, the Imperial Government for supplies of ammonium sulphate and the Bone Factory at Trichur for bone



Mr. Parambi Lonappen—Minister for Public Health

meal. The demand has now far outstripped the supplies and the Government have, therefore, addressed the Government of Madras for an immediate supply of 1,000 tons of groundnut cake. Public in general have fully realised the value of manuring and have become manure-minded. This is a great achievement in itself.

With a view to augment the food supplies and also to produce as much protective food as possible during the period of scarcity, a Vegetable Production Campaign has been launched. The idea is to make every grower to produce vegetables in his compound, not only for his own use but also for the use of his neighbours as well. According to this scheme Government are supplying seeds and seedlings of vegetables and also manure to the extent of 25 lbs. free of cost. Subsidies are also proposed to be given for sinking new wells and also for fencing new areas to the extent of Rs. 25 per acre. For tendering necessary help and advice in the matter of cultivation, a special staff of teachers trained in agriculture are appointed in all the Panchayats and Municipal areas of the State. With the co-operation of the Panchayats, the following seeds, seedlings, manures, etc. have been distributed so far.

Seeds	40,000	packets
Seedlings	3,50,000	numbers
Tapioca clumps	15,000	"
Plantain suckers	10,000	"
Colocassia and yam sets	55,000	sets
Vegetable manure	1,150	bags (81 tons)

The target aimed at is to bring an additional area of 5,000 acres under cultivation during the course of 3 seasons which should yield at least 15,000 tons of nutritious food to the people of the State.

The work done in the Nelliampathy Farm during the last 2 years has definitely shown that a large variety of fruit trees and vegetables could be grown there successfully. The oranges planted over an area of 100 acres are growing exceedingly

well. The cultivation of potatoes and vegetables did not produce the expected results this year. A further area of 150 acres has been planted up with oranges. Food crops like Ragi, Cholam and other pulses are grown on the Nelliampathies".

The Minister after referring to the unsatisfactory cattle position in the State mentioned the steps taken to ease the situation and to improve the dairies. Dealing with Schemes of post-war development of agriculture he said.

"One of the great lessons that the late war has taught us is that each nation should try to be self-sufficient in the matter of food supply. This has necessitated an increase in the activities of the Agricultural Department. Even otherwise agriculture, being the main occupation and source of income of the people of the State, requires all possible encouragement at the hands of Government. Therefore, in the Post-war Development Schemes, agriculture has been given a very prominent place. Extension of area under cultivation, reclamation of barren soils, distribution of improved paddy seeds, establishment of demonstration farms, supply of manure, expansion of cultivation of commercial crops, improvement of irrigation systems, are some of the more important schemes contemplated in this direction. These schemes are being examined by the sub-committee appointed for the purpose. Independent of this scrutiny some of the more important items have been taken on hand by the Government. The Demonstration Farm in Chittur Taluk is proposed to be opened for which land acquisition has been set on foot. A scheme for opening a cocoanut nursery farm for the production and distribution of cocoanut seedlings of improved variety has been sanctioned for execution under the auspices of the Indian Cocoanut Committee. The Farm is proposed to be established at Irinjalakkuda. Action is in progress in regard to the training of the

incumbent for the post of the Nursery Assistant (who is to be in charge of the Farm) at the Coconut Research Station, Kasarangod. Provision has been made in the next year's budget for the revival of marketing section of the Agricultural Department. Propaganda work and subsidy to encourage manuring of crop are proposed to be continued in 1122 also. The vegetable cultivation drive will also be continued.

From the nutritional point of view, animal husbandry is as important as agriculture. We in Cochin State have no famous varieties of livestock either for milk or for work. A comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for the improvement of cattle in the State within a reasonable period and that scheme is being examined by the Post-war Development Committee. Next year a start is to be made in this direction by maintaining stud bulls of improved variety in 12 Panchayat areas at Government cost. A provision of Rs. 24,000 has been made for this in the budget for 1122.

To help the sugarcane cultivators of Chittur Taluk in the manufacture of jaggery, it is proposed to make available for them three mills and equipments next year. Most of these cultivators now depend upon the British agriculturists for the supply of these equipments".

Various measures for the uplift of the Depressed Classes were adopted during the year. Referring to some of them the Minister said; "In the uplift of the so-called Depressed Classes, the State has been taking much interest. When I took up the reins of administration I was very particular to see that their interests were safe-guarded and they were given as much help as possible to come up to the level of the other sections of the State's subjects. Providing of house sites to the Depressed Classes in colonies already established and in porombokes available

for fresh settlement continued in 1121 as before. Facilities for drinking water to families who reside in these settlements have been provided for this year by sinking new wells, and deepening old ones, in 37 localities. 27 Co-operative institutions are functioning among the Depressed Classes at present. Most of these institutions were started as credit societies. As experience has shown that credit societies are not the best sort of societies for the economic betterment of these communities a multi-purpose co-operative society has started work this year at Sivaramapuram with an elaborate scheme of economic activity among its members. A paid secretary and a lump sum grant of Rs. 5,000 have been given to this society. I believe that the economic betterment of these communities can be achieved to a considerable extent by promoting co-operative action among them. The majority being labourers, provision of profitable labour among them will be another source of help for them. Industrial centres are therefore being organised for these Depressed Classes. Of these one at Vadakkancheri is dealing with bamboo mats and baskets from where there is considerable export trade. At Nadathara, a similar centre is being run. The Vijayaraghavapuram Factory manufactures and markets bamboo mats and clothes. The centres at Puduruthi and Herbertnagar, confine themselves with yarn and clothes. Economic betterment and provision of labour may not alone improve the social life. I am for encouraging education among them in all possible ways. 15,103 pupils were attending the Schools and Colleges from among the Depressed Classes in the year 1120. All of them are given free education besides the supply of school requisites and clothes. 377 students get stipends."

Stressing the importance of fisheries development in the State the Minister said.

"The Fishery Department was re-organised and the Superintendent of Fisheries was given the assistance of 5 trained Inspectors to work under him. Though Cochin has no long sea coast, it has great possibilities for developing Fisheries especially by deep sea fishing. Two seaworthy motor fishing vessels have been purchased by Government from the Naval Department at a cost of Rs. 40,000. Arrangements are being made to fit them with proper crew. Fishing of shark by improved method of using new implements was encouraged. By the use of new implements in the first few months of this year, it has been possible to place in the market 12,000 lbs. of fish, 48 gallons of oil and 300 lbs. of cured fins. The fish farm at Narakkal was maintained as in 1120.

For the development of fisheries I have chalked out a large programme for next year. Deep sea fishing will be conducted on a large scale. A scheme has been prepared for the systematic exploitation of wider range of deep sea by employing a fleet of 8 indigenous boats and nets. To work out the scheme an additional provision of Rs. 22,000 has been made in the next year's budget. A new fish farm on the model of the existing fish farm at Narakkal will be opened at Malipuram. The Fish Farm at Narakkal will be extended to Nayarambalam and improved by dividing into sections. For the better curing of fish it is proposed to take up the construction of sanitary fish-curing yards at Narakkal, Malipuram and Nayarambalam. A new fish-curing yard will also be provided at Nayarambalam. There is considerable scope for the development of fish oil industry in the State. Government have initiated this industry on a small scale. This will be encouraged next year. Six candidates will be sent up for training in the training institute at Tuticorin to work as teachers in the Fishery Schools. Our Government

have agreed to join the scheme for fisheries research proposed to be undertaken conjointly by the Governments of India and Travancore. These schemes are formulated on a three-year basis. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 4 lakhs towards which we will have to contribute Rs. 50,000.

"A definite, detailed scheme for the general improvement of village life and to make the village life worth living" was prepared by a Special Committee appointed by the Government. A sum of 5 lakhs of rupees has been set apart as a lump sum provision for Rural Uplift Work and the uplift of the labour classes".

Regarding Medical Relief to the people the Minister said that the usefulness of the existing hospitals and dispensaries would be extended and more dispensaries in other suitable and needy localities would be provided. He added that an X-ray plant would be fitted up in the Trichur Civil Hospital, increased accommodation would be provided in the Mental Hospital and that a T. B. Sanatorium would be started next year.

"In my last budget speech I mentioned that I had "in contemplation a scheme to provide decent dwelling houses to the middle class and the poor throughout the State." A committee was appointed to report on the scheme. Government propose to start building co-operative societies for the above purpose and start construction of dwelling houses on approved plans in all the municipal towns of the State. Government are also considering the question of extending the scope of the scheme to rural areas through the help of the Land Mortgage Bank or through Rural Building Co-operative Societies. Anyway, I can assure the House that the problem will receive the serious attention of Government in the near future. This is in addition to the declared policy of Government to give

subsidies to the so-called Depressed Class people for constructing houses and free grant of house sites, either poramboke or acquired”.

Concluding the Minister said, “Our

objective is to achieve real and substantial progress for the State and to ensure the welfare of its people. This can be achieved by the attainment of full Responsible Government.”

AGRICULTURE

Post-war Development

SCHMES of agricultural development aim at increasing the productivity of land by such means as supply of better seeds, manures, protection of crops against pests and diseases, use of better implements, reclamation of lands now lying waste or damaged, improvement of irrigational facilities and development of horticulture, fruit industries and improvement of cocoanuts, cotton, ground nut, sugarcane and tobacco cultivation.

Improvement of paddy seed.—There is a total extent of about 2 lakhs of acres under paddy cultivation—the staple food crop of the State—with a total production of about 200 lakhs of paras of paddy. It is estimated that by substituting high yielding strains of paddy seeds for the seeds now sown, production can be increased 15 per cent. The scheme envisages a seven years' programme for the improvement of paddy seeds and their distribution throughout the State. A preliminary survey will be undertaken in order to ascertain the number of cultivators, size of the holdings and the varieties of paddy seed in use, etc. The scheme is expected to bring about an additional yield of 30,00,000 paras of paddy in the total annual production.

Demonstration Farm.—In view of the agricultural importance of the Chittur Taluk which has a richer soil, favourable agrarian conditions and a variety of food

and commercial crops a demonstration farm is proposed to be established there for the purpose of acquainting cultivators with modern improvements in agriculture and use of improved seeds and implements, for evolving nucleus stock of the improved strains of paddy seeds, etc. Similar farms are also proposed to be established in the Talappalli and Mukundapuram Taluks.

Technical assistance.—To devise new patterns and designs of tools, agricultural implements and machinery that may have to be adopted for the improvement of agriculture, to tender necessary help and advice to cultivators in matters of installation and working of oil engines, electric motors and pumps, erection of machineries employed in agricultural industries and use of tractors in connection with co-operative farming an Engineering Division is proposed to be attached to the Agricultural Department.

Agricultural education.—With a view to create a mass-awakening regarding the importance of scientific agriculture, agricultural education will be reorganised and expanded and the Agricultural School attached to the Government Central Farm will be revived and placed on a permanent basis for training agricultural teachers. The scheme of agricultural education also envisages the introduction of agriculture as an optional subject in High Schools. The Chemical laboratory

attached to the Agricultural Department will be enlarged and the staff strengthened for the prompt investigation of immediate practical problems requiring solution. Analysis of soils and manures and manurial experiments on important crops like paddy will be conducted. The research laboratory will be better equipped and enlarged, the entomology section will be reorganised and mycological work extended.

Distribution of manures.—Manure depots have been opened in all the Taluks (one in each) and in all Panchayats. From the Panchayat depots manure is issued on credit, free of interest and the cost is realised only after harvest of the crop to which manure is applied. A few co-operative societies are also issuing the manure. An appreciable increase in production is expected by the increased application of manure. Scheme are under consideration for the preparation of compost economically in all Panchayat areas where

scavenging is done and for increasing the supply of green manure.

Central Farm.—The Central Farm of Ollukara opened about three decades back is the main centre of agricultural activities in the State. The experimental phase of most of the post-war schemes of agricultural development and animal husbandry is proposed to be undertaken here. This will necessitate various changes and modifications in the Farm such as provision of adequate water supply and electricity, stocking of implements, installation of permanent exhibits, opening of laboratory, construction of buildings and supply of transport equipments. Strengthening of the staff to cope with the increase in the volume of work will also be necessary.

Fruit Industry.—In the Nelliampathi hills which afford excellent facilities for the cultivation of fruit trees and plants, a Fruit and Vegetable Farm has already been started. Along with the expansion of fruit



Jack-fruit trees Avenue in Agricultural Farm



Cows in Agricultural Farm

cultivation, it has been considered desirable to introduce up-to-date methods of canning, dehydration, etc. Manufacture of desiccated copra is also envisaged.

Cultivation of commercial crops.—There is already a considerable extent under cotton, groundnut and sugar-cane cultivation in Chittur Taluk. The possibility of introducing and expanding the area of some of these crops in the other taluks of the State is under investigation. Multiplication and distribution of improved strains of cotton seeds among the cotton cultivators besides the organisation of a cotton ginning factory in Chittur Taluk are envisaged in the scheme for the enlargement of the area under cotton. It is also proposed to undertake experimental cultivation of tobacco in order to demonstrate its possibilities to cultivators and to popularise its cultivation in the State.

Marketing.—Organised and regular marketing of agricultural produces is essential for developing agriculture on sound lines. The scheme for organised marketing provides for undertaking functions such as fixing of prices in respect of commodities, determination and enforcement of standards and grades, control and regulation of markets, licensing agricultural trade, organisation of clearing and bulking work and maintenance of buffer stocks by the Agricultural Department.

It is considered that these schemes would require a capital outlay of a little over four lakhs of rupees and a recurring expenditure, deducting the advances recoverable for purchase of manure, to nearly eighteen and a half lakhs of rupees. Expenditure necessary to carry out the various irrigation projects is not included in this.

COCHIN'S FINANCES

A masterly review of the financial position of the State was made by Mr. P. V. Raphael, Finance Member, when introducing the Budget for 1946-47 in the Cochin Legislative Council on the 29th July. After referring to the unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan and the glorious achievements of the Allies, the Finance Member said,

"It is true our external enemies have collapsed; but we are still confronted by a frightening array of most dangerous adversaries—the most formidable being poverty, round whose axis revolves its attendant allies—ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and un-employment. Famine threatens us more than ever; clothing has become too scarce; civilian building has been almost entirely neglected for over the last five years where a continually expanding programme is essential to meet the needs of a growing

population; the development of our economy is retarded by the inability to obtain all the required capital equipment. In short, we are faced with all the great problems of life at this juncture—better food, better housing, more clothes, better hygiene and more enlightenment through education of both boys and girls. In the words of His Excellency the Viceroy the aim and endeavour of every one of us in the post-war years should be 'to lift the poor man from poverty to security, from ill-health to vigour and from ignorance to understanding'.

I shall now proceed to review the financial position for the current and the following year against this background and shall, make brief references to a few important features that merit attention.

Accounts of 1120 (1944-45).—According to the revised estimates we expected that the year 1120 would close with a small surplus of Re. 16 lakh, the receipts and disbursements anticipated having been Rs. 253.0 lakhs and Rs. 252.84 lakhs, respectively. The actuals, however, gave us a surplus of Rs. 23.80 lakhs with a realised revenue of Rs. 266.57 lakhs and an expenditure amounting to Rs. 242.77 lakhs. We spent Rs. 8.54 lakhs on schemes of capital outlay for expanding the lines of electricity, opening new lines of communication and for other schemes of public utility.

Revised Estimates of 1121 (1945-46).—When framing the budget estimates of the current year we counted on a revenue of Rs. 294.25 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 287.48 lakhs thus anticipating a sure surplus of Rs. 6.77 lakhs. On the basis of the actuals so far and other relevant information available we hope to realise a revenue of Rs. 324.54 lakhs—an improvement of Rs. 30.29 lakhs—and incur an expenditure of Rs. 323.50 lakhs—Rs. 36.02 lakhs



Mr. P. V. Raphael—Finance Member

in excess of the budget estimate—thus closing with a surplus of Rs. 1.04 lakhs”.

The Finance Member then referred to various items of increased expenditure and to the receipts under various heads, especially “Income-tax”, “Forest and Tramway” in which the revenue surpassed ‘by far our expectations while the other main items of revenue except ‘customs’ more or less keep up to the original estimates.”

Continuing he said “It is obvious from what I have explained that the increased expenditure has been incurred mainly.—

to ensure more food and reduce poverty and want,

to combat ill-health by timely preventive measures, and

to spread literacy by making primary education free in accordance with some of the post-war aims animating the endeavours of the Government.

Schemes of capital outlay.—The supply of adequate and cheap electric power is a *sine-quo-non* for industrial progress and the Poringalkuthu electric scheme which has been on hand for decades together has now been taken up. A special expert has been appointed to execute the work and it is hoped that rapid progress will be made towards the satisfactory completion of the works.

The scheme of extending the power supplied by the Pallivasal Installation is making headway.

The Anamalai road with its great economic possibilities is making good progress and we expect to spend on its construction Rs. 21.99 lakhs by the end of this year.

A new road work costing not less than Rs. 12 lakhs has been taken up in the very heart of Ernakulam through her most unhealthy swamps and water logs and its completion is expected to improve the Town considerably.

The Fruit and Vegetable cultivation in Nelliampathies has been placed in the hands of a Planting expert and the scheme is expected to ensure good returns besides helping our needs in the matter of vegetables, etc.

Based on the findings of the Manu Subedar Committee which examined the possibilities of industrial development in the State an Industrial Development Fund with a nucleus of Rs. 25 lakhs has been constituted this year. This is intended to encourage essential industries that may be started in the State.

Budget Estimates of 1122 (1946-47).— I now turn to our programme for the coming year. The budget before you continues to be inflationary as an aftermath of the war and it forecasts for a revenue of Rs. 322.57 lakhs and programmes for an expenditure of Rs. 354.38 lakhs leaving us in a deficit of Rs. 31.81 lakhs. The imperative needs of the post-war situation have left us in a deficit budget and to cover up this deficit we propose to move this House with proposals for additional taxation.

Receipts.—As compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 324.54 lakhs the budget estimate (Rs. 322.57 lakhs) shows a fall of Rs. 1.97 lakhs. The Excess Profits Tax has been abolished; the income from tolls disappears with the enactment of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act and the duty on betel nuts, etc., has been reduced. The other items of Excise Revenue, however, continue to show the inflated income.

The budget for next year is thus mainly an estimate of falling revenues consequent on the cessation of war. If we omit the appropriation of Rs. 25 lakhs from the Revenue Reserve fund the actual anticipated revenue would only be Rs. 297.57 lakhs thus showing a fall of nearly Rs. 27 lakhs from the revised estimate of the current year. The main items showing

decreases are 'Matches, Betel nuts, etc.', 'Forests and Tramway', 'Public Works', 'Railway' and 'Income-tax.' On account of more shipping and less refunds we expect a revenue of Rs. 30.48 lakhs under 'Customs' against the revised estimate of Rs. 22.26 lakhs.

Disbursements

Salient features.—Before going into details, I shall endeavour to explain briefly the most salient features of our programme for the next year so that the House may know the basic principles on which the Budget has been framed. After all, the budget is not a lifeless bewildering array of facts and figures "scattered with fearless profusion" to confuse and confound, but it is a living document reflecting the progressive ideals set up by a Government and it stands or falls on the standard of its utility to raise the moral and material needs of the people. Everywhere people are conjuring up visions of a happier world that is to arise out of the chaos and destruction of the war. The surging urge to build up a new world has expressed itself in the form of timely blue prints for planned development for the future prosperity of all denizens of every country. We too in this tiny corner of India are faced by the same problems which are by no means easy of solution, but in the budget before you the Government have taken up the challenge of the times and have tried their best to solve the questions to the extent possible and to prepare ourselves for the tasks of tomorrow. Call it 'planning for peace' or 'planning for reconstruction', whatever we call it, its aim everywhere is to promote the material welfare of the people and to raise their standard of living. As a writer has aptly put it, the budget before you is really a declaration of War—War against *poverty, ill-health* and *illiteracy* and the fight would entail sacrifice; it would mean sweat and toil; but the ultimate reward is a brighter and happier 'Cochin' and I am sure

that all would consider the sacrifice which may be demanded of us in the course of this sitting as worthy of the cause.

Against poverty.—To feed the hungry we have to ensure an un-ending stream of cheap nutritious food by producing more, by increasing the yield from land, by larger out-put of agricultural produce and of industrial goods.

In the coming year we have budgetted for the continuance of the supply of manure at largely subsidised rates and our successful experience of the current year encourages us in this measure. A large provision is made for "Grow More Vegetables" campaign. Larger areas of arable land are being made available for cultivation. Large irrigation schemes (Rs. 8.50 lakhs) are to be executed with all possible speed and an extra provision of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made to ensure more and better facilities for small irrigation works and rural development in Panchayat areas. The Nelliampathy cultivation scheme is extended. Very large provisions are made with a view to develop and expand the fishing industry in the State.

The steps taken already for healthy cattle breeding and dairy farm are continued with vigour. To give adequate work and shelter to the disabled and vagrant poor three Beggar Homes have been opened. Buildings to properly house them are proposed next year and adequate funds (Rs. 1.90 lakhs) have been provided on their behalf.

Against ill-health.—Living as the majority of us do, half-clad or worse in squalid houses of mud walls and mud floor, poorly thatched and under unhealthy conditions, we have more than need be of our share of disease and ill-health. The toll of death even from preventible diseases is alarming in certain years. The budget provides all possible funds to alleviate these conditions.

To fight the scourge of small-pox and to eradicate it completely, a large body of vaccinators is proposed to be got trained to carry on the campaign of compulsory vaccination. The rural midwifery service is strengthened and extended; larger provision is made to fight malaria sapping the life-blood of our people in many parts of the State and a special expert is proposed to be appointed. Larger provision is made for child welfare centres.

The disease of tuberculosis is spreading in the State and there are no adequate facilities in the State to help the patients. The clinic opened at Trichur is only a miniature. A good T. B. Hospital with sanatorium fully equipped and staffed on up-to-date lines is therefore proposed to be opened at Mulakunnathukavu on an extensive area and it is hoped to be an accomplished fact by the close of 1942. Another T. B. clinic is to be opened at Ernakulam or Mattancheri also.

Larger facilities are provided for other hospitals including the Mental Hospital.

Under 'Ayurveda' four new hospitals are provided besides 5 new Vaidyasalas and a Herbarium. Grants to Vishavaidyans are extended to new centres. Larger provision is made for medicines, diets and equipments.

The coastal areas have no good drinking water and this seriously affects the health of the large number of people living in these areas. A scheme has been put up for the supply of Alwaye water by extending the pipeline to Chellanam at a cost of Rs. 1.67 lakhs. Supply of good drinking water to Azhikkal and the neighbourhood is proposed to be continued through boats.

Against Illiteracy.—In a planned development there is no room for precedence of one aspect of development over the other. It is one organic whole; Agriculture, Industry, Education, Health—all have to march alongside along a set

route, to a set goal, in a set time. In spite of all the restrictions placed on them by other demands, the Government have passed orders on the report of the Code Revision Committee involving heavy additional expenditure and considerable loss of fee income. They have made Primary Education universal and free as education alone can make better agriculturists and more efficient workers. Government propose to assume management of 23 Primary Schools in the ensuing year besides raising some schools by opening upper divisions. Government have also decided to reimburse the management of all fee concessions under certain conditions.

Greater emphasis is laid on the development of the physical side of education by organising a well-trained staff of physical directors and by providing the required playgrounds and gymnasias.

Noon-day feeding of children in primary classes has become a regular feature of our educational activity even though the expected non-official help has not been forthcoming. For next year, a provision of Rs. 5.6 lakhs has been made for the purpose.

A revision of the salary of teachers has been given effect to costing in all an average increase of Rs. 7 to 8 lakhs in order to create an efficient and contented teaching staff.

The introduction of compulsory Provident Fund for aided service is expected to cost the Government a large sum of Rs. 75,000 by way of contribution.

Technical, Commercial and Art Education

This branch of education is sure to assume great importance in the new India when the large scale expansion of industries will create a greatly increased demand for technicians of all grades for skilled craftsmen, intelligent foremen and research

workers. A new Technological Institute has therefore been opened in the year to meet this demand and considerable provision has been made in the budget for developing technological and commercial education in the State.

All these features of the Education budget are expected to raise the expenditure on Education to about Rs. 52 lakhs against the actuals of about Rs. 29 lakhs in 1120 and Rs. 18 lakhs ten years ago."

Capital Schemes.—The Finance Member, after referring to the chief items of expenditure of certain departments that required special mention, said.

"With altered conditions facing us, the speeding up of capital schemes has become important and a sum of Rs. 53·47 lakhs is provided. The Town Improvement Works of Ernakulam, Mattancheri, Trichur and Trippunittura, the completion of the Anamalai road, the contemplated expansion of the electrical services to rural areas, the Poringalkuthu Hydro-Electric scheme and the intensification of the irrigation schemes are designed to enhance the national wealth and to raise living conditions to modern standards. If the desired progress has not been achieved till now, it was mainly because of insurmountable difficulties to procure men and machinery.

Revenue Reserve Fund.—We started the year with a credit of Rs. 76·75 lakhs in this fund which was enhanced to Rs. 91·75 lakhs in the course of the year by the addition of a sum of Rs. 15·00 lakhs out of the realised surplus of 1120. Out of this a sum of Rs. 25·00 lakhs has been transferred to the Industrial Development Fund, and another sum of Rs. 3·25 lakhs to the Panchayat Department for rural reconstruction works leaving Rs. 63·50 lakhs to the credit of the fund at the close of the year. In the ensuing year a sum of Rs. 25·00 lakhs more is proposed to be appropriated for works of

post-war development and rural reconstruction. The list of new services appended to the Explanatory Memorandum will give an idea of the varied programme of development works contemplated for the next year.

The closing balance in the fund is expected to stand at Rs. 38·50 lakhs at the close of 1122.

Ways and Means.—The revenue surplus according to the Revised Estimate of 1121 is expected to be only Rs. 1·04 lakhs and next year we are to have a deficit of Rs. 31·81 lakhs. The loan amount of Rs. 100 lakhs raised this year stands invested and together with all our old investments, our investments in deposits and securities would now stand at Rs. 240·32 lakhs. Against this we have to finance capital schemes costing Rs. 53·47 lakhs and food supplies costing Rs. 500 lakhs in 1122. The ways and means programme of the year is therefore proposed to be carried on by resorting to the over draft accommodation with the Government Bankers, whenever such is advantageous.

Financial Position.—The accumulated surplus or the net asset stood at Rs. 140·70 lakhs at the end of 1120 besides a sum of Rs. 91·75 lakhs in the Revenue Reserve Fund or Rs. 232·45 lakhs in all. The transactions of the year 1121 are to yield only a nominal surplus of Rs. 1·04 lakhs.

At the end of the year we shall be having a net asset of Rs. 141·74 lakhs besides a sum of Rs. 88·50 lakhs in the Revenue Reserve and Industrial Development Funds or an aggregate of Rs. 230·24 lakhs.

At the end of 1122 the net asset will stand reduced to Rs. 109·94 lakhs besides a sum of Rs. 63·50 lakhs in the Revenue Reserve and Industrial Development Funds or an aggregate of Rs. 173·44 lakhs.

Sound as our finances are, the days of surpluses appear to be over. We have to reckon with inelastic sources of revenue and growing needs with the result that we are obliged to make inroads into our reserves. The necessary expenditure on the nation-building services such as "Education", "Medical", "Public Health", "Public Works", etc., cannot be stinted in the interest of the people and we have to broad-base our tax resources and find out the money if we are not to starve the nation. Compared to taxation levels elsewhere, ours is perhaps the lowest and the amenities secured to our people are comparable to those anywhere in India and we cannot reasonably fight shy of any equitable tax, essential in the interest of the people at large."

The Finance Member concluded his Speech with the following observations "The budget before you is shorn of all avoidable items of expenditure. It provides only for the minimum requirements of the services. In making provision for adequate funds for post-war reconstruction measures we have been faced with a

deficit of Rs. 56'81 lakhs. We had therefore to indent on the Revenue Reserve Fund to the extent of Rs. 25 lakhs which has reduced the deficit to Rs. 31'81 lakhs. As I have shown, this deficit is solely due to the adoption of the necessary measures for promoting the welfare of our people and raising their standard of living and in this struggle some sacrifice is demanded of us. I am sure that the House would fully agree with me that every endeavour has to be made for improving our revenues so that we may meet in full the post-war demands for improving the prosperity of the people. The only equitable source I can think of is the introduction of the "Sales Tax" as has been effected in British India. A stepping up of Income-tax rates may also render some help in this direction. These small sacrifices from us are worthy of the cause as they aim at ushering in a brighter and happier "Cochin" and I hope the House will heartily respond to those demands of the Government and thus ensure the greater happiness of the people whose welfare is our prime consideration."

MARITIME ACTIVITY IN ANCIENT KERALA

(Prof. K. R. Pisharoti, M. A.)

KERALA is endowed by nature with a sharply defined geographical individuality. Guarded by mountains on the east and girt by the sea on the west, she appears as if meant by nature to develop her culture in isolation untouched by currents abroad. Her history, however, presents an eventful record of contact with other countries, not merely with her neighbours beyond the Ghats, but also with the countries beyond the seas on the west and on the east.

We live close to the sea, and no part of Kerala is more than twenty miles from the sea as the crow flies. Our land is cut up by a number of rivers and rivulets, some big, some small, now dry, now full; and an extensive backwater system runs through north and south, which till lately formed the most important, if not the sole, means of transport both for man and for goods. Again, fishing has always formed an important occupation for a large section of our population. May we

not, therefore, call ourselves a maritime people? And, indeed this maritime aspect is well evidenced in more ways than one. Compare, for instance, the nomenclature adopted by our princes and chiefs. Thus the King of Kerala calls his capital 'Vanji' which means boat. His northernmost vassal, 'Kolattiri', has his family name associated with boat, for 'Kola' means boat, while his capital is 'Valarpatanam', meaning the city of boats, since 'Valar' means boat. The chief of Quilon styles his family 'Kupa' or 'Kupaka', which means, again, boat and his capital 'Kolamba', where the term 'Kola' means boat. The term Zamorin has possibly to be associated with the sea, while the title he has assumed, namely 'Kunnalakkon' alias 'Sailabdhisvara' means the Lord of the mountain and the sea; and indeed for centuries between the destruction of the naval empire of Sri Vijaya and the establishment of the naval supremacy of the Portugese, he shared with the Kings of Guzerat an active command of the sea. The Maharaja of Travancore is 'Vanjisa', the Lord of Boats, while his country is called 'Vanjinat', *i. e.*, the Land of Boats. The chief of Kayankulam called his country 'Otanatu' the Land of Boats. 'Campakasseris' is the *Cheri* of *Camps*, *i. e.*, boats and Parur is the *Ur* or city of *Parua*, a variety of boats. 'Vempolinatu' means the land of the great river estuary, for the term *poli* means river mouth. And lastly the chiefs of 'Vempolinatu' and 'Kayankulam' were the chief naval powers on this coast even as late as the seventeenth century. The nomenclature, then, adopted by our princes and chiefs, reveals our natural association with sea and sea-faring life, which we assiduously cultivated through ages. Besides, the notices of our country by foreigners from Pliny onwards up till the end of the sixteenth century contain references to and give us the name of nearly two dozen harbours in this small stretch of land—a

number which forms a striking testimony to our sea-faring activity.

1. Bakanur (Fakanur) Under King Vasudeva.
2. Balita (mentioned in the Periplus. Identification doubtful)
3. Barcelore (mentioned by Ibn Batuta. Unidentified)
4. Beypore (Abdu Fede 1273-1321) 6½ miles north of Calicut
5. Calicut (Vide Ibn Batuta, Ma Huan, Marco Polo)
6. Cannanore (Vide the Periplus under the name of Naura & Kuo in 1225)
7. Cochin (Fee Hsin in 1436. Possibly came into existence in 1341-42)
8. Comorin (Vide the Periplus)
9. Cranganur (Muziris)
10. Dharmapatnam (Vide Ibn Batuta)
11. Ely (or Aligo of Kua, Ely of Marco Polo, Ra' Haily of Fede)
12. Kanjikkara (Five days' trip from Calicut between Calicut and Quilon)
13. Kayankulam (18 miles north of Quilon)
14. Mangalore (Mangarur of Batuta)
15. Nalopatnam (between Mangalore and Calicut)
16. Neacynda (Nelcynda) Near Kottayam *i. e.*, Ambalapuzha
17. Pantalayini (16 miles north of Calicut)
18. Paralia (Northern Kottayam)
19. Parti (Unidentified)
20. Pondopatnam (16 miles north of Calicut)
21. Porkad (Alleppey)
22. Quilon (Reference in 1170)
23. Salopatna (South of Mangalore and unidentified)
24. Tyndis (Unidentified)
25. Vadakare (South of Dharmapatnam).

Thus from the earliest times foreign travellers have mentioned these ports in their writings. Of course, all these were not thriving at all times; they rose and fell as the Kingdoms with which they

were associated rose and fell. Any how there were always a few harbours which carried on Trans-Indian trade with countries on the other side of the Arabian sea and the Bay of Bengal and, indeed, to one who lives by the sea, there is nothing that is more attractive than the sea, for she offers him adventure galore, wealth untold and beauty sublime. And the few glimpses of our ancient history that we get clearly show that the sea never isolated us, but on the other hand, brought us into close and intimate contact both with the west and the east and that we had a rich maritime activity through the centuries, not inconsistent with the traditional origin of our land. For, Kerala is said to have been created from out of the sea by that Royal warrior and adventurer, Sri Parasurama. From sea was Kerala born and through sea did she in the past achieve glory and greatness and prosperity—things which she might well repeat in the years to come.

“Sea trade was principally of Dravidian development. Partly as a result of the monsoons and partly as a result of the earlier growth of civilisation, the Indian Ocean was undoubtedly the first centre of Oceanic activity.” And this is borne out by archaeological evidence which tells us that a very brisk commerce existed between our coast and Babylonia, when Ur Bagas, the first King of the United Babylonia, ruled over the city of Ur of the Chaldees (3000 B.C.), and this is proved by the discovery of the remains of teak in the ruins of his capital; (Dr. Sayce) and this, it is said, was Malabar teak, the transport of which must have been via the sea. During the period of Solomon (1015 B.C.), the products of our land, such as spices and pepper, found their way to his court, as linguistic evidence unmistakably shows. The Obelisk of Shalmanesar (860 B. C.) displays Indian elephants the valley of Euphrates. The *Baveri Jataka* show

that in the fifth and the sixth centuries, peacocks were taken to Babylonia from our land by the Hindu merchants who undertook perilous voyages in search of adventure and wealth; and this maritime activity, we are told, was entirely in the hands of Dravidians. Our rice and peacock and sandalwood were known to the Greeks from the sixth century B. C. onwards. The Old Testament, it is said, contains allusions to the fact that ‘a flourishing trade exists between the Levant and the West Coast’. The *Periplus* states that Greek merchants from Egypt brought wine, brass, lead and glass for sale to Muziris and Bakara and exchanged them for ivory, pearls, fine muslins and spices. In the Indian Ocean navigation depended on trade winds and voyages were tried so that ships could run before winds in either direction without calling the rudder into much use and the author of the *Periplus* saw in Cera (*i. e.*, Kerala,) backwaters many ships sent from Arabia and by the Greeks. The merchants would sail from Egypt in the month of July, arrive at Muziris in forty days, stay there for three months and commence their return journey about December or January. Strabo speaks of an Indian Sailor drifting in the Red Sea in a boat, who offered to show the Egyptians the route to India as early as 120 B. C. Pilot Ripalus discovered the regularity of the South-west Monsoon in 47 A. D. and this gave a fresh impetus to the trade relations existing between the west coast of India and the Mediterranean countries by the opening up of a quicker and more direct sea route, for this meant security from the Arab pirates who infested caravan routes and the coast lines; not only that, it shortened the journey by enabling the ships to cut across the open sea. Hardly twenty ships made the voyage before this but after this ‘on an average a ship left the Egyptian ports every day for the east’. Kerala being the famous pepper country and pepper being greatly in demand and

much priced, many traders frequented our ports, particularly Tyndis, Muziris, Nelvynda and Baccare—the most important of our pepper ports—and this took place even during the Flavian period. Naturally, therefore, we find embassies from South India to the Roman court, our elephants fighting in the Syrian wars, and conversely we have plenty of Roman coins discovered in various parts of our land, viz., Coins of Augustus and Caesar recently found in Eyyal in Cochin State. References are also found to a Roman temple, dedicated to Augustus and a Roman colony at Cranganore, the Imperial Capital. Powerful yavanas and Mlechhas served as bodyguards for our kings, and beautiful yavana ships rode at anchor in the spacious harbour at Muziris to receive cargoes of pepper, the more important pepper ports of the day being Tyndis, Muziris, and Nelcynda, 'from where were exported pepper, spices, pearls, ivory, fine silks and precious stones such as diamonds, rubies and amethyst,' while the more important ports of the later day were Poudupatana, Nalopatana, Salopatana, Mangalore and Parti. The author of the *Periplus* of the first century A.D. further states that the harbour at Cranganore was full of vessels not merely from the west, but also from the Coramandal coast, the other ports mentioned by this author being Becara, pepper for which port was being carried down in canoes from cottonara which is identified with Kolattunatu, Naura (Cannanore), Tyndis, and Nelcynda which is identified with a place near Kottayam. Again a tradition is recorded that Budhabhadra embarked from a west coast port, said to be Cochin, which presumably is a mistake for some other port, probably Muziris. Pliny has recorded that the sea between India and Ceylon was full of shallows, but very deep in certain places, where no anchor could reach the bottom, and this has necessitated the building of ships with prows at both ends—a feature which is

retained in our boats even today. Ptolemy has referred to, and the Chinese records bear out the existence of Indian colonies in the present territory of Indo-China. A Manigraman guild acted as trustees for a temple of Narayana, as evidenced by an inscription at Takopa. Campa, Cambodia, Java and Sumatra had flourishing Hindu kingdoms and Hindu and Buddhistic culture permeated those lands particularly in the latter half of the first millinium of the Christian era.

Here, then, we have plenty of references which prove the existence in the early centuries of the Christian era of maritime activity born of the romance of pepper and spices. Thanks to the extensive backwaters which gave plenty of protected thoroughfares in which flourished a brisk sea trade, largely in Dravidian craft which was of early creation and of great influence in the interchange of ideas as well as of commodities. There seems to have been a lull in the later centuries of the first millinium of the Christian era, but with the beginning of the second millinium there are again plenty of references. The inscriptions of the Sri Vijaya give glimpses of the activities of South Indian Commercial Corporation of the Manigramam and in his inscriptions the South Indian Grantha Script is used and many of the clans in Sumatra have South Indian names such as Cola, Pandya, Malangala, etc. The Colas were a great naval power, and we are told that Raja Raja Cola destroyed a great Kerala fleet in Kandalur Sala, as evidenced by his inscriptions. The Bhaskara Ravi Varma Jewish plates (early 11th century) has recorded the grant of privileges to the Manigramam guild—more or less a charter granting monopoly rights of trade, which is again ratified and extended by his distinguished successor, Sri Viraraghava Cakravarty of the early 14th century. Al Biruni (11th century) refers to the pirates of the Malabar Coast whom he terms

Bawariji, as they conducted their depredations in boats, called *Baira*. In those days Malabar, exercising naval sway over her seas, is described as "the key of Hind whose productions such as rubies, aromatics, grasses and pearls were carried to Irak, Khurasan, Syria, Rum and Europe. It has also a great amount of *entrepot* trade, for large ships, called in the language of China, Junks, bring various sorts of rich merchandise and cloths from China and Machin and the countries of Hind and Sindh." Ad Idrisi (12th century) has referred to Quilon and speaks of the rich pepper and cardamom trade of Malabar. Chou K'u Fei (1178) distinguishes Quilon ships from those of the Arabs and Quilon is described as the chief port in all South India during the period. He also reports that the Chinese Government of the day wanted to limit the value of the trade with Kulam (Quilon) and Pandarina. Benjamin of Tudola (1159—73) also visited Quilon and has given us a description of that city. Marco Polo (1292) makes mention of the rich trade of Quilon in ginger and pepper and fine indigo carried on by merchants who came with their ships from Arabia and Persia and took back, across the seas, the products of China from our shores. Abdur Fede (1293—1321) mentions the rich pepper trade of the land. Friar Odoric (not long after 1321) came to Malabar, touching at Pandariyini, Cranganore and Kulam, while Friar Jordanus (1321) visited these varied places again and stayed at Quilon as the Bishop of Kolamba (Quilon) and Friar John of Marignolli stayed at Kolambum in 1347-48. Ibn Batuta (1328—1345) sailed to the far east from our coast and has described the maritime and piratical activity of our sailors. He visited several of the northern ports of Malabar, then very numerous and flourishing, and arrived at Calicut which he says was "one of the finest ports of the world, frequented for trade by the people of China, the

Archipaelago, Ceylon, the Maldives, Yemen and the Persian Gulf." He further states that the Chinese frequented only Kulam (Quilon), Calicut, and Dily (Mt Dily), those ships, however, which proposed to stay for the monsoon in India, going to the harbour at Pantalayini. Wasaaf (14th century) mentions the imports into Malabar of horses from Arabia and Persia, about 10,000 per year—a feature mentioned by Marco Polo and has also referred to the *entrepot* trade of Malabar which helped to distribute the products of China in the far west. Chen Ho visited Calicut in his first voyage in 1405; Cochin and Calicut in his second voyage in 1408; these two towns as well as Maldives in his third voyage in 1409; in his fifth voyage in 1410 he forced Calicut to send an embassy to China and in his seventh voyage in 1411 A. D. he again visited Calicut, Quilon and Cochin. Ma Huan accompanied him in his third voyage (1409), and he says that Calicut was a great emporium of trade, where could be seen merchants from all quarters, and this aspect is confirmed by Abd-er-Razaak (1442 A. D.) who says it was "one of the finest shipping centres of the world in the period (1443)." Says Ho:

"From Calicut are vessels continually sailing for Mecca which are for the most part laden with pepper. The inhabitants of Calicut are adventurous sailors, and pirates do not dare attack the vessels of Calicut. In this harbour one may find everything that can be desired".

"Security and justice are so firmly established in this city that the most wealthy merchants bring thither from maritime countries considerably cargoes which they unload and unhesitatingly send into the markets and the bazaars without thinking in the meantime of any necessity of checking the accounts or keeping watch over the goods. The officers of the custom house take upon themselves the charge of looking after the



Cochin Harbour

merchandise over which they keep watch day and night. When a sale is effected, they levy a duty of one-fortieth part; if they are not sold, they make no charge whatsoever. In other ports, a strange practice is adopted. When a vessel sets sail for a certain point and is suddenly driven into roadstead by a decree of divine providence, the inhabitants, under the pretext that the wind has driven it there, plunder the ship. But at Calicut every ship whatever place it may come from or wherever it may be bound, when it puts into this port, is treated like other vessels and has no trouble of any kind to put up with." Consistently with this, Ibn Batuta has remarked that unlike in other Malabar ports where what is recovered of a shipwreck goes to the treasury of the chief, at Calicut "the legitimate owners receive it and that is why the city is flourishing, the strangers come here in large numbers." Surely a more fulsome compliment cannot be paid for the trade honesty of our countrymen.

Consistent with this maritime activity, there was a brisk shipbuilding activity at Calicut which is noticed by Nicolo Conti, Marco Polo as well as by Varthema. The Venetian traveller writes, "The ships employed are built of fir timber. They are caulked with Oakum both within and without and are fastened with iron nails.

Ships are of so large a size as to require a crew of 300 men. These ships could carry from 5 to 6 thousands baskets of pepper. In addition smaller ships accompany each big one and are employed to tow larger vessels."

Conti observes. "The natives of India build ships larger than ours. The lower part is so constructed with triple planks to withstand the force of tempests to which they are much exposed. Some

ships are built in compartments, that should one part be shattered, the other portion may accomplish the voyage."

Our Malayalam vocabulary is also rich in nautical expressions indicative of the maritime activity. The fluctuating nature of the sea (arnass), the various types of waves (olam, tira), whirlpools (culi), phases of the sea (Perumkatal denoting high sea, and marakkatal rolling sea), The winds (kotumkattu=storm wind, chenkattu=east wind, karakattu=land wind), ebb and flow tides (Yama=high water time, Muppatta yamam=spring tide at new moon), various designations for particular posts held (sranku=boatswain, otti=captain), specific names for specific parts (Tatti=deck, marrikal=ribs, amaram=stern), accessories (Aticcarakku=ballast, Nankuram=anchor, Pamara=mast, Minnaram=light house, Sutracaram=compass), etc., are a few examples which show that in olden times the people of Kerala were conversant with the technicalities of a sea-faring life. Also our sailors have had a method of finding out time at night by the observation of the constellation at the zenith. The general direction is that the sailor should stand facing north and look up and the constellation that is right over his right eye is the one that is at the height from which calculation is to be made. Let us suppose that an observation "Thiruvathira" is the constellation at the zenith. Count eight from this constellation, and it gives "Attam" asterism. On that day the Nattuvela is "Visakham" and the number from Attam to Visakham is four. Double this number and it gives the time required for sunrise. In this particular case it is 8 nalikas, each nalika being 24 minutes. Hence it conclusively proves that for a sea-faring life our forefathers were well-equipped in all branches.

LABOUR AND OTHER MATTERS

Minister's elucidation in the Legislative Council

“I hold that strike and picketing are the only sanction with which they could enforce their claims. What a sting is to the Bee, the paw is to the Tiger, the horns to the Buffalo, are strikes and picketings to the labourers. I am not for depriving them of those weapons, but that does not mean that I am for the use of them indiscriminately. Nay, I would suggest they will be well-advised to put off all ideas of strikes and picketings for some time to come, and in the meanwhile to concentrate upon organising themselves”, said Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon, Minister for Development in the course of his Budget speech in the Legislative Council. Continuing he said that “the organisation I contemplate will be on the following lines:—

Every factory or industry is to have a primary union consisting of all its workers, to be co-ordinated in its turn by regional unions constituted by secondary election, and ultimately controlled by an All Cochin Trade Union at the top. In this vertical structure, there should be parallel lateral organisations for industries and factories of the same kind. The combined executive committee shall be the ultimate controlling authority in all matters affecting labour. Its primary function should be to make the factory not only a place in which the worker earns his toilsome wages, but the centre of his life, providing dwelling places, children's nursery school, kindergarten, his own and his wife's technical classes, excursion on free days, annual vacation, extensive and varied social insurance. As to whether the cost of these should form a part of the overhead charges of the undertaking, or be met by voluntary contribution by the workers, or partly by both, is a matter on which I do not propose to say one way or the other at present. But I do say, given

good will, without legislative compulsion or the sanction of strikes and picketings, these could be achieved. At any rate they should not be resorted to till all other methods are exhausted.

The method which I have in mind is the one which was discussed at the Conference of both the Employers and the Employees held at the Secretariat. I mean the establishment of the Conciliation Boards in every industrial concern, each Board consisting of equal number of representatives of Labour and Capital with or without a third party. This Board is to take seizin of all matters of difference as and when they arise, and on its failure to arrive at an amicable settlement, the matter is to be considered and decided by a Regional or All Cochin Super Conciliation Board constituted on the same lines as above.

Here let me impress upon the Boards one idea. If you do not approach the problem before you in a spirit of conciliation, failure is certain. The note in the discussion should not be one of conflict and struggle between two hostile parties each endeavouring to deprive the other of something to which it clings for its own benefits; but rather one of objective examination of the statistical facts and the consideration of the public policy to which both parties should agree to defer. After an earnest attempt if you fail, the Government would step in.

Let me however make it clear to all those to whom it may concern, that it is not the policy of the Government to refer every matter to a Court of Enquiry. The Government reserve the right to refer only such cases which in their opinion would vitally affect the State. Others, the Government would leave to be fought between the parties; and in the fight, so

long as strikes and picketings are non-violent and peaceful, the Government will not interfere. My personal view is, so far as it is possible, the element of compulsion by the Government should be avoided."

Panchayats.—The Minister said that the powers of the Panchayats were at present limited and that there was neither any chance nor any incentive for the best in the locality to get into these local self-governing institutions. He said,

"I have in mind the broad outlines of a scheme which I now place before the House for its consideration and which, if approved, can be worked out before the next Session of the Council.

The present Panchayats consist of five or six members each. Instead, I would have for every Panchayat, not less than 20 members. By this the worry and expense of election can be minimised, as smaller areas will have greater representation. These members will in their turn be



Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon—Minister for Development

divided into various committees each one having a separate subject to deal with. A few Panchayats of this kind may be grouped into what I may call Regional Panchayats, election to which will be from the Lower Body. I will put their number as six, one from each Panchayat. The various committees will work under immediate supervision and direction of this Regional Body. Once again, in each Taluk, I will have a similar body consisting of members elected one from each of the Regional Panchayats. The Taluk body will be the immediate final authority for all matters relating to the village administration of the Taluk. It will co-ordinate the working of the Regional and the Village Panchayats and settle the finance for the area under each. These Taluk bodies will in their turn form an All Cochin Body whose working committee will take up the entire local self-government of the State. All nation-building departments will be the executive organs of this body.

In this pyramidal structure, the best man has an incentive to stand for the election and also a chance to work his way up to the Super Body. Each in its turn will check and countercheck; and by a stricter supervision, greater efficiency can be scored. And we should invest the Panchayats with powers of assessment as we do in the case of Municipalities, and give them unlimited sphere of action subject to being pulled up by superior authority when they contravene any specific prescription or action of the latter, or do anything inconsistent with or obstructive of the policy of higher constitutional bodies. It is now for the Hon'ble members to spend a thought on this subject and if they endorse my scheme, we will work it up in detail and bring in a comprehensive legislation, when only I feel something genuine could be done to the country side.

Now in regard to the work for 1122, you will find from the budget, that a lump

sum provision of Rs. 5 lakhs under Special Contribution and another lump sum provision of Rs. 1 lakh for silt clearance of public wells and tanks, have been made. You are aware of a three-year plan evolved by my Hon'ble colleague while the Panchayat Department was under his charge. Materials have been collected and shifted. A committee had been constituted to look into the scheme and submit its report. As the committee could not finish its labour before the budget preparation, the only course was to make a lump sum provision; and I did it. Since then the Committee's report has come in, and it is placed on the Council Table. You will find from that admirable work the general lines on which the village improvement is to be taken up."

The Minister stated that the policy of the Government would be to carry through the minor irrigation schemes throughout the State. He also mentioned that the scheme of carrying good drinking water through submerged pipe line to the coastal regions was under the consideration of experts. Regarding the co-operative movement in the State the Minister said that "So far emphasis has been laid primarily on co-operative credit societies; and that coupled with the absence of proper supervision accounts for the slow progress of the movement in the State. As originally suspected and subsequently confirmed by my study of the Co-operative movement in Madras, the defect was that there was no organisational section here. In Madras, the department, speaking generally, contains three sections; auditing and liquidation, judicial and organisational. The Inspectors here, who are primarily meant for the first category of work, discharge the duties appertaining to the last two. With a view to cure this defect, I have now made provision in the budget for the appointment of five Organisers with each a peon, whose sole work will be organisation.

These officials will organise Producers' Co-operative Societies on one side and Consumers' on the other on parallel lines. In between will stand the Marketing Societies and Wholesale Purchasing Societies and the former will absorb the finished products of the first, and the latter will distribute them to the second. In this vertical structure, each one will have the primary society for each village or villages at the bottom, with a Union in the middle of a few societies and an All Union Council at the top. There may also be brought into existence lateral organisations as and when the undertakings are common. Then again, supplementary parallel societies may be built up; for instance, for the joint supply of tools, raw materials or auxiliary components, house building, transport, etc. You can have them for single purpose or multipurpose and multiply them *ad infinitum*, with always this structural principle in view.

It should be reserved to the All Union Council, the organising work, accountancy, directorial and prospective planning, and representation to Government regarding credit, funds, grants, subsidies and protection. What kind and what amount of production should be undertaken by the societies, will be decided in consultation with the All Union Council; and after preparing a plan, it will be submitted to the Union Council and the societies in turn for their criticism, objection or counter proposal, which will be duly considered before finally approved. By methodic planning and supervision, efficiency and success are aimed at. It is the hope of the Government to bring the cottage industries, fair price shops, stores, housing, agricultural implements, transport, etc; under the movement so as to make the modern amenities of life within the easy reach of all alike, eliminating the toll-taking middle men and profiteers.

Apart from the State aid, the Central Co-operative and Land Mortgage Banks

respectively will also be so reformed as to render to the movement all financial help when and where it is necessary.

Ayurveda.—I suppose that you are aware of the ambitious scheme of the Madras Government to open Ayurvedic hospitals, Vaidyasalas and Colleges in the presidency on a par with the Allopathic hospitals and Colleges. When I went to Madras, I placed a suggestion before the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health to pool the resources of both the Governments in the matter of opening an Ayurvedic College at Cheruthuruthi for Kerala."

The Minister said that the present Hospital would be shifted to this place.

"It is my idea to shift the present Hospital to this place. Attached to it, a Herbarium is to be opened under the expert guidance of a Botany Graduate, provision for which is made in the budget. There if the college which the Madras Government had an idea of opening at Palghat, were located, it will be a boon for both the State and Malabar. I have set in motion the correspondence on the subject, and if it materialises an additional allotment will have to be moved for. I may incidentally inform the House that the College course is a post-graduate one on purely Indian lines."

Referring to the measures for the development of cottage industries the Minister said that "It is my idea to bring cottage industries within the fold of Co-operative movement. In fact Producers' Co-operative Societies are contemplated for them also. Co-operative Industry, in which the form of Handicraft Association predominates, plays a great part in the industrial life of the State. It supplements by producing auxiliary articles, working up State raw materials and semi-finished goods and producing articles for the general market.

We have in the State what are called Industrial schools and schools of Arts and

Crafts. I hold the view that either these schools be handed over to Co-operative Societies or got attached to other schools of the State. The wiser policy appears to be to absorb the industrial school teachers in ordinary literary schools where these crafts could also be taught as arts are now being done. For higher course of study, we can retain the Arts and Crafts Schools of Ernakulam and Trichur and improve them by holding out better attraction in terms of stipends and scholarships."

The Minister said in conclusion that "In the meanwhile, by building up the various organisations referred to above and by nursing them under the parental care

of the State, we would be taking long strides in the political, social and economic progress of the State. Organisations—Trade Union, Co-operative or Panchayat—have a tremendous educative value. Organisation means adjustment, discipline and common purpose. It means opportunity to hear, to question and to decide. It arouses in the rank and file that consciousness of consent which is so necessary for effective democracy. It means the pooling of resources, collective effort for the maximum good of the maximum number of people. And I feel bold to say that we may not have the occasion to rue the day when we took this bold step."

OUTCROPS OF QUARTZ AND FELSPAR IN KOZHINJAMPARA AREA

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

DURING investigations of the limestone deposits of Chittur Taluk, a few outcrops of quartz and flesh-coloured felspar were accidentally discovered near the Herbert bridge on the road from Kozhinjampara to Eruthenpathy. Further explorations revealed the occurrence of these minerals in Kozhipathy and Kunnamkattupathy villages, and a detailed geological investigation of all the important outcrops of these minerals in this area was undertaken.

The detailed investigations have revealed that workable quantities of quartz and felspar for purposes of the ceramic industry in this State occur in this area. Further investigations in adjoining areas may bring to light more outcrops of these minerals. At present the ceramic industry in this State depends for the requirements of felspar entirely on the supplies from Manappara in Trichinopoly District.

Two important pegmatite veins are found near the Herbert bridge in Valiallompally village. (A pegmatite is a rock consisting essentially of quartz and felspar). The exposed portion of the first vein is 80 feet long and 50 feet wide; This vein runs in a N.W.—S.E. direction, west of the Herbert bridge and south of the road to Eruthenpathy. The second vein is found running in a N.W.—S.E. direction, south of the road to Eruthenpathy and west of the junction of the Chinnamoolathara road with Eruthenpathy road. The exposed portion of this vein is 20 feet long and 10 feet wide. A portion of the second vein is seen passing across the Chinnamoolathara road. Both the pegmatite veins are found in waste lands where no cultivation is done.

Numerous small pegmatite veins associated with the gneisses are found in a number of places at Chinnamoolathara

and Malayandikowndanoor in Kozhipathy village.

Several pegmatite veins are exposed along the Nurni—Mungalmada road in Kozhipathy and Kunnamkattupathy villages. In the locality called Vellarankallumedu, between the 5th and the 6th furlong stones between the 6th and the 7th milestones, a vein, 30 feet wide, is very clearly exposed. Pegmatite veins are also seen on either side of the road, a little to the east of the 7th milestone; also, near the 6th milestone, south of Kunnambidari hill.

Samples of quartz and felspar collected from Vellarankallumedu were analysed in the chemistry laboratory, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. The quartz is found to contain 97.07% silica; the felspar contains 65.00% silica, 25.02% alumina, 0.38% lime, 9.50% potash and traces of iron and magnesium. The felspar is flesh-coloured and belongs to the variety of orthoclase. It is a pure potash felspar and no soda is found in it. The results of the chemical analysis of three other Indian potash felspars are given here for purposes of comparison:—

	Ajmer	Karithimmanhalli	Shettihalli
Silica	63.10	68.80	64.60
Alumina	19.40	16.69	19.02
Iron oxide	0.26	0.43	..
Lime	0.69	Nil	..
Potash	11.00	10.75	12.44
Soda	5.40	4.85	4.35

(The results of the analysis of Ajmer felspar were taken from "The utilisation of nepheline syenite rock as a partial substitute for soda ash in the glass industry of India" by V. S. Dubey and P. N. Agrawala, 1937, and those of Karithimmanhalli and Shettihalli from a report by M. B. Ramachandra Rao in Mysore Geological Department Records, Vol. 31, 1932.)

The most important felspar deposits in India are those of Ajmer-Merwara and Alwar State in Rajputana, Bhagalpur district in Bihar, Bangalore district in Mysore State, and Manappara area in Trichinopoly district.

The discovery of workable outcrops of quartz and felspar near Kozhinjampara will give a new impetus to the development of the ceramic industry in this State. Further explorations in adjoining areas are being made.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE SERVICE

Government's New Venture

TO facilitate the placement of Ex-servicemen in Civilian jobs an Employment Exchange has been started at Trichur by the Government from 15th February 1946. Closely modelled on the lines of the Employment Exchange organisation in British India, and linked up with the Central Exchange in New Delhi, and the Regional Exchange in Madras, this Organisation is doing everything possible to

link the demobilised soldier with employment opportunities and thereby facilitate his absorption in Civilian jobs.

The Employment Exchange Organisation with its noble traditions in western countries has always been looked upon with favour and appreciation by both employers and workmen. By linking up the jobless man with the manless job and offering the right type of man for vacancies

the Employment Exchange Service has always enabled the employers to avoid wastage of time and raw materials which is essential for industrial efficiency. In fact, wastage of raw materials and time either by putting the wrong man at the job or by keeping a vacancy idle have always been regarded as a crime against industry and manpower. The service rendered by the Employment Exchange in minimising the difficulties cropping up in this direction has been so well known that the establishment of an Employment Exchange organisation in all countries has been recommended by the International Labour conferences several times.

It is indeed a happy feature that the premier Industrial concerns and employers of the State have begun to appreciate the usefulness of the Employment Exchange Service and place their orders for workmen before the Employment Exchange. It can well be hoped that in a short time the rest of the employers will requisition the services of the Employment Exchange.

The Government of Cochin which has always been keenly alive to the problem of Post War Rehabilitation, has already issued orders to the effect that appointment of Ex-servicemen in Government service to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 and below should be made only from the lists of candidates submitted by the Employment Exchange. With the inauguration of the several Post War Schemes programmed by the Cochin Government there is every hope that Employment

Exchange will be in a position to assist several of the candidates on its rolls.

The All India Labour Clearing System which is functioning as a part of the Employment Exchange Organisation is also expected to facilitate the replacement of some Cochinites outside the State. Many of the candidates registered at the Employment Exchange for vacancies in Railways can hope that through the Services of the Madras Regional Exchange with which the State Exchange is linked up their placement in Railway vacancies would be facilitated. Similarly, the Employment Exchange of the State is also submitting candidates for vacancies in the Reserve Bank of India, Posts and Telegraphs Department and sometimes in foreign countries like Iran and Iraq. Although it is too early to definitely state the various sources from which vacancies will be notified it could be broadly stated that candidates in the State will also be sharing the advantages of the Labour Clearing System whereby employment opportunities coming up in several parts of India and elsewhere will be notified to the several Employment Exchanges of India.

The Recruiting in the Employment Office which was also functioning as a temporary Employment Exchange has now handed over the Employment Exchange work to the State Employment Exchange. It could well be hoped that with the co-operation and support of employers and workmen this organisation will rise in popularity and usefulness ere long.

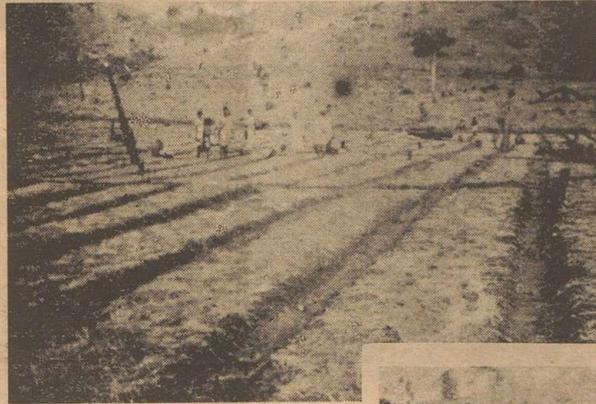
NOTES

MORE vegetables.—Details of the Scheme of leasing forest areas to the extent of about 5,000 acres for food crop cultivation have already appeared in the columns of *Cochin Information*. The Forest Department of the State has now

introduced the Taungya System of growing food crops with forest crops in all the new regeneration areas and plantations over an extent of about 2,000 acres. As these new works are being conducted by private agencies—but under the control and

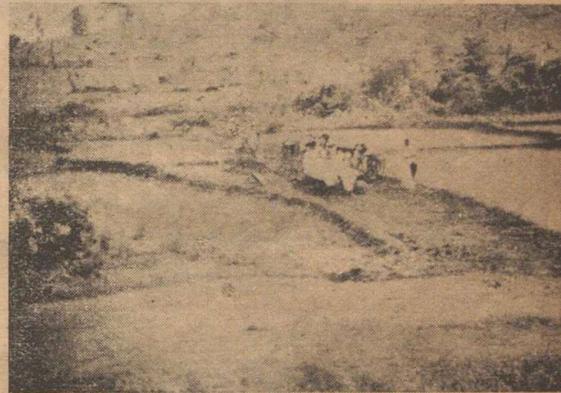
Vegetable cultivation in Ambalakat Forest areas

The Chama Crop

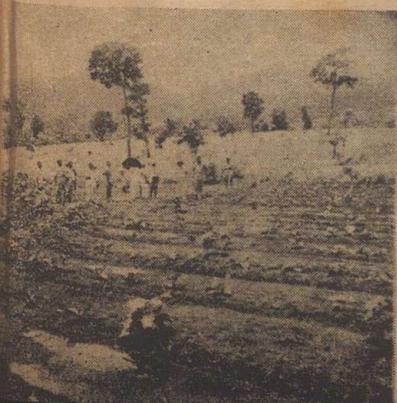


A Nursery

Repairing the road to the plantations



A Corner of the Vegetable
Plot



A Brinjal Plot

**The Minister's (Mr. Parambi Lonappen)
tour of inspection**



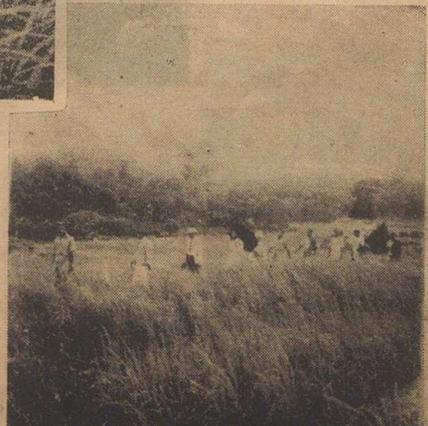
Weeding process

A Weeding beauty



**Below—The Minister and
Officers in the Paddy
Fields**

**The Conservator of Forests
surveying the crops
he has grown**



supervision of the Department—no expenditure has to be incurred by the Government. An area of nearly 1,000 acres is being directly cultivated by the Forest Department as it could not be cultivated through private agencies though suited for Tungaya System of Cultivation. Food crops cultivated in this area by the Forest Department include paddy and vegetables. Forest crops are also cultivated along with these crops. As nature has its own freaks, forecasts of success of cultivation of forest areas are difficult and dangerous.

Appointments in Private Schools.—

The Code Revision Committee made a recommendation that appointment of teachers in private schools should as far as possible be according to the principles of communal representation embodied in the Staff Selection Rules. This recommendation has been accepted by the Government with the modification that this principle will not be insisted in the case of appointment of nuns in schools conducted by convents and in Vedic Schools and Colleges intended exclusively for Nambudiri children. Government propose to maintain communal equilibrium also in unaided private schools, despite the fact that they receive no aid from Government in initial stage. For purposes of appointment all the aided schools will be constituted into one unit and the unaided schools another unit. Appointments in each of these units will be made separately on the same principle of communal rotation.

Recruitment to Government Service.—Government have accepted in full the recommendations of the Committee appointed to examine whether by the present method of recruitment of candidate by the Staff Selection Board to posts carrying salary below Rs. 100 the efficiency of the Government services has been adversely affected and, if it has been, to recommend remedies.

The Committee in their report state that the present method of recruitment followed by the Staff Selection Board has, along with other causes, resulted in the efficiency of the lower clerical services being adversely affected to some extent. The low standard of present day education, the liberal opportunities afforded by conditions brought about by the war for better paid services with assured prospects in and outside the State, the different grades of pay attached to the lower clerical services in different departments and the appointment of the same person to different departments as and when officiating vacancies arise have mainly contributed, according to the Committee, to the efficiency of the lower clerical services being adversely affected. To these may also be added, according to the Committee, the fact that the Board has not been ordinarily interviewing the candidates selected to test their general knowledge and attainments. To cure these defects the following remedies are suggested by the Committee.

The Committee recommend to the Government to tackle in all seriousness the question of improving the standard of education. They observe that the return of men who were in the war services to Cochin services is likely to improve the efficiency of the services as their experience cannot but have increased their official efficiency. The Committee recommend the standardisation of pay of the lower clerical services to attain contentment and efficiency in the services. The Committee are of the view that there should be "groupings of appointments" to obviate as far as possible the appointment of officiating hands in different departments irrespective of their aptitude or training as and when vacancies arise. The posts which require technical qualifications or physical fitness may continue to be filled up as at present.

The Committee have recommended that the groupings may be made as shown below:

- Group I (a) Secretariat, Stamps and Press (b) Land Revenue (c) Excise.
- Do. II (a) Uplift, Co-operation, and Land Mortgage Bank (b) Agriculture and Veterinary (c) Public Health, Medicine and Ayurveda (d) Supplies, etc. (e) Clerks in the Education and Industries Departments.
- Do. III (a) Accounts and Finance (b) Income-tax (c) Public Works (d) Panchayats (e) Forests and Tramway.
- Do. IV (a) Civil Judicial (b) Magisterial (c) Police (d) Registration
- Do. V Teachers of the Education and Industries Departments.

Though the Committee do not favour written examination for recruitment to the Public Service, they stress that within the same community, without minimising the importance of the marks secured at the public examinations, recruitment may be made after interviewing the candidates and subjecting them to viva voce examination. According to the Committee written examinations to qualify for recruitment to the Public Service are superfluous and the

efficiency aimed at can be better realised by a viva voce examination. Regarding the creation of a Public Service Commissioner the Committee are of the view that there is no necessity now for vesting the power of initial recruitments in a Commissioner and that, on the other hand, a Board consisting of 3 members will be more conducive to a proper selection of recruits. This system will infuse greater confidence in the public mind regarding communal justice than if the power were to be exercised by a single individual.

In accepting the recommendations of the Committee in full the Government add that the opinion of the Committee that the prevailing standard of education is low will be further examined by the Education Department. Regarding the standardisation of pay of the lower clerical services Government consider that there is much force in the recommendation of the Committee. They observe that "it is now over 16 years since a general revision of pay was undertaken in the State services. Conditions have considerably, if not entirely, changed. Government, therefore, think that along with the standardisation of pay of the lower clerical services, a general revision of pay of all the services is necessary. A Committee will therefore be appointed forthwith to make suitable proposals in the matter."

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA'S APPEAL FOR UNITED KERALA

Opinion of Leaders and Papers

Sri C. Rajagopalachari.—The announcement of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin will be most deeply appreciated throughout India. The boldness of its conception and the statesmanship behind it will enhance the

prestige of all the Princes in India. The people of Kerala, justly famous for enterprise, industry and brains are now distributed among three different administrations, a position wholly untenable in modern times and pregnant with

inconvenience for people as well as Governments. The office of the democratic linchpin represented by the Crown of England and the Governors in our Provinces can be the only and honourable aim of actions of our old royal families, for which they naturally possess the requisite disinterestedness and prestige. All attempts to hold power in their own or their Diwan's hands and to pass off sham schemes and window-dressed proposals as democratic in character will be futile in modern India. The adverse comments of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, the Dewan of Travancore, only serve to bring out the far-sighted greatness and self-abnegation that mark the Cochin Ruler's historic message to his Legislative Council.

Indian Express (Madras) writes thus under the caption "Illuminating Argument":

"Kerala must unite and be one if it were to save itself from cultural extinction. For its own sake and for the good of the country as a whole, Kerala must unite and function as a separate and cohesive unit in a greater federation of India." The public will be familiar with the sentiment expressed in the above sentences, but they will certainly feel most agreeably surprised to hear the Ruler of an Indian State like the Maharaja of Cochin, who stands to lose materially by the change envisaged, courageously advocating the cause of a united Kerala. As for the people of Kerala they will receive the message, read at the Budget Session of the Cochin Council on Monday, with grateful appreciation and the consciousness that, with the royal advocacy, the topic has been lifted from the plane of academic discussion to one of practical politics.

The Maharaja's declaration is opportune as it is unequivocal; it required extraordinary courage on the part of His Highness to broach the subject to all. But intense patriotism transcending

personal values, a consciousness of the tremendous changes occurring in India and a deep sense of duty to his own people have emboldened him to do the right thing at the right moment. For, with the Constituent Assembly in the offing and the question of redistribution of provinces very much in the public eye, the problem of unifying Malabar, Cochin and Travancore cannot be ignored. It has also the sanction of the Indian National Congress. The Cochin Ruler's arguments in favour of such a union are unassailable. With the imminent separation of Andhara, the fate of Malabar as one of the many districts of the Madras Presidency is held in jeopardy. "It is good neither for the province nor for Malabar that it should be so", says the Maharaja. Further, Malabar, Cochin and Travancore form a compact area with a population of 12 million, having a common language and a distinctive culture, a separate university and one of the best harbours in the country. As such, its homogeneity or financial stability need not be doubted. The present set-up is, as Mr. C. Rajagopalachari points out, unnatural and untenable.

The adjustments needed to bring in the states of Travancore and Cochin need not also present any insurmountable difficulty. The Rulers of the two states can easily fit into the scheme, provided of course, as the Maharaja of Cochin says, they are willing to continue as constitutional heads of the States. If past experience is any guide to future behaviour, we have no reason to think that the ruling house of Travancore will be less patriotic than the ruling house of Cochin. And, against this background, we are tempted to dismiss the Travancore Dewan's dissent as temperamental rather than reasoned. The destinies of Indian States are bound up with the destinies of the rest of the country and it would be part of wisdom and statesmanship to adjust to changing

conditions. We refuse to believe that the Ruler of Travancore will ever play King Canute.

The Maharaja of Cochin has rendered a further service in reminding the representatives of Kerala in the Constituent Assembly that their duties would be as onerous as they would be peculiar. They will do well to bear in mind the words of wisdom uttered by His Highness on the eve of far-reaching changes in the country and behave with a full sense of responsibility not only in establishing mutual contacts but in chalking out plans for the future.

The Mail (Madras).—writes thus under the caption "Linguistic Unity".

Can linguistic unity be reconciled with national unity? Apparently the Maharaja of Cochin thinks it can, for he prefaces a proposal for the unification of the three Kerala divisions, Malabar, Travancore and Cochin, into one consolidated whole with an expression of satisfaction "that the integrity of India is not to be broken up, and that in framing the constitution of India we can proceed on that basis." When, in 1928, the Motilal Nehru Committee discussed this question they came to the conclusion that it had become "most desirable for Provinces to be regrouped on a linguistic basis". And why? Let the Committee answer. "Language", they said, "as a rule corresponds with a special variety of culture, of traditions, and literature. In a linguistic area all these factors will help in the general progress of the Province". Compare this remark with the following words of the Maharaja of Cochin. "There is in India no more precise cultural and linguistic unit than Kerala. I have arrived at the definite conclusion that Kerala must unite and be one if it is to save itself from cultural extinction." Both the Motilal Nehru report and the Maharaja are of the opinion that India gains if her component

parts are culturally and linguistically defined.

Twenty-six years ago the Indian National Congress recognised these linguistic and cultural divisions by dividing India for its own purposes into linguistic Provinces. The effect of so doing has been somewhat hidden by the country's overwhelming preoccupation with constitutional reform, but can it be truly said by Congressmen that this division of the country into linguistic regions for party purposes has at no time warred against the unity and solidarity of the party? Is it wrong to think that at times Andradesha has failed to see eye to eye with Tamilnad, or that Maharashtra has occasionally been found to differ fundamentally from Bengal. The latter Province is intensely parochial. Throughout the past twenty-five years it has never failed to emphasise the importance it places upon its own policies, even when, as has not infrequently happened, such consistence has warred against that amity between component units which most who desire the continued unity of India have never ceased to promote.

In the Motilal Nehru report it is laid down that in Provinces, the principle language of a Province shall be the official language of a Province. The use of Hindustani and English shall be permitted. Of late years the left wing of the Congress has attempted to eliminate the use of English, but important though such a movement may be in the general context of national solidarity, it has only a secondary bearing upon the present issue, namely, the probable tendency of linguistic Provinces to develop so intense a local loyalty as to eclipse the wider Indian Loyalty. There are many who believe that already there are signs in Bengal, where local patriotism seems to be farthest developed, to subordinate all India issues with those of Bengal. Once India has

achieved her independence Dominion Status, or what she will, these separatist tendencies will be freed from the restraining influence of a common struggle, and will tend to increase in strength and importance.

And yet it would be folly to deny the advantages which the division of India into broadly defined linguistic provinces would bring. As the Motilal Nehru Committee rightly said "if a province happens to be a polyglot area, difficulties will continually arise and the media of instruction and work will be two or even more languages, unless, of course, the advantage of a common language, such as Hindustani or English is recognised." It

may be, moreover, that economic limits may be found to conflict with linguistic and cultural boundaries, and new problems arise from the redivision of India into linguistic provinces. Nevertheless, it is too late now to expect the demand for such redivision to be abandoned. The Maharaja of Cochin has not added a new voice to the chorus demanding it. He has merely shown that his State will not stand in the way of consolidation of Kerala. Yet, we repeat, redivision has its dangers and it would be foolish to overlook or underrate them. One has only to look at the State of Europe today to see where linguistic divisions may lead.

MAHARAJA'S PRONOUNCEMENT

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU—
"The Maharaja has recently made a statement which is so pleasant to read after so many assertions elsewhere of autocracy and the Ruler's privileges. He (the Maharaja) has accepted the objective of responsible government for the State, and I hope he will soon give effect to it".

He further added, "In the proposed Constituent Assembly, which is going to draw the constitution of the Indian Union, the States, like the Provinces, should be represented by elected persons, and not by the nominees of the Rulers." (H. H. The Maharaja of Cochin has in his memorable message stated that Cochin would be represented only by elected representatives.)

UNIFICATION OF KERALA

SIR S. P. Rajagopalachari, Minister, Gwalior State, welcoming the statement of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin regarding the unification of Kerala, has made the following statement :

"I was very glad to read the far-sighted statement of the Maharaja of Cochin regarding the unification of the Kerala areas into one unit in the greater federation of India and to find that it has received considerable support. The principle of unification of linguistic areas into a single unit advocated in that statement has far

wider all-India implications than in the particular area referred to by His Highness. As is well-known, the existing boundaries of States and Provinces are more or less the result of historical accidents and if are to have compact linguistic units in a federal India, adjustments should be made in certain areas among the States and Provinces with the consent of the areas affected."

"Take for instance the Kanarese-speaking areas in South India. In a press interview a few years ago, I suggested

that a few Kanarese-speaking areas outside the Mysore State should be incorporated in that State under the aegis of the Maharaja of Mysore whose constitutional outlook is well known and so much appreciated. Talks are going on in Bombay about the unification of Maharashtra which might involve mutual adjustment of boundaries between that Province and a few States. Similar adjustments may be necessary in Orissa and Eastern States and also in certain parts of Western and Central India, where territories of States and Provinces are very closely intermingled".

"There are of course long term problems which will have to be carefully considered and patiently worked out with mutual

goodwill and co-operation. I am surprised at the rejection of the whole idea By Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dewan of Travancore. The reason assigned by him is that it will be suicidal to the Indian States and will practically amount to the abolition of the States as such".

"It is difficult to understand this criticism as, according to the statement of the Maharaja of Cochin, unification of Kerala does not at all imply that Kerala should be a British Indian Province. On the other hand, it is clearly indicated in the statement that the scheme does not intend to destroy the connection of the Kerala people with the ancient ruling houses."

PRINCE'S FUTURE ROLE

THE Maharaja of Cochin's statement announcing that only popular representatives would be sent to the Constituent Assembly from his State and suggesting the unification of Malabar, Cochin and Travancore into one democratic unit in the Indian Federation will be cordially welcomed by the whole country. His example in deciding to send only popular representatives to the Constituent Assembly deserves to be emulated by all other Princes and will in any case encourage the States' people to agitate for such representation. If it is assumed, as it must be in the present circumstances, that the Indian constitution of the future will be thoroughly democratic in every one of its parts, it follows that the framers of the constitution should be democratically elected by the people who are to be represented at the Assembly. The Princes' points of view may be stated there by themselves or their Diwans. In any case for the Princes to force their own nominees on the people as their representatives will be a fraud on representation.

The suggestion of the merger of different parts of Kerala, namely, Malabar, Cochin and Travancore into a united Province is most welcome and untimely. The dissection of one organic unit like Kerala, geographically and linguistically one, into three separate areas under three separate governments is unnatural and cannot fail to impede the progress of Kerala culture. As Mr. C. Rajagopalachari observes, it is "wholly untenable in modern times and pregnant with inconvenience for the people as well as governments." There is also much force in the Cochin Maharaja's remark that, if the present position is continued Kerala's voice will be hardly heard in the Union Government of the future. Indeed, were it not for the two States in Kerala, it would as certainly be a separate Province in the future constitution as Andhra, Maharashtra and Karnatak. The existence of two States ought not to be a permanent difficulty in the way of a natural and necessary development. The difficulty can and ought to be overcome. The

Maharaja of Cochin has suggested the right way, which will have to be followed sooner or later. It will be followed soon if Travancore readily accepts Cochin's suggestion. The position of the two Rulers need not cause any insuperable difficulty. As the Maharaja of Cochin points out, it will only have "to be modified to suit the new circumstances." The question is whether Travancore will take the same view soon. At present Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, the Dewan, states that the Government of Travancore "cannot possibly agree to an administrative union with Cochin and the British Indian Province of Malabar." A similar view would have been expressed by the Government of Cochin a few years or months ago. But the people are moving fast towards rationale administration—the Cochin statement is itself indicative of that trend—and the people who maintain the administration ought to have and will have the final say. "It would be suicidal", says Sir C. P. Iyer, "for Indian States to be linked up in administration with British Indian Provinces functioning under a separate system of Government unless indeed the idea is to abolish the Indian States as such." The two systems may be separate today but they cannot be separate tomorrow. In any case, the people shall decide.

The awakening in some of the Princes was also shown at the Conference held at

Poona on Sunday last when certain Deccan Princes discussed with Gandhiji their scheme of a merger of Deccan States. Gandhiji rightly pointed out that in order to devise the best union of States it was first necessary for each state "to form a Union with its own people," as, after all, "the people were the real power on whom they were to depend for their status." One of the Princes replied: "We shall ask our people to draw up their own constitution. The plan of union that we have drawn up is only intended as a blue print for their consideration." This is a most gratifying statement. Only as regards the blue print, we would support Gandhiji's sound suggestion that the Deccan Princes should first get into touch with the States' Peoples' Conference and its President, Pandit Nehru. There will then be the necessary uniformity about the varied unions and the nature of every member of a union. We would also wholeheartedly endorse Gandhiji's advice to the Princes to copy the constitution of Aundh with such changes as special considerations may require. If only the Princes accept the principles of democracy and responsible government, their legitimate rights will be scrupulously regarded as a sacred trust by the people who, the Princes themselves admit, should draw up a constitution.

(*Bombay Chronicle*)

HIS HIGHNESS' LEAD

THE Kerala Club, New Delhi, passed a resolution calling upon the people of Kerala to follow the lead of His Highness and strive unitedly for the early attainment of the ideal of unification of Kerala. "Only a United Kerala", the resolution stated, "can ensure the economic and cultural progress of its people and secure for it a due place in the Indian Union to which it is entitled by virtue of

the education, enterprise and history of its people."

Speaking at the meeting Mr. Raghava Menon, Madras Food Minister, welcomed the Cochin Ruler's idea of a United Kerala. He said, "The Maharaja's pronouncement greatly helps persons who are engaged in the formation of a United Kerala. All Kerala is very indebted to the Maharaja, who is very orthodox in

more than one way. There are, of course, certain difficulties in the achievement of this ideal and the matter will have to be carefully considered." He added that Travancore would ultimately fall in line with Cochin and British Malabar.

That the proposal to form a United Kerala Province had the unanimous support of the people of Travancore and of the Tamilians in particular was the view expressed by the speakers at a public

meeting held in Travancore under the auspices of Jai Hind Valibhar Sangham. The President of the meeting said that the Maharaja of Cochin deserved their congratulations for his far-sighted announcement. It was not correct, he said, to say that the Tamilians of Travancore were against the proposal. A resolution expressing support to the proposed unification of Kerala and congratulating the Maharaja of Cochin for his recent announcement was passed.

CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ON the opening day of the Budget Session of the Cochin Legislative Council Sir George Boag, Diwan of Cochin, stated that "His Highness believes that the time has now come to undertake an examination of the possibility of further advance and to this end he proposes to submit the whole of the Government of Cochin Act to examination in order that it may be so amended as to permit further extension of the sphere of responsible government. In the epoch-making message sent to the Council by His Highness the Maharaja it is stated that "in order to ascertain how far my desire to bring into existence a Kerala Province will be shared or supported by the people of Malabar and the Progressive Ruler of Travancore I have asked my Diwan to initiate discussions with the Government of Madras and with the Travancore Darbar." His Highness also announced that "I have decided to allow the people to elect their representative or representatives" to the Constituent Assembly.

To implement these announcements Government have appointed a Committee

consisting of seven members of whom four are non-official members of the Council elected by the non-officials and three nominated by Government. The functions of the Committee are—

1. To advise the Government in matters connected with any discussions that may take place with the Governments of Madras and Travancore regarding the formation of a Kerala Union.
2. To advise the Government regarding the measures to be adopted with a view to the establishment of responsible Government.
3. To study matters which fall to be considered in connection with the State's relations with the new Union Government of India and to make recommendations regarding them.

The elected non-official members of the Committee are Mr. P. Govinda Menon (Prajamandalom), Mr. T. K. Nayar (Progressive Party), Mr. K. Ayyappan (Socialist Party) and Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Prajamandalom).

EDUCATION

AN analysis of the Cochin State Budget for 1122 (1946-47) reveals that out of the total revenue of Rs. 3,22,57,000 a sum of Rs. 51,61,300 has been allotted for Education, that is, 16 per cent of the revenue. This figure exceeds last year's allotment by 11 lakhs and is distributed as follows.— Primary Education 32 lakhs (62 per cent) Secondary Education 14 lakhs (27 per cent), Collegiate Education 3 lakhs (6 per cent), Technological, etc., 1 lakh (2 per cent) and control 1.6 lakhs (3 per cent). A substantial portion of the total allotment has been earmarked for items of expenditure connected with Primary Education. "This is, as it should be", said the Director of Public Instruction Mr. P. Sankaran Nambiyar when making the demand in the Legislative Council, "in keeping with the spirit of the times." Continuing he said, "The importance of Universal Primary Education has of late come to be recognised, more tangibly than ever before, all over the country, especially after the publication of the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education, popularly known as the Sargent Scheme. Our Government have passed orders on the Code Revision Committee's Report, making Primary Education universal and free. The question of making it also compulsory has since been discussed by the Post War Education Reconstruction Committee of the State and it has been resolved to recommend compulsion, on condition that the necessary funds could be raised by means of an Education cess".

"With public recognition of the importance of Primary Education, the Primary School Master, too is coming to his own", stated the Director. "Our Government have already raised the salary of Primary teachers to the grade of Rs. 20-40 with effect from 1st Dhanu

1121. Besides there is provision for the payment of a minimum Dearness Allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem to all Primary teachers, so that every teacher is entitled to get, at the lowest, a sum of Rs. 40 per mensem". It is also proposed to revise the salary of Secondary Teachers and specialists with effect from the commencement of the next financial year (17th August)."

Noon-day feeding of children in Primary classes has become a regular feature of educational activity in the State even though the expected non-official help has not been forthcoming. A provision of Rs. 5.6 lakhs as Government's contribution for the purpose has been made in the Budget for next year, which exceeds last year's by two lakhs.

The Director of Public Instruction in the course of his address stated that "Provision has been made on a more liberal scale than before to give financial aid to students to prosecute their studies here as well as elsewhere. The following additional fee concessions have now 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 on the same conditions as are 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".

Dealing with the award of scholarships the Director of Public Instruction drew the attention of the Council to certain modifications in the award of scholarships in the school classes for encouraging the poor whose talents would be wasted on account of limited means though they might not occupy the top rungs of the

ladder in point of merit. He said, "thirty full scholarships of the monthly value of Rs. 5 each, tenable for 3 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 three years of the lower secondary course have been newly instituted. 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 to deserving graduates who are bonafide Cochinites, for research studies in approved Colleges or Technological institutions outside the State".

"The opening of new schools and classes", said the Director of Public Instruction, "is at present a vexed question, involving controversies between rival parties which cause considerable waste in the department". With a view to minimise it, it is proposed, in connection with every application for recognition, of new classes and institutions, to form a "Local Enquiry Committee," consisting of a Departmental Officer, a member of the Legislative Council and a non-official educationist to conduct the required local enquiry and submit recommendations on the lines of the University Commissioner's report in connection with fresh affiliations.

Dealing with the cut motions the Director gave expression to his appreciation of the high idealism inspiring most of the cut motions. He said "*Festina lanti* should no doubt be the wise policy guiding educational expansion, but it should not also be forgotten that "Man's reach

should exceed his grasp" especially in plans devised for educational progress."

Dealing with the Education Budget THE MAIL of Madras wrote as follows.—

"The increased provision made in Cochin's budget for grants to schools places teachers in elementary schools in the State in a slightly better position than their contemporaries in the Madras Presidency though Cochin should be prepared to pay its teachers still more to ensure that the schools work efficiently, and that full value for the money spent on education is obtained. The minimum dearness allowance having been fixed at Rs. 20, no teacher in the State will be paid less than Rs. 40 a month. This means that in Cochin a teacher with the Higher Elementary training, the lowest grade, will receive Rs. 10 more than the minimum pay and dearness allowance usually paid to a teacher in an elementary school, and Rs. 4 more than what is paid to a teacher in a school under a local body in the mofussil, in the Madras Presidency. In other words, the Higher Elementary trained teachers in Cochin are paid as much as the Secondary Grade trained teachers in aided schools in Madras, and a little more than teachers of the same status in municipal or local fund schools, other than those belonging to the Corporation of Madras, in this Presidency. The salaries of teachers in Cochin, however, still fall short of the minimum national scale of pay presented in the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education, namely, Rs. 33—50 for a primary school teacher, and Rs. 44—80 for a middle school teacher (irrespective of dearness allowance)."

BIRTHDAY OF H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF COCHIN

HIS Highness Sri Kerala Varma, Maharaja of Cochin, who ascended the musnad on the 31st of January this year celebrated his birthday on the 15th of July with austere simplicity and without any pomp or ceremonial.

Immediately after his ascension to the throne His Highness introduced many constitutional and administrative reforms of tremendous import and momentous consequences. It was in 1938, after the promulgation of the Government of Cochin Act that a Minister responsible to the Legislature was appointed and that the following departments of Government were transferred to ministerial administration: 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 transferred to the Minister. Ever sympathetic to the representations made by the 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, His Highness considered it appropriate to appoint one more Minister and to transfer the departments of Municipalities, Medical, Labour, Registration and Anchal to the care of the Ministers. His Highness also announced his intention to transfer the entire Education Department also.

A joint system of consultation between the Diwan and the Ministers on important topics was inaugurated by His Highness taking care to ensure that the responsibility of the elected representatives to the Legislative Council is not in any way impaired by the arrangement. On the

Installation Day His Highness announced that "the welfare of my people has been the constant care of myself and my predecessors and I hope 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." Every act of His Highness has been stimulated by his keen desire to increase the welfare of the people and the prosperity of the State.

Every Malayalee has been thrilled by the far-sighted statement in the memorable message sent to the Cochin Legislative Council that "Kerala must unite and be one if it were to save itself from cultural extinction." This clarion call contains sentiments which have found an echo in the hearts of all Malayalees and it has received the appreciative approbation of patriotic Statesmen and responsible organs of public opinion. The unification of Kerala, according to His Highness and the Malayalees, is "something worth striving for and achieving." This epoch-making announcement, in the words of *The Hindu* of Madras, "implies reconciliation on his part to a degree of self-effacement which it is given only to patriots and statesmen of the highest order to contemplate."

His Highness' decision to send only elected representative or representatives of the people to the Constituent Assembly has given supreme satisfaction to His Highness' subjects.

The liberal installation statement of His Highness, announcing the grant of a further instalment of responsible government, looked forward to a time—not far distant—when the State might enjoy the benefits of full responsible Government.

His Highness believes that the time has now come to undertake an examination of the possibility of further advance and to this end it is proposed to submit the whole of the Government of Cochin Act to examination in order that it may be so further amended as to permit further extension of the sphere of responsible Government. His Highness believes in pure constitutional rule and throughout his life His Highness has sedulously cultivated an attitude towards life and institutions which is antipathetic to auto-

cracy and personal rule. His Highness has stated in his thrilling message to the Legislative Council that "for myself I thank God for vouchsafing me the opportunity to serve my people and my country in a manner which I hope will ultimately add to their strength and glory."

May His Highness be spared for many a long year to guide with His Highness' characteristic understanding, solicitude and sympathy the destinies of this State.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

His Highness the Maharaja's Message to the Legislative Council

HIS Highness' satisfying and far-sighted statement in the Legislative Council on the 29th July on the unification of Kerala has been specially followed up by another important and illuminating pronouncement on the Constitutional reforms in the Council on the 17th August:

The full text of the second message to the Council is given below.

I have always made it clear that in my view, any further extension of Responsible Government within the frame work of the present Constitution will be worthwhile only if there is co-operation from the Parties in carrying on the Interim Government until the new Constitution comes into force. I have given my best consideration to the Memorandum presented by the Leaders and heard their personal representations and am convinced

that they are genuinely desirous of co-operating with me in order to achieve the common goal and to carry on the Government in the meanwhile.

In view of this attitude I am glad to announce that after mature consideration and after consultation with my Diwan I have decided to transfer to Ministerial control the following Departments also.—

Education, Public Works, Land Revenue Excise, Industries (reserved portion), Publicity, Forests, Food and Textile Control and Income-tax.

As foreshadowed in my Message at the time of the Installation, the practice of Cabinet Discussion will be brought into force at once.

I hope the Ministers will work in harmonious co-operation with the Diwan and show by example and practice that Responsible Government can flourish here.

ILLUMINATING ARGUMENTS

(*Indian Express*)

“KERALA must unite and be one if it were to save itself from cultural extinction. For its own sake and for the good of the country as a whole, Kerala must unite and function as a separate and cohesive unit in a greater federation of India.” The public will be familiar with the sentiment expressed in the above sentences, but they will certainly feel most agreeably surprised to hear the Ruler of an Indian State like the Maharaja of Cochin, who stands to lose materially by the change envisaged, courageously advocating the cause of a United Kerala. As for the people of Kerala they will receive the message, read at the Budget Session of the Cochin Council on Monday; with grateful appreciation and the consciousness that, with the royal advocacy, the topic had been lifted from the plane of academic discussion to one of practical politics.

The Maharaja's declaration is opportune as it is unequivocal; it required extraordinary courage on the part of His Highness to brooch the subject at all. But intense patriotism transcending personal values, a consciousness of the tremendous changes occurring in India and deep sense of duty to his own people have emboldened him to do the right thing at the right moment. For, with the constituent Assembly in the offing and the question of redistribution of Provinces very much in the public eye, the problem of unifying Malabar, Cochin and Travancore cannot be ignored. It has also the sanction of the Indian National Congress. The Cochin Ruler's arguments in favour of such a union are unassailable. With the imminent separation of Andhra, the fate of Malabar as one of the many districts of the Madras Presidency is held in

jeopardy. “It is good neither for the Province nor for Malabar that it should be so,” says the Maharaja. Further Malabar, Cochin and Travancore form a compact area with a population of 12 million having a common language and a distinctive culture, a separate university and one of the best harbours in the country. As such; its homogeneity of financial stability need not be doubted. The present set-up is, as Mr. C. Rajagopalachari points out, unnatural and untenable.

The adjustments needed to bring in the States of Travancore and Cochin need not also present any insuperable difficulty. The rulers of the two States can easily fit into the scheme, provided of course, as the Maharaja of Cochin says, they are willing to continue as constitutional heads of the States. If past experience is any guidance to future behaviour, we have no reason to think that the ruling house of Travancore will be less patriotic than the ruling house of Cochin.....The destinies of Indian States are bound up with the destinies of the rest of the country and it would be part of wisdom and statesmanship to adjust to changing conditions.

The Maharaja of Cochin has rendered a further service in reminding the representatives of Kerala in the Constituent Assembly that their duties would be as onerous as they would be peculiar. They will do well to bear in mind the words of wisdom uttered by His Highness on the eve of far-reaching changes in the country and behave with a full sense of responsibility not only in establishing mutual contacts but in chalking out plans for the future.

NEHRU CONGRATULATES THE MAHARAJA OF COCHIN

SOME days ago, I read a declaration made by the Maharaja of Cochin on Responsible Government in his State. The whole outlook and approach of this declaration was in pleasant contrast to what one usually gets from the Rulers and the authorities in the States, and I should like to congratulate the Maharaja. I hope he will give full effect to it as early as

possible and thus give Cochin pride of place in the Indian States. In that work, I am sure, he will have the full co-operation of the State's People's organisation. Cochin is eminently suited for this change over to a democratic form of Government, because of the high standard of education here.

HIGHEST FORM OF STATESMANSHIP

MRS. SARAJINI NAIDU

"H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin has set a bold and wise example to his brother princes in India by his splendid and timely action which is the highest form of statesmanship. The destiny of our ancient land is one and indivisible. It behoves of Indian States to march abreast of the times and give to their people fullest political rights as the Maharajah of Cochin has recently done. I offer him

my felicitation on his vision, courage and patriotism, worthy of the great house from which he springs."

Miss Padmaja Naidu joins with her mother in congratulating the Maharaja and says, "I need hardly tell that believing as I do that States and their people are destined to play a vital part in the India of tomorrow I have been deeply interested in the Maharajah's real act of statesmanship."

STATES' RESPONSIBILITY

(Bombay Chronicle)

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU paid a deserved tribute to the Maharaja of Cochin when in his statement issued on Saturday he congratulated the Maharaja on his recent declaration on Responsible Government in his State. Pandit Nehru's hope that the Maharaja would give full effect to his pronouncement as early as possible and thus give Cochin the pride of place in the Indian States bids fair to be fulfilled before long. For the Maharaja has just announced his decision to transfer to Ministerial control the department of Education, Public Works, Land Revenue, Excise, Industries

(reserved portion), Publicity, Forests Food, Textile Control and Income-Tax. His Highness has also announced that the practice of Cabinet discussion would be brought into force at once, presumably to prepare the ground for early collective responsibility. His hope that the people of the State would show by example and practice that Responsible Government can flourish in the State will, we have no doubt, be fulfilled very soon, when it will be the duty of the Maharaja to inaugurate full Responsible Government. He will then deservedly win the pride of place envisaged by Pandit Nehru.

FORMATION OF KERALA PROVINCE

DR. PATTABHI WELCOMES PROPOSAL

WHEN his attention was drawn to the message of H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin regarding the formation of a united Kerala Province comprising Cochin and Travancore States as well as British Malabar, Dr. Pattabhi said. "I am exceedingly happy and proud to note that my proposal for a Kerala Sub-Federation made at the Cochin State People's Conference in 1936 has borne fruit having found expression from H. H. the Maharaja of Cochin. The idea is really that of the late Mr. Krishna Menon of Trichur, who was in the service of the Government of India. In point of culture and customs, Cochin, Travancore and Calicut are all alike. Cochin and Travancore have common backwaters of the sea and share their customs revenue between themselves and the Government of India. Therefore, this tripartite relationship will not be

anything new to Kerala. It is my hope that before long, a similar Sub-Federation of Karnataka with Mysore and the Canarese States of Maharashtra and the southern Maharashtra States will spring up. The Nizam's State is itself a Sub-Federation of Andhra, Karnataka and Maharashtra and must be developed that way as a first measure. This ideology does not collide with that of the sovereignty of the State. The States of Travancore, Cochin, Sangli, Kolhapur or Mysore need not fear any encroachment on their powers by the associated British Indian areas. Each will continue to function independently. But for common purposes, they would come together. The Sub-Federation will have a small legislature and executive of its own for the common purposes agreed upon."

NOBLE LEAD

Mr. K. T. BHASHAYAM (MYSORE)

HIS Highness' announcement is of interest not only to Keralites but also to Kannadigas, Andhras, Maharashtrians and others. We in the Karnatak desire unification of Karnatak and we gratefully welcome the move made by the distinguished Ruler of Cochin. We believe that linguistic provinces alone will lead to the cultural, social and economic

development of the people and we hope that the Princes will help in the formation of linguistic provinces.

His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin deserves the gratitude of India for the very timely and noble lead he has given to the country in general and the provinces in particular.

"A HISTORIC LANDMARK"

Dr. V. K. JOHN

THE pronouncement of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin is a historic landmark. The idea of a united administration for the compact cultural unit will thrill every son and daughter of Kerala and will be welcomed by every person who has the best interest

of Kerala at heart. The future construction of India a sub-continent inhabited by 400 millions, will be a strong and united centre with component cultural units, and the Indian States have to take their place in the different cultural units.

SENTIMENTS WARMLY WELCOMED

INTERVIEWED by the Special Representative of Deepam Mr. K. Madhava Menon, President, Kerala Congress Committee said, "Every Malayalee feels proud and delighted at the sentiments expressed by the Maharaja regarding Kerala Unification, consummation of which is mostly devoutly wished for. There are various difficulties and handicaps which the people of Kerala are

suffering from because of absence of unified Kerala and of a separate province. It is a delusion that Travancore alone could remain separate when Rulers of Indian States will have to recognise the will of the people. The sentiments expressed by the Maharaja will be warmly welcomed by all Malayalees including those of Travancore."

UNIFICATION OF KERALA

Bombay meeting welcomes Cochin Ruler's Lead

MR. Nagindas T. Master, ex-President of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee presided over a public meeting of Bombay Keralites at the Poddar College Hall. The meeting was called by the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj to lend support to the move for the unification of Kerala.

Mr. Master at the outset referred to the modern tendency of cultural units to come closer together and develop themselves in an integrated manner. Linguistic provinces was an accepted policy of the Congress and he was sure that the aspirations of the people of Kerala would be taken note of by the National Congress.

Mr. K. K. Menon who made an impassioned speech referred to the recent proclamation of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin through his message to the State Legislative Council supporting the move for the unification of Kerala and directing his Diwan to enter into negotiations with the Madras Government and Travancore State. He welcomed the

proclamation as a departure from traditional concepts of Indian Maharajas about their sovereign rights. In some respects the proclamation was revolutionary as it voluntarily accepted the status of a Constitutional ruler for the Maharaja. He hoped that the lead given by Cochin would receive popular support from all Kerala. The speaker wanted action to speed up the unification and called on the Keralites in Bombay to be the spear-head of that action.

Mr. C. K. Narayanaswami moved the following resolution.—

"This public meeting of the Keralites of Bombay held under the auspices of the Bombay Keraleeya Samaj, wholeheartedly supports the present move for the unification of Kerala, incorporating British Malabar and the two Indian States of Cochin and Travancore. This meeting further puts on record its appreciation in this regard of the proclamation of the Maharaja of Cochin."

Mr. Narayanaswami said that 23 years ago a movement was started for a

university for all Kerala, but could not make headway. Behind that movement was the urge for the unification of Kerala. To-day the Cochin Ruler's proclamation had given a new fillip to the movement and he was sure that unification would be a settled fact before long. The task was full of difficulties, but was not impossible of achievement.

He suggested that steps should be taken to form a committee consisting of representatives of Cochinites, Travancoreans and of those from British Malabar resident in Bombay to agitate for Kerala unification and to aid those at home in this task.

The resolution was passed unanimously and the meeting terminated.

UNITED KERALA

(Forum—Bombay)

ON the opening day of Budget Session of the Cochin Legislative Assembly, before the House took to the work of the day, an important Message arrived from the Maharaja. It was really important, important for all interested in the well-being of India. Envisaging an United Kerala Province, in a strong, free and united India, the Maharaja has planned reforms for his State. "It would seem that the scheme of linguistic provinces will be carried out. I am in full agreement with it", declared the Maharaja. At one time Kerala was ruled by the common forbears of the ancient Ruling Family of Cheraman Perumal. History says that the last Perumal, to avoid internicine strife divided his terri-

tory and enjoined the Zamorin, Travancore and Cochin Rulers to administer their respective territories without erecting a Perumal. That was the beginning of the trouble. So now when another Paramount Power is relinquishing its power, the Maharaja adds, the foundations of a united Kerala should be laid. Otherwise, the same tragedy will be repeated. The Maharaja expressed his readiness to combine with Malabar and Travancore to form a united Kerala, without which the culture and integrity of Kerala will be extinct. "With suitable modifications to fit modern political conceptions, the institutions of the Perumals can be revived and a link with the proved history forged", concluded the message.

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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